

TOWN OF WINCHENDON Approved: February 10, 2025
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, January 27, 2025 6:30pm
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Auditorium, 109 Front St., Winchendon, Mass.

Present: Rick Ward, Chair

Audrey LaBrie

Melissa Blanchard (remotely)

Debra Dennis, Executive Assistant

Absent: Andrew Beauvais and Erika Eitland

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Public Hearing Notice-The Flower Shop Application-Club-All Alcoholic
- Board and Committee Vacancies List
- Draft Board of Selectmen Minutes-December 23, 2024, and January 13, 2025

6:30 PM Chair Ward called the meeting to order at 6:30P.M. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Ward 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:** Chair Ward said one member of the Board is joining remotely so all votes will be roll call votes. Chair Ward mentioned this Thursday 6pm at the Library, Michael Tougias a New York Times author will discuss his book King Philip's War.
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Dani Cutler, Chair Cultural Council came forward. She said the Council released the list of 2025 recipients. The funding comes from the state for grants. Some of the grants are for Town Winchendon Founders Day, Taste of Winchendon, and Library Events. If you would like to serve contact WinchendonCC.com.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

3.1 Selectwoman LaBrie read the public hearing notice into the record. The Winchendon BOARD OF SELECTMEN, acting as the Local Licensing Authority, will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 27, 2025 beginning at 6:35 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium, 2nd Floor, 109 Front Street, Winchendon, MA on the On Premises Section 12 Club All Alcoholic Beverages, Pouring License, The Flower Shop, located at 172 Central Street., Winchendon, Mass., Owner; and Manager: Jordan Comeau. Anyone wishing to make comments is encourage to attend. Selectwoman LaBrie moved to open public hearing, Chair Ward seconded. Roll Call Vote: Selectwoman LaBrie aye, Selectwoman Blanchard aye, and Chair Ward aye.

Jordan Comeau came forward. Proposed license is for a private club. Create space to connect unplug from their phones. Share some comradery and enjoy each other's company. Chair Ward asked where is the entrance since it's not through the front door. Mr. Comeau said the entrance will be from the back door which is not accessible from upstairs. Chair Ward asked what the hours will be. Mr. Comeau said we will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 6pm to midnight. Selectwoman LaBrie said you will need to be TIP certified and the space will need to be inspected.

Mr. Comeau said he presently I have everything for the ABCC. Chair Ward asked if there were any public comments which there weren't any. **Selectwoman LaBrie moved to close the public hearing. Chair Ward seconded. Roll Call Vote: Selectwoman LaBrie aye, Selectwoman Blanchard aye, and Chair Ward aye.**

Selectwoman LaBrie moved the Board acting as the Local Licensing Authority approve the All Alcoholic Beverages, Pouring License for The Flower Shop located at 172 Central Street. The owner and Manager is Jordan Comeau as presented this evening. Chair Ward seconded. Roll Call Vote: Selectwoman LaBrie aye, Selectwoman Blanchard aye, and Chair Ward aye.

- 4 **APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:** There were no appointments or resignations this evening.
- 5 **PERMIT/LICENSE APPLICATIONS:** There were no permit/license applications this evening.
- 6 **BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS:** Selectwoman LaBrie said she attended the MMA Conference last weekend. Interesting to hear what Governor has to say. They addressed some budget items coming up.

7 **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 Board and Committee Vacancies- Chair Ward read the list of Board and Committee Vacancies. Town Election coming up May 5th. Can still take out paper that need to be in by Monday March 17, 2025 by 5:00pm. The positions up for election are one 3 year term for the Moderator, two 3 year terms for the Board of Selectmen, one 3 year terms for the School Committee, one 1 year unexpired term for the School Committee and one 3 year term for the Board of Health. The Charter and Bylaw Review Committee has vacancies, the Finance Committee has a vacancy. LaBrie deadline return paper is Monday at 5pm.

7.2 Guide to FY26 Budget and ATM Guidelines- The Board members discussed the FY26 Budget and Annual Town Meeting Guidelines. **Selectwoman LaBrie moved to accept the timeline as presented. Selectwoman Blanchard seconded. Roll Call Vote: Selectwoman LaBrie aye, Selectwoman Blanchard aye, and Chair Ward aye.**

7.3 Open and Set Date to Close the Annual Warrant- **Selectwoman LaBrie moved to Schedule the Annual Town Meeting for May 19, 2025 and to open the Annual Town Meeting warrant on 1/27/2025 and to close the warrant on April 27, 2025 at 5pm. Selectwoman Blanchard seconded. Roll Call Vote: Selectwoman LaBrie aye, Selectwoman Blanchard aye, and Chair Ward aye.**

- 8 **OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business discussed this evening.
- 9 **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:** There was no Town Manager's Report this evening.
- 10 **TOWN MANAGER FINANCIAL UPDATE:** This will be presented the first meeting in February. Chair Ward stated Governor Healey has released the draft state budgets and cherry sheets.
11. **MINUTES:**
11.1 Draft Board of Selectmen December 23, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes-Selectwoman LaBrie moved the Board approve the meeting minutes of December 23, 2024 as presented this evening. Selectwoman Blanchard seconded. Roll Call Vote: Selectwoman LaBrie aye, Selectwoman Blanchard aye, and Chair Ward aye.

11.2 Draft Board of Selectmen January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes-Selectwoman LaBrie moved the Board approve the meeting minutes of January 13, 2025 as presented this evening. Selectwoman Blanchard seconded. Roll Call Vote: Selectwoman LaBrie aye, Selectwoman Blanchard aye, and Chair Ward aye.

12. COMMUNICATIONS: The next meeting is the Tri Board meeting look at 5 year projection-school draft budget-town draft budget-impact-MSBA-potential funding from state. Selectwoman LaBrie said it's for windows and doors at Toy Town Elementary, Memorial, and Murdock Middle High School. Upfront money is required/match state requires. Great opportunity to get work done on the schools. Chair Ward said you need to know the impact to the budget. He encouraged everyone to go to the Tri-Board meeting. Next regular meeting is February 10th.

13. AGENDA ITEMS:

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION-There was no scheduled executive sessions this evening.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Selectwoman LaBrie moved to adjourn. Selectwoman Blanchard seconded. Roll Call Vote: Selectwoman Blanchard aye, Selectwoman LaBrie aye, and Chair Ward aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm.

Respectfully submitted


Debra Dennis

Executive Assistant