

Approved: February 12, 2024

TOWN OF WINCHENDON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024  
Town Hall, 109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.

Board of Selectmen Present:

Audrey LaBrie, Chair  
Rick Ward, Vice-Chair  
Melissa Blanchard

Mary Calandrella, Executive Assistant  
Debra Dennis, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Danielle LaPointe  
Barbara Anderson

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List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Foundations Information
  - Storefront grant letter of support
  - Environmental Officer Assignment
  - Vacant Storefront letter of support
  - First Right of Refusal Responses for Cummings Road-Assessors and Planning
  - Minutes June 26, 2023, November 27, 2023, and January 8, 2024
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**6:30 P.M.** Chair LaBrie called the meeting to order at 6:30P.M. 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 stated if interested in running for town office, nomination papers for the annual town election can be picked up at the Town Clerks office. Nomination papers will be available Tuesday, January 16, 2024 and must be turned in by Monday, March 18, 2024 by 5:00pm. Available positions are two seats on the Board of Selectmen, two seats the School Committee, one seat-1 year term for the School Committee, two seats on the Board of Health, one-2 year unexpired term for the Board of Health, and one seat on the Housing Authority.
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no public comments and announcements.
- 3. PUBLIC HEARING:** There are no public hearings scheduled for this evening.
- 4. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS:** There are no appointments and resignations this evening.
- 5. PERMIT/LICENSE APPLICATIONS:** There were no permit/license applications this evening.
- 6. BOARDS/COMMITTEE COMMISSIONS:** There were no boards/committee or commissions discussions this evening.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Foundation-Brian and Karen Forgues-Brian Forgues said he is here tonight to make homeowners aware there are some homes in Winchendon that have been effected pyrrhotite in their foundations. Some concrete has been manufactured in Mass. They shared a map that showed what towns have pyrrhotite. Brian Forgues said yes. They now regulate and test to make sure concrete doesn't have pyrrhotite. He said he is asking for the Board to support this bill. Mr. Forgues asked for suggestions to spread awareness in the town. Chair LaBrie said at the next meeting they can vote.

7.2 Vacant Storefront designation letter of support- Nicole Roberts, Land Use Planning Coordinator said she is here requesting a letter of support. The state has a vacant storefront designation program, to revitalize small businesses to get them in and give them tax credits. There needs to be matching funds. Selectman Ward asked if this would be a designated area? Nicole Roberts said yes down in Waterville and on Central Street. Selectwoman Blanchard questioned the amount of matching funds that are required. Ms. Roberts said they haven't stated the amount. Selectwoman Blanchard stated she has a problem using town money that goes towards private property. Chair LaBrie asked for this to be brought back at the next meeting.

7.3 Designation of Environmental Certifying Officer-Town Engineer-Pat Wood-Nicole Roberts said we are in the process of applying for a CDBG Grant for Beech Street. We need to appoint an environmental certifying officer. We decided Pat Wood our Town Engineer would be the best designee with his engineering background. **Selectman Ward moved to appoint Pat Wood as our Environmental Certifying Officer. Selectwoman Blanchard seconded. Vote: Blanchard aye, Ward aye, and LaBrie aye.**

7.4 Review of Town Manager Goals & Objectives-Chair LaBrie said per the employee agreement it states within 45 days we would discuss with him our Town Manager Goals & Objectives. He hasn't had a chance to get back to us yet. Will be meeting with him next week and will discuss at the next meeting. Selectman Ward said the two things he wants to focus on is to ensure professional training for staff, and to focus on the master plan-goals and objectives.

7.5 Open Annual Town Meeting 5/20/24 Warrant Articles-**Chair LaBrie move to set the date of the annual town meeting to May 20, 2024. Selectman Ward second. Vote: Blanchard aye, Ward aye, and LaBrie aye.** Selectman Ward said the warrant can't be closed in March, it can close on April 8<sup>th</sup>. **Chair LaBrie moved to open the warrant for the Annual Town meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and close the warrant on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Selectman Ward seconded. Vote: Blanchard aye, Ward aye, and LaBrie aye.** Chair LaBrie said to reach out to Town Manager's office if you want anything on the warrant.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Update on FROR-Cummings Road Parcel-Mary Calandrella said we heard back from the Assessor's office and there is no value to the town. We also heard back from the Planning Board and Conservation Commission and there is no interest on the parcel. This will be brought back for a vote at the next meeting.

9. **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:** There was no Town Manager's report presented this evening.



**10. MINUTES:**

**10.1 Meeting Minutes**

**June 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes-Chair LaBrie move to approve the minutes of June 26, 2023 as presented. Selectman Ward second. Vote: Blanchard aye, Ward aye, and LaBrie aye.**

**November 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes-Chair LaBrie move to approve the minutes of November 27, 2023 as presented. Selectman Ward seconded. Vote: Blanchard aye, Ward aye, and LaBrie aye.**

**January 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes-Chair LaBrie move to approve the minutes of January 8, 2024 as presented. Selectman Ward seconded. Vote: Blanchard aye, Ward aye, and LaBrie aye.**

- 11. COMMUNICATIONS:** Chair LaBrie stated the next meeting is Monday February 12<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Ward said it would be a tri-board meeting. Chair LaBrie asked to meet for a regular meeting at 6pm and the tri-board at 6:30pm. The Board decided to only hold the 6L30 pm tri board meeting and just have the regular meeting.

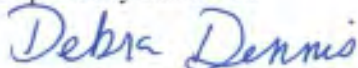
**12. AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There are no executive sessions scheduled tonight.

- 14. ADJOURNMENT-**Selectman Ward moved to adjourn. Selectwoman Blanchard seconded. Vote: Blanchard aye, Ward aye, and LaBrie aye

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm.

Respectfully submitted



Debra Dennis, Administrative Assistant