

Town of Winchester

Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

Monday May 1, 2023

Item 1 **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Todd Arcelaschi at 7:05pm

Attending Members	Todd Arcelaschi (Mayor)	Jonathan Morhardt (Selectman)
	Candy Perez (Selectwoman)	Linda Groppo (Selectwoman)
	Candace Bouchard (Selectwoman)	Jack Bourque (Selectman)
	Steve Sedlack (Selectman)	

Staff Members	Josh Kelly (Town Manager)
	Glenn Albanesius (Town Clerk)

Item 2 **Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge was recited by all

Item 3 **Agenda Review** -

- * Sel Bourque made a motion to add as New Business Item I Discussion and Possible Action regarding requested tree cutting at 127 Holabird Avenue. No second was offered.
- * Town Manager Kelly asked that New Business Item 9B include a possible referral to a Special Town Meeting.

Item 4 **Approval of Minutes**

- * Minutes of Special Meeting on April 14, 2023
Motion - Sel. Perez / Second - Sel. Sedlack
Vote to accept minutes - Unanimous (7 - 0)
- * Minutes of Regular Meeting on April 17, 2023
Motion - Sel. Groppo / Second - Sel. Perez
Vote to accept minutes - Unanimous (7 - 0)

Item 5 **Citizens Comments** - The following people addressed the Board

- * Stephen Kosinski - Made the following Motion Statement to everyone in attendance.
"And the motion is - everything goes back to that point in time, prior to the crime committed that 2013 BOS dominated by Democrats took away Public Comment; which was illegal to do so because it's in our Town Charter it is also part of our Freedom of Speech and we have many, many, many individuals living and have sacrificed to preserve that Constitutional right. Now I don't know about you but I put my hand up four times and took an oath and signed a contract with this country and I'll be damned if I'm gonna let anyone step on that Constitution. The motion is that we go back to that point in time prior to that crime committed in 2013 - so I put that motion out there".
Motion - Resident Stephen Kosinski / Second - Resident William Hester

Discussion ensued with Sel. Perez questioning the language and statute that would allow the motion. She also questioned the validity of the stated motion language and ambiguity of the 2013 date. She requested further research before a final vote was called for.

Mayor Arcelaschi tabled the motion.

- * Dennis Nalitov
- * Wayne Morgan
- * Willard Minton
- * Deb Kessler
- * Lynn Kessler - Read letter from Stuart Jones
- * Steve Larson

Item 6 **Town Manager's Report** - Josh Kelly reported to the Board on the following topics. . .

- * Town owned properties Batcheller School and 17 Front Street are progressing towards sold status.
- * The Annual Town Budget Meeting has been scheduled for May 8th at 7pm at the Gilbert School.
- * Winchester submitted an application to the Dept of Justice's COPS Grant Program. This is a required formality in order for the Town to receive the funding already earmarked for us from Congressional Directed Spending.
- * Current Personnel vacancies include 2 Police Officers and 2 Public Works staff openings.
- * Preliminary union negotiations with the Police Department will commence shortly.

Item 7 **Correspondence** - Letter from Mary Conklin

Item 8 **Boards and Commissions** - Sel. Sedlack introduced the following actions.

- 1) Paul Mitchell (U) is submitted for Appointment as a Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire in 12/2026
Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Perez
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)
 - 2) Thomas Sullivan (U) is submitted for Re-Appointment as a Permanent Member of the Soldiers Monument Commission with a term to expire in 6/2027
Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Bourque
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)
 - 2) Lynn Kessler (R) is submitted for Re-Appointment as a Permanent Member of the Soldiers Monument Commission with a term to expire in 6/2027
Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Bourque
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)
- * Resignations were received and accepted from the following.
- Mary Ann Marino from the IWWC
 - Allen Miller (U) from the Recreation Board
 - Doug Werner (R) from Soldiers Monument Commission
- Mary Ann, Allen's and Doug's volunteer time and service to the Town is acknowledged with gratitude.

- * The following groups have position openings. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply!

Board of Assessment Appeals - 1 Alternate Seat
Arch. Review Committee - 1 Permanent Seats and 2 Alternate Seats
Economic Development Commission - 2 Alternate Seats
Conservation Commission - 1 Permanent Seat
Laurel City Commission - 5 Permanent Seats
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission - 3 Permanent Seats
Recreation Board - 2 Permanent Seats
Zoning Board of Appeals - 2 Alternate Seats

Item 9

Unfinished Business

A) 23-11d Consider and possibly Act on Tax Abatement items

- * Town Manager Kelly read the full Draft of the Abatement Proposal given to the Board of Selectmen.

- * Discussion ensued with the following action taken -

Motion Statement - " I make a motion that Sub Section "E" be eliminated from the Resolution to Approve Tax Abatement for 630 Main Street."

Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Bourque

Vote to approve - Yes (1) Sedlack No (6)

Motion Statement - " Sub Section "E" to be revised to read -The controlling organization shall be required to pay back any abated taxes if 630 Main Street is sold or otherwise transferred to an outside agency or individual between the dates of July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2028"

Motion - Sel. Perez / Second - Sel. Sedlack

Vote to approve - Yes (6) No (0) Abstain (1) Morhardt

Motion Statement - "Motion to accept and approve the Resolution for Tax Abatement on 630 Main Street."

Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Bourque

Vote to approve - Yes (6) No (0) Abstain (1) Morhardt

B) Discussion on 840 E. Wakefield Blvd request for a permanent easement (and referral to a Special Town meeting.)

A brief review of the issues compelling this easement request resulted in the following action.

Motion Statement - "I make a motion that we grant a Permanent Easement on property located at 840 East Wakefield Blvd and a Temporary Easement on the adjacent Town Property ID # 044108030-31.

Motion - Sel. Perez / Second - Sel. Bouchard

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

C) 23-18 Driveway Ordinance Variance Request for 543 E. Wakefield Blvd

Sel. Perez recused herself for personal reasons

A review of the Driveway Construction and Ordinance language was offered by the Property owners representative. The Town Manager and Public Works Director Jim Rollins weighed in and a motion was made to table the issue again until the June 20th BOS meeting. This would give the the Town Attorney a chance to offer guidance as well as the allow the Town to gather construction details from J & J Excavating and Fragale Paving.

Motion Statement - "Motion to Table discussion until later date - June 20th"

Motion - Sel. Bouchard / Second - Sel. Groppo

No vote taken

Item 10

New Business -

A) 23-21 Refunds as recommended by the Collector of Revenues

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen authorize the refunds recommended by the Collector of Revenue in the amount of \$13,896.58

Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Morhardt

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

B) 23-22 Proposed Line Item Transfer

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen approve the following Line Item transfer of \$10,000 from Training Activities (210-192-0014) to Maintenance of Vehicles (210-821-0000) in the amount of \$10,000."

Motion - Sel. Bourque / Second - Sel. Morhardt

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

C) 23-23 Consider and Possibly Act on the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act money to fund the position of Director of Economic Development in FY24

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen allocate American Rescue Plan Act dollars in accordance with the Town Manager's proposal as presented and direct the Town Manager to use the funds to support a Director of Economic Development whose primary focus shall be on growing the Towns Grand List."

Motion - Sel. Bouchard / Second - Sel. Morhardt

Sel. Perez requested a copy of the contract and the development of quarterly performance metrics.

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

D) 23-24 Consider and Possibly Act on the Appointment of a Moderator for the Annual Town Meeting to be held on Monday May 8, 2023

Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen appoint Dennis Dressel to serve as Moderator at the Annual Town Budget Meeting to be held at 7:00pm on Monday May 8, 2023 at the Gilbert School."

Motion - Mayor Arcelaschi / Second - Sel. Bourque

Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

- E) 23-25 Consider and Possibly Act on a positive 8-24 Referral from the Planning and Zoning Commission and establishing a Special Town Meeting to approve the sale of the Batcheller School property.
Motion Statement - "I move that the Board of Selectmen establish a Special Town Meeting to be held at 6:30pm in the Hicks Room in Winchester Town Hall on Monday June 5, 2023 to Consider and Possibly Act on the sale of the Batcheller School property located at 179/201 Pratt Street."
Motion - Sel. Bouchard / Second - Sel. Groppo
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)
- F) 23-26 Consider and Possibly Act on the Approval of the Town Manager's contract."
Motion Statement - " I move that the Board of Selectmen approve the Town Manager's proposed contract as presented and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract on behalf of the Board of Selectmen."
Motion - Sel. Bourque / Second - Sel. Bouchard
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)
- G) 23-27 Consider and Possibly Act on making an 8-24 Referral of the Sale of 17 Front Street (a Town owned parcel) to the Planning & Zoning Commission.
Motion Statement - I move that the Board of Selectmen send the Sale of 17 Front Street to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an 8 - 24 Referral and direct the Town Manager to engage the Private Citizen with the highest offer of \$93,000 to proceed with the Sale process."
Motion - Sel. Bouchard / Second - Sel. Bourque
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)
- H) 23-28 Consider and Possibly Act on directing additional Town-owned parcels to be put on the market to be sold.
On the recommendation of Town Manager Kelly - NO ACTION TAKEN

Item 11 **Citizens Comments** - The following people addressed the Board

- * Stephen Kosinski
- * Jerry Martinez

Item 12 **Selectmen's Comments and Reports**

- * Sel. Perez - Requested that a Website Review Committee be formed to assess the current status of and progress of the new site.
- * Sel. Groppo - Reminded everyone about the upcoming Pet Parade and shared that there are now 11 candidates for the Laurel Festival contest.
- * Sel. Bourque - spoke of pending Soldiers Monument celebrations and ceremonies

Item 13 **Adjournment**

- * Motion - Sel. Sedlack / Second - Sel. Morhardt
To adjourn the meeting at 9:16pm
Vote to approve - Unanimous (7 - 0)

ATTEST:

Glenn Albanesius, Town Clerk

These Minutes are subject to formal approval at the next scheduled meeting. Any amendments, corrections or revisions will be noted in the next Meeting Minutes.