

*Minutes*  
*Williamsburg Board of Selectmen*  
*December 2, 2021*

The members of the Board of Selectmen met in regular session on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at the town office. The chair called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Present: David Mathers, Denise Banister and William Sayre

Also present: Nick Caccamo (Town Administrator), Eleanor Warnock (Administrative Assistant)

Boston Post Cane presentation: Paula Wentworth (honoree), Mark LaChance, Marianne LaRochelle, Margaret Molloy, Barbara Pelissier, Chelsea Ting

1. Appointments –

Resignations – 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – The chair read resignations from people who had been on the original 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee but are now no longer able to serve. **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to accept the resignations of Martha Baker, Tracy Magdalene and Eric Weber from the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee with thanks and regrets. **So voted** (3-0).

Resignation – Cultural Council – The chair read the resignation of Abigail Knopp from the Cultural Council. **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to accept the resignation of Abigail Knopp from the Cultural Council with thanks and regrets. **So voted** (3-0).

Open Space – **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to appoint Llama Maynard to the Open Space Committee, term to expire June 30, 2022. **So voted** (3-0).

2. Licenses –

Ending time for live entertainment – The Board would like outdoor live entertainment to end by 10 p.m. No limit on indoor entertainment except the business's closing time, and the state's requirement that it end by midnight on Sunday.

Late closing and live entertainment – **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to grant to the Burgy Bullets Snowmobile Club a live entertainment permit for a D.J., 6 to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 4, 2021, and late closing, 1 a.m., Friday night, December 31, 2021. **So voted** (3-0). **Motion** was made and seconded (WS/DB) to grant a permit to the Yellow Barn for live entertainment, D.J., 6-10 p.m., for November 19, 20, 28, December 3, 4, 5, 11, 19, 30, 31, 2021. **So voted** (3-0). **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to authorize the chair to sign the state Sunday public entertainment license for the Yellow Barn for Nov 28, December 5 and 19, 2021, for D.J. and dancing. **So voted** (3-0).

Sunday entertainment permit fee – The town does not normally charge for live entertainment permits. The town used to charge for a Sunday permit, probably going back to the Sunday Blue Laws, but that lapsed through an oversight. The Board does not feel that a fee for Sunday is necessary, and it discourages businesses, and decided not to change the current practice. It was noted that there is still a requirement for a Sunday entertainment permit from the state.

3. Broadband agreement with Comcast – Town Administrator Nick Caccamo presented the contract with Comcast to extend broadband to the last three properties on Chesterfield Road, numbers 105, 118, and 132 Chesterfield Road. The Board had previously approved using ARPA

funds. There was some discussion of new bills in Congress that might have money for broadband; if money comes through the ARPA money could be replaced. **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to sign the Cable TV and Broadband Internet Service Agreement with Comcast of Massachusetts in the amount of \$14,700. **So voted** (3-0)

4. Personnel – annual evaluations – Select Board member will do the evaluations of the department heads that they were liaisons for last year. Town Administrator Nick Caccamo will supply the self-evaluations and reviews from other staff members and will set up the in-person meetings. He will also provide the reviews of the other department heads.

5. Hybrid meetings – A question had been raised about offering hybrid meetings, allowing for both in-person and remote participation. Board members were interested but had strong reservations. A proposal from Paragus put the cost at \$1800 plus labor. The temporary law allowing hybrid meetings expires in April 2022 but the legislature may extend it. Discussion included: it would allow the public greater access; some board members would not personally use it for remote participation; having such a system could be disruptive and chaotic and push the board to discuss things not on the agenda; there can be issues when one person is on two devices; currently some boards are trying things on their own; a system could be mounted permanently in the Planning Board Room or be portable; there may be funding available; it would require some coordination and administration; it could allow professionals to attend easily; it would allow display of documents on a large screen; it might help get volunteers to serve on committees; other local organizations have a low-key set-up where people can dial in and participate without video; the Tech Committee should be asked for their opinion, and STAM could be asked about other towns' experience. Town Administrator Nick Caccamo will gather more information and bring it back to a future meeting.

6. Boston Post Cane – oldest resident – Around 1900 the Boston Post newspaper gave a cane to every town in the state to award to the town's oldest resident. Over the years Williamsburg's cane has deteriorated and sometimes people would not give it back. The town has recently had it restored and it is kept in a display case in the Selectmen's office. It is presented to the oldest person but temporarily, not for keeps. The town's new oldest resident is Paula Wentworth, age 98. She attended the board meeting with some family members and friends. **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to sign the certificate recognizing her as the town's oldest citizen, and to sign the proclamation. **So voted** (3-0). The chair read the proclamation, described some of the history, and presented the cane to Mrs. Wentworth. There was a joyful celebration, including many photos. People commented on her sharp mind and delightful sense of humor, and remembered when she taught folk dancing just down the hall from the Selectmen's office.

7. Senior Volunteer Tax Relief program –

Report – The Administrative Assistant gave the year's report. Total earnings were about \$5,700, a lot less than in recent years. The Library, Senior Center and Fire Department used about equal amounts.

Application – An application for the coming year was presented, in addition to the ones approved in October. The applicant has a friend, not eligible for the program, who would like to donate her volunteer hours to the applicant. Because the state's rule is that a substitute may work in

place of someone physically unable to work, and the applicant is able and eager to work, the Board reluctantly said that the hours could not be donated. The Board would like to reach out to town committees to find work both for this applicant and for the other participants. **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to approve the application for the Senior Tax Workoff program. **So voted** (3-0).

8. Town Administrator's report –

Covid – Town Administrator Nick Caccamo reported that there is one active Covid case in town. Numbers continue to stay low but a new variant is coming that is concerning. The Board of Health's authority comes from M.G.L. c. 111; Nick will take a closer look at it.

Depot Road culvert – He reported that due to the discovery of the ledge, it is unlikely that the project will finish during this construction season. They are hoping to finish some work this week and drop the culvert into place, and come back in the spring to finish, including the construction of the road. The work is still within the budget. He will notify the town residents about the bridge remaining closed, through phone calls, a Code Red robocall, and Facebook.

Water/Sewer fees – He had discussed with the Collector and the Accountant the Board's wish to have the fees go to the Enterprise Funds rather than to the town's General Fund. A question still undecided is whether to treat each fund separately or to do a 50-50 split.

Server upgrade – He reported that the server upgrade is still in process; there have been issues with the supplier. More capacity is needed to handle the Assessors' software. The Tech Committee recommends staying with Paragus because there are a number of ongoing projects and while they aren't perfect the products are good.

Chapter 90 reimbursement – The Board signed the MassDOT reimbursement form for the paving on Nash Hill Road.

9. Warrant – Selectman Dave Mathers will review and sign the warrant. Payroll warrant WP22-12 for \$123,520.27, and expense warrant W22-12 for \$117,222.08, payable 12/8/21.

Documents used

Agenda and notes

Resignation letters and letter of interest

Late closing and live entertainment permits

Comcast broadband extension agreement

Oldest resident certificate and proclamation

Senior Volunteer Tax Relief report and application

Chapter 90 reimbursement form

Adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Approved:

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Clerk