

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2023

Chair Maureen Dwinnell; Select member Brett Simas; Select member Laura Hebb; Town Manager Joseph Laydon; Executive Assistant Sandra Hakala.

1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

2 Chair Dwinnell opened the regular meeting at 7:00 PM.

3

4 DEPARTMENT/BOARD UPDATES AND REQUESTS

5 Submission of Community Compact IT Grant – MURSD/Town of Upton Hybrid Meeting Video 6 Conferencing Improvements

7 MURSD approached the town manager to support an application to the Community Compact IT
8 Grant Program for upgrading AV Systems used by the School Committee for hybrid meetings.
9 CC requires Towns to be the applicant. Mr. Laydon indicated that the Town is in need of similar
10 upgrades in Room 203 and decided to submit a joint application to upgrade both the Town and
11 the School district's equipment. The grant application came together after the previous BOS
12 meeting but the deadline with October 13th. The Board is being asked to support the grant
13 application of \$166,823 and authorize the Town Manager to execute necessary contract
14 documents should we be approved for funding.

15

16 **Laura Hebb MOVED** the Board vote to support the submission of an application to the
17 Community Compact IT Grant Program for a joint project between the Town of Upton and
18 Mendon Upton Regional School District to fund Hybrid Meeting Video Conferencing
19 Improvements and authorize the Town Manager to execute necessary contract documents
20 should the grant application be approved.

21 **Second: Member Simas, Unanimous Chair Dwinnell**

22

23 **Brett Simas MOVED** the Board vote to designate the equipment as presented in the document
24 entitled "Surplus List for Auction: 9/7/2023 as surplus equipment and authorize for their
25 disposition pursuant to MGL 30B Uniform Procurement Act.

26 **Second: Member Hebb, Unanimous Chair Dwinnell**

27

28 PUBLIC HEARING

29 Maureen Dwinnell recused herself, she is an abutter.

30

31 **Brett Simas opened the public meeting.**

32 **Brett Simas aye, Laura Hebb aye**

33

34 Public Hearing Earth Removal Application for 144 West River Road, Brian Lewis, Applicant

35 Notice is hereby given, under Chapter 147 Earth Removal, Sections 1-10, of the Town of Upton
36 General Bylaws, that a Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 7:05 PM at

37 the Town Hall 1 Main Street, Upton, MA on the application of Brian Lewis, of Northborough,
38 MA for an Earth Removal Permit, at 144 W. River Street, Upton.

39
40 The Board reviewed the application that was submitted by the owner of 144 West River Road.
41
42 The application contains limited information to required application submissions. The
43 Applicant provided more detailed responses to the four (4) questions that are on page #2 of the
44 application. In addition, the Applicant will need to submit a site plan that quantity the area to
45 be disturbed and the amount of excess fill that is being generated. The Applicant clarified the
46 volume is in yards vs cubic yards. Staff is of the opinion that there is insufficient information to
47 support the review of the application currently.

48
49 The Applicant will submit a site plan for the Board to review along with the request.
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51 **Brett Simas MOVED** the Board vote to Continue the Public Hearing for the Earth Removal
52 application for 144 West River Road to November 14, 2023.

53
54 **Second: Member Hebb, Majority Action of the Board**

55
56 **Brett Simas motioned to close the public meeting.**

57 **Brett Simas aye, Laura Hebb aye**

58
59 **Rushford & Sons Brewhouse One-Day Liquor License – Red Rock Stables Open House**

60 The Board reviewed a one-day license applications for Wine & Malt Beverages only to be held
61 on October 22, 2023 at an event named Red Rock Stables Open House, located at 117 South
62 Street, Upton, MA.

63
64 **Brett Simas MOVED** the Select Board vote to approve the application submitted by Rushford &
65 Sons; Owner/Operator Brian Goodman for a special 1-day Wine & Malt only (pouring) license
66 for an event to be held on October 22, 2023 under M.G.L. c.138 §14; to be held at Red Rock
67 Stables located at 117 South Street, Upton, MA.

68 **Second: Member Hebb, Unanimous Chair Dwinnell**

69
70 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

71 Tom Bair – Historical Society
72 Article 8 is worded to allow for the BoS to lease “all or portion of the building known as the
73 Knowlton Risteen Building.” The town manager’s intent was specifically for the 1st floor, and
74 wrote the article to give the Board the most flexibility.

75

76 The Historical Society is asking that the article specifically that the article apply to the first floor
77 as the second is occupied by the museum and the cable studio.

78

79 **JOINT MEETING WITH MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD (MCB)**

80 **Discuss Status of MCB and Proposed Amendments to Committee**

81 The Board reviewed an email an email from members of the Mosquito Control Board proposing
82 amendments to the composition and charge of the committee.

83

84 **Brett Simas MOVED** MOVE that the Board vote to approve the amendment to the charge of the
85 Mosquito Control Board as amended, removing monitoring and measuring and reconfiguring
86 the make-up to a 5-member board.

87 **Second: Member Hebb, Unanimous Chair Dwinnell**

88

89 **BOARD OF SELECTMEN DISCUSSION**

90 **Discussion and Vote on Articles to be Placed on Special Town Meeting Warrant**

91 **Laura Hebb MOVED** that the Board vote to remove the article submitted by the Mosquito
92 Board and amend the Risteen lease to first floor only and approve all other articles to be placed
93 on the warrant and execute the November 7, 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant.

94 **Second: Member Hebb, Unanimous Chair Dwinnell**

95

96 **Right of First Refusal – 84 Grove Street – Removal from 61A**

97 The Board reviewed the letter from Margaret Stanton notifying the Board of Selectmen of her
98 intent to sell a 25,030 sq. ft. parcel. Both the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission
99 voted to not recommend the Town exercise its right of first refusal.

100

101 **Brett Simas MOVED** the Board vote not to exercise its right of first refusal for the land at 84
102 Grove Street.

103 **Second: Member Hebb, Unanimous Chair Dwinnell**

104

105 **MINUTES**

106 Pass over.

107

108 **ADJOURNMENT**

109 **Laura Hebb MOVED** to adjourn the meeting of October 17, 2023, at 8:25PM.

110 **Second: Select Member Simas, Unanimous, Chair Dwinnell.**

111

112 Respectfully submitted,

113 Sandra Hakala, Executive Assistant