

TOWN OF WINCHENDON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY October 23, 2023
Town Hall, 109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.

Board of Selectmen Present:

Audrey LaBrie, Chair
Rick Ward, Vice-Chair
Danielle LaPointe

William McKinney, Interim Town Manager
Mary Calandrella, Executive Assistant
Debra Dennis, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Barbara Anderson
Melissa Blanchard

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Notice of Vacancies October 2023
- Appointments-Cultural Council (Alex Chanthachack) and Historical Commission (Jenelle Sroczynski)
- Entertainment Permit-Immaculate Heart of Mary-Fall Festival November 11th and 12th
- First Right of Refusal-Land off North Ashburnham Road
- List of Unaccepted Roads
- Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant-November 13, 2023
- Town Manager's Report dated October 23, 2023
- Draft Minutes: July 10th, July 13th and August 23, 2023

6:30 P.M. Chair LaBrie called the meeting to order at 6:30P.M. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair LaBrie asked if anyone would be audio or video recording this meeting tonight to which there was no response heard.

1. **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Selectman Ward announced Trick or Trick October 31st 5:30-7:30pm. Chair LaBrie said the Special Town Meeting is scheduled for November 13th @7pm at Murdock High School.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no public comments or announcements this evening.
3. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** There were no public hearings scheduled for this evening.
4. **BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENTS:**
4.1 Updated Vacancy List-Chair LaBrie read the vacancy list. She said if interested in any of the vacancies, reach out to the Town Manager's office. She thanked everyone who serves on boards and committees.
5. **APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**
5.1 Appointment Cultural Council-Alexis Chanthachack-Alexis Chanthachack came forward and explained she wanted to help the town. Selectman Ward moved to appoint Alexis Chanthachack to the Cultural Council which expires June 26, 2026, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. All aye.
5.2 Appointment Historical Commission-Jenelle Sroczynski-Selectman Ward moved to appoint Jenelle Sroczynski to the Historical Commission which expires June 26, 2026, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. All aye.
6. **PERMIT/LICENSE APPLICATIONS:**

6.1 Fall Festival-Immaculate Heart of Mary-11-11 9am-7pm & 11/12 9am-12pm – Selectman Ward moved to approve the entertainment permit for Immaculate Heart of Mary Fall Festival as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. All aye.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 Discussion on First Right of Refusal-Large Parcel off N. Ashburnham Road-Winchendon Forest LLC-

Steve Lawson, Aaron Nelson, Mount Grace Project Manager, David Santiano, Senior Director Mass Audubon. Mr. Nelson said this is before the town because the town received notice that Winchendon Forest LLC was going to sell the property for a solar project. The town has the right of first refusal, which means they can buy it or they can assign the first refusal. Mount Grace and Mass Audubon consider this a great property in the state and would like it assigned to one of them. Mr. Santiano said from perspective of the Conservation Community this property has natural resources. He said they have significant funding for this property. He said Mount Grace or Mass Audubon would convey the property to a state agency such as Mass Fisheries and Wildlife; they would be the permanent steward of the property. Mr. Nelson said the timeline tonight is not to make a decision but to consider holding a public hearing. Selectman Ward asked if this is assigned to you and you have a certain amount of time to come up with the money would that be a problem. Mr. Santiano said that would not be a problem. Selectwoman LaPointe asked if we confirmed with Town Council if we can assign this property. Potential Buyer of the property Cliff Sure came forward. The company is Onward Energy based in Boston. He said they have a strong history of preserving land. Chair LaBrie asked the size of solar field. Evan Turner said no more than a third of the property. Selectman Ward said he would need to know for the public hearing what the financial impact on the town would be. LaPointe said it would be beneficial to have it on another agenda. Chair LaBrie said we are going to take the 120 days before we make a decision.

7.2 Discussion and Vote on Acceptance of Unaccepted Roads –Brian Croteau came forward and discussed the list of roads. There are seventeen roads to bring to town meeting.

Selectman Ward asked when we take these roads do we have to widen roads? Brian Croteau said no. Chair LaBrie said adding road helps us with our chapter 90 funds.

Hapgood Road- Chair LaBrie moved that the Board vote to accept Hapgood Road as presented this evening, Selectman Ward seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

King Phillip Way- Chair LaBrie moved that the Board vote to accept King Phillip Way as presented this evening, Selectman Ward seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Prentiss Circle- Chair LaBrie moved that the Board vote to accept Prentiss Circle as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Converse Drive- Chair LaBrie moved that the Board vote to accept Converse Drive as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Maple Place B- Chair LaBrie moved that the Board vote to accept Maple Place B as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Chase Road plan dated 1988-Chair LaBrie moved the Board accept Chase Road as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye. Chair LaBrie withdrew her motion and Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Chase Road plan dated August 27, 1993-Chair LaBrie moved the Board accept Chase Road as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Phyllis Road- Chair LaBrie moved the Board accept Phyllis Road as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Loon Road- Chair LaBrie moved the Board accept Loon Road as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Blue Bird Road plan dated 12-24-1996- Chair LaBrie moved the Board accept Blue Bird Road as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Wendall Drive 7-9-1985 plan- Chair LaBrie moved the Board accept Wendall Drive as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Sunny Cove Road 2.10.1958 plan- Chair LaBrie moved the Board accept Sunny Cove Road as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Summer Drive 2.8.1974 plan- Chair LaBrie moved the Board accept Summer Drive as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Shady Glen Terrace 2.24.1958 plan – Chair LaBrie moved the Board accept Shady Glen Terrace as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Jefferson Avenue 6.6.1966 plan- Chair LaBrie moved the Board accept Jefferson Avenue as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Hillside Drive 2.27.1958 plan- Chair LaBrie moved the Board accept Hillside Drive as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

Commercial Drive 8.27.2010 plan- Chair LaBrie moved the Board accept Commercial Drive as presented this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

8.1 Review/Discuss/Finalize Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles-Bill McKinney, Interim Town Manager went over each warrant article. Selectman Ward said that article 3 doesn't state the amount of money. McKinney said it is because we don't know the free cash amount yet. Selectman Ward said if we don't get it certified before town meeting what happens if we don't have that number. Chair LaBrie said we would pass over all articles that pertain to free cash. Selectman Ward questioned wording of Article 6 and 7 because it doesn't say from free cash. Selectman Ward said he doesn't see how we can move forward with Article 19 since the Planning Board hasn't had the public hearing. Planning Board Chair Guy Corbosiero said there are no solar fields projects before the Board at this time. Selectwoman LaPointe said she doesn't want to tie our hands with the Right of First Refusal. Brian Croteau said if you do a one-year moratorium it isn't going to affect them. Selectwoman LaPointe said it can be a non-binding article to see what the town wants. **Chair LaBrie move strike Article 19 from the warrant and list it after Article 22 as a referendum question. Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. All aye. Chair LaBrie move to accept the warrant as amended this evening, Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. All aye.**

9. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: Interim Town Manager William McKinney went over his report.

- Working with Town Accountant to close FY23.
- Personnel Updates-Christine LaTulippe, Part Time Broadcasting Director started October 16, 2023, Pat Wood, Town Engineer started October 16, 2023, and Sheila Beane resigned effective December 31, 2023.
- Project Updates-Paving for this year is done, DPW roof is completed and the Senior Center Phase I is near completion.
- Miscellaneous Updates-Working with the Town of Templeton on a new Inter-Municipal Agreement for sharing Animal Control Officer duties.

10. MINUTES:

July 10, 2023 Minutes-Selectman Ward moved to approve the meeting minutes of July 10, 2023. Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

July 13, 2023 Minutes-Selectman Ward moved to approve the meeting minutes of July 13, 2023. Selectwoman LaPointe seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

August 23, 2023 Minutes-Selectman Ward moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 23, 2023. Selectwoman LaBrie seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe abstained, and LaBrie aye.

11. COMMUNICATIONS:

12. AGENDA ITEMS: Jane LaPointe said the Board of Selectman and the Town Manager Search Committee will be meeting October 30th at 6:30PM in Executive Session. On November 5th there will be a meet & greet. On November 6th the candidates will come here and meet the department heads. There will also be an administrative and technical panel that will ask the candidates certain questions. That evening the candidates will be interviewed by the Board of Selectmen. Then in Executive Session brief input by candidate interviewers.

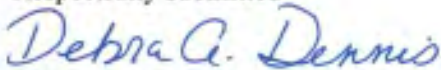
13. EXECUTIVE SESSION-There was no executive session this evening.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Selectwoman LaPointe moved to adjourn, Selectman Ward seconded. Vote: Ward aye, LaPointe aye, and LaBrie aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted



Debra Dennis, Administrative Assistant