

# 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.

## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

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

## **DEPARTMENT/BOARD UPDATES AND REQUESTS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Maureen Dwinnell recused herself, she is an abutter.

**Brett Simas opened the public meeting.**

**Brett Simas aye, Laura Hebb aye**

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

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

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

The Board reviewed the application that was submitted by the owner of 144 West River Road.

The application contains limited information to required application submissions. The Applicant provided more detailed responses to the four (4) questions that are on page #2 of the application. In addition, the Applicant will need to submit a site plan that quantity the area to be disturbed and the amount of excess fill that is being generated. The Applicant clarified the volume is in yards vs cubic yards. Staff is of the opinion that there is insufficient information to support the review of the application currently.

The Applicant will submit a site plan for the Board to review along with the request.

**Brett Simas MOVED** the Board vote to Continue the Public Hearing for the Earth Removal application for 144 West River Road to November 14, 2023.

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

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

**Brett Simas aye, Laura Hebb aye**

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

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

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tom Bair – Historical Society

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN DISCUSSION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **MINUTES**

Pass over.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hakala, Executive Assistant