

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

August 17, 2020

Chairman Jonathan R. Eaton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. This meeting was held via ZOOM. Present were Selectmen Gregory B. Bendel, Kevin A. Caira, Gary B. DePalma and Jomarie F. O'Mahony. Also present was Town Manager Jeffrey M. Hull.

A motion was made and duly seconded and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategies with respect to litigation involving 53 Eames Street in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)3 as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's litigation position which the Chairman so declares and further to consider Executive Session minutes from January 13, 2020, February 10, 2020 and February 24, 2020 in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 22

Chairman Eaton reconvened the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Present were Selectmen Gregory B. Bendel, Kevin A. Caira, Gary B. DePalma and Jomarie F. O'Mahony. Also present was Town Manager Jeffrey M. Hull.

Chairman Eaton stated that pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, members of the public who wish to watch and listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner: WCTV (Channel 9 – Comcast xFinity; Channel 37 Verizon FiOS, and live stream wctv.org). This meeting of the Wilmington Board of Selectmen is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. Members of the public who would like to listen to this meeting while in progress may also do so via telephone by dialing 1-646-558-8656 and enter meeting ID 810 2878 3396 then press # and press # again at the next voice prompt. Members of the public attending this meeting virtually will be allowed to make comments if they wish to do so, during the portion of the meeting designated for public comment, by following the steps previously noted then press \*9 on their telephone keypad. This will notify the meeting host that the caller wishes to speak. All callers using this feature will be placed in queue in the order they entered the prompt. In the event that, despite our best efforts, we are not able to provide for real-time access, we will post a record of this meeting on the Town's website as soon as we are able. Chairman Eaton thanked IT Director John O'Neil for facilitating the meeting.

Chairman Eaton asked meeting participants to rise and he led the pledge of allegiance.

### TREASURY WARRANTS

Chairman Eaton asked for a motion to accept the Treasury Warrants. A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman DePalma and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen accept Treasury Warrants 55, 3, 3A, 4, 4A, 5, 5A, 6, 6A, 7 & 7A.

## MINUTES

A motion was made by Selectman Caira and seconded by Selectman Bendel. Selectman Caira advised that he would like to offer a couple of amendments and cited page 5, paragraph 2 it should read "Selectman McCoy stated...) and advised there was a "t" missing; and on page 13, paragraph 5 it states "Mr. West stated that Selectman Loud...the Chairman has refused and ...". Selectman Caira asked that it be clarified that the statement is in reference to the Chairman of the Board of Appeals. Chairman Eaton asked if there were any objections to the amendments and there were none. Chairman Eaton called for the vote and by the affirmative roll call vote of three with Selectman DePalma and Selectman O'Mahony abstaining, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of their meeting held February 11, 2019 as amended and all action taken is hereby ratified and confirmed.

A motion was made by Selectman Caira and seconded by Selectman Bendel. Selectman Caira advised that he would like to offer an amendment and cited page 11, first sentence under Public Comments where it states "Chairman Caira advised that public comments and is not a question and answer session." Chairman Caira advised that the first "and" should be deleted. Chairman Eaton asked if there were any objections to the amendment and there were none. Chairman Eaton called for the vote and by the affirmative roll call vote of three with Selectman DePalma and Selectman O'Mahony abstaining, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of their meeting held February 25, 2019 as amended and all action taken is hereby ratified and confirmed.

A motion was made by Selectman Bendel and seconded by Selectman Caira for the purpose of discussion. Selectman Caira stated that on page 4, last paragraph where it references his question about the jurisdiction of the lights. He believes that information is missing and opined that the comment is not clear whether it references the lights on Middlesex Avenue and Wildwood Street or the lights at Savers/Market Basket. Selectman Caira suggested that approval of the minutes be tabled to provide the Recording Secretary an opportunity to review the recording of the meeting. Selectman Bendel withdrew his original motion. A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman Caira and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen table approval of the minutes of their meeting held July 13, 2020 until September 14, 2020.

A motion was made by Selectman Caira and seconded by Selectman O'Mahony for the purpose of discussion. Selectman O'Mahony expressed concern that the first line on page 3, comments attributed to her relative to the use of force by the Wilmington Police Department, may be misinterpreted. She emphasized that the Wilmington Police had not used force. Chairman Eaton suggested that changing "as" to "and" may accomplish that clarification. The sentence would then read "...Wilmington Police Department is lacking and the only incident..." Selectman Bendel stated that his comments relative to the Police Department were not included in the minutes and asked that the approval be tabled so that his comments may be included. Selectman Caira withdrew his motion. A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman O'Mahony and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen table approval of the minutes of their meeting held August 5, 2020 until September 14, 2020.

**ROBERT REYNOLDS, GeoINSIGHT, RE: OVERVIEW OF THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S PROPOSED PLAN TO REMEDIATE CONTAMINANTS AT THE OLIN SUPERFUND SITE, 53 EAMES STREET**

Chairman Eaton introduced the topic stating that documents were released that are highly technical and very detailed.

Mr. Reynolds advised that Kevin Trainer was also participating in the meeting and that Mr. Trainer has been involved in the Olin project for a longer period of time. Mr. Reynolds advised that when the document was issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), GeoInsight reviewed it and developed the memorandum which was provided to the Board of Selectmen to provide a focused summary of the proposed Plan and their preliminary findings.

Mr. Trainer summarized GeoInsight's memorandum stating that the proposed plan identifies an interim cleanup action to remediate the dense aqueous phase liquid (DAPL) and groundwater hot spots and final cleanup actions to address light, non-aqueous phase liquid and contamination in soil (LNAPL), sediments and surface water. He advised that the interim cleanup action to address the major sources of contamination in groundwater is considered by the EPA to be a short-term cleanup effort until the EPA gathers additional information as part of the ongoing data gaps investigation to inform a final remedial action. The interim action that is proposed defers selection of a final groundwater remedy for the site until additional information on the nature and extent of the groundwater contamination is obtained. The proposed interim action was developed by the EPA to prioritize reduction of exposure risk and reduction of contaminant mass.

Mr. Trainer advised that the EPA provided different alternatives to address LNAPL and surface water which consists of demolishing Plant B; implementing multi-phase extraction, extracting groundwater from selected locations upgradient and re-routing groundwater extracted from the three extraction wells.

The EPA's preferred alternative for the soil and sediments cleanup consists of excavating approximately 4,000 cubic yards of impacted soil and sediments for off-site disposal; constructing a new impermeable cap over the existing containment area; sealing the equalization window in the slurry wall and placing a soil or asphalt cover over areas of impacted upland soil.

An estimated two to three years will be needed to design and construct both the interim action for groundwater and the final action for LNAPL and surface water. The operation time for the DAPL and groundwater hot spots interim action is estimated to be eight years.

Mr. Trainer reported that based upon the preliminary review of the proposed plan, the final actions proposed by the EPA for LNAPL and contamination in soil, sediments and surface water are reasonable and are expected to achieve the remedial action objectives outlined for the site. From a technical perspective, the interim action selected for DAPL and groundwater hot spots appears to be reasonable to meet the current objectives, recognizing that the final action for DAPL and groundwater hot spots will incorporate new information from the ongoing data gaps investigation, which may result in revising the proposed interim action.

Chairman Eaton asked about the next steps and Mr. Trainer advised that the focus will be on investigation of data gaps and noted that there have been delays associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Reynolds stated that a company based in Canada has been identified to complete flyovers of the site. Mr. Reynolds reiterated that remediation will take several years to get to the end point.

Chairman Eaton asked if there were any questions or comments from members of the Board. Members of the Board thanked Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Trainer for participating in the meeting. Selectman Bendel expressed his appreciation to Wilmington's legislative delegation, Representatives Gordon and Robertson and Senator Tarr. They are scheduled to participate in another agenda item and he appreciates that they took the time to listen in on this important topic.

Selectman Caira asked for clarification of the on-site treatment system and dismantling of Plant B and asked how long the new system will be in place. Mr. Trainer advised that there is a treatment system in Plant B that will be removed and a new on-site treatment system will operate at least through the interim plan which is anticipated to be 8 years. As additional data is received, the timeline may change.

Selectman Caira asked about the process of transporting the LNAPL for off-site disposal and what protections will be in place. Mr. Trainer stated that the recovered LNAPL is essentially petroleum floating on top of the groundwater. He stated that he would not be expecting large quantities and it would be transported in drums. Mr. Trainer advised that the transportation of the drums would be regulated by manifests.

Selectman Caira expressed his concerns regarding the slurry wall. He commented about the likelihood of deterioration over the years and asked what will be done to reinforce the slurry wall and whether there will be monitoring beyond the 10-12 years of cleanup.

Mr. Trainer stated that GeoInsight shares Selectman Caira's concerns as the slurry wall is in a place where there is DAPL at the bottom. He stated that there is a window in the slurry wall to equalize the groundwater and GeoInsight hopes that closing it will have a beneficial effect.

Selectman Caira expressed concern with the plume and noted that it is traveling to various parts beyond the Olin site and asked how the plume will be cleaned so that residents are not worried. Mr. Trainer advised that the plume is not addressed as part of the plan and Selectman Caira is correct that there are impacts beyond the Olin site that must be addressed.

Mr. Reynolds advised that extraction of DAPL and highly contaminated groundwater is taking place beyond the proper Olin site. He stated that there is a network of extraction wells and piping that will lead back to the site for treatment.

Selectman DePalma stated that he has heard that the slurry wall is damaged. Mr. Trainer advised that the wall is not damaged but there are ongoing concerns about the integrity of the wall and how Olin is characterizing the integrity of the wall. He advised that concerns have been communicated to Olin and the EPA. Mr. Trainer believes that part of the work will be evaluating the wall through monitoring.

Selectman DePalma asked if residential properties are being tested and was advised by Mr. Trainer that there is testing of residential properties that have been identified by the EPA. In addition, there are wells in the area that the EPA will be monitoring.

Selectman O'Mahony asked when the 30 year time frame would commence, whether it is when the work begins or following the 8 years to complete the interim action. Mr. Trainer noted that the timeline will change based on information received from the data gap investigation and may be revised.

Selectman O'Mahony asked about the incorporation in property deeds the requirement for vapor intrusion and mitigation. She expressed concern relative to the EPA's proposal to excavate and remove contaminated soil and questioned whether the EPA is concerned about vapor intrusion into the air. She asked whether the contaminated material will impact the air once exposed. Mr. Trainer stated that he anticipates there to be air monitoring. He assured the Board of Selectmen that GeoInsight will evaluate components of the remedial action plan to ensure adequate air monitoring and protection for residents in the area.

Mr. Trainer advised that, relative to requirements that will be incorporated in the property deeds, the component is for after the work is completed. He advised that some areas may have residual impacts in groundwater and could present future vapor concerns. He stated that it is a relatively small area of the property that has been identified.

Chairman Eaton summarized that there are three main components to the proposed plan and they include final action for LNAPL and surface water and final action for soil and sediments and interim action for the DAPL and groundwater hot spots. Mr. Trainer noted that the plan is to remove some of the DAPL and groundwater and conduct additional work that will be determined based on the data gap investigation.

Chairman Eaton stated that the EPA had outlined rough alternatives in the past and that remediation of soil and sediment had a significant range in alternatives. He noted that the chosen alternative removes the least amount of soil and is the least expensive to Olin and responsible parties. Chairman Eaton asked representatives of GeoInsight if it is the least environmentally damaging practical alternative to protect wetland resources. Mr. Trainer advised that each of the remedial alternatives that were evaluated have advantages and disadvantages. Excavating more soil will result in additional vehicular traffic and suggested that these topics could be offered as comments during the EPA comment period.

Chairman Eaton asked the significance that the preferred alternative is to demolish Plant B in favor of on-site treatment. Mr. Trainer commented that their interpretations of the alternatives is that they would be effective and that there is a reasonable balance of risks vs. closure.

Chairman Eaton referenced the notation that groundwater will be extracted from selected areas within the 5,000 nanograms/liter NDMA and asked if he is correct that areas containing less than that will not be addressed. He stated that it has been recognized that a threshold below 33 nanograms/liter is too dangerous to drink yet the EPA is only addressing groundwater at levels well above that.

Mr. Reynolds stated that one of the reasons it is an interim measure is that it is an initial effort to remove some of the mass of contaminant and the component looks to apply restrictions on drinking water throughout the plume. He stated that the EPA will be looking to restrict drinking water wells from being installed because the straight forward way people will be impacted is by drinking it. During this interim period EPA will determine ways to lower the clean-up threshold number.

Chairman Eaton read from GeoInsight's summary that "One of the components of this interim action will be the implementation of institutional controls, via ordinances established by the Town." He asked what types of ordinances would be instituted. Mr. Trainer stated that ordinances would be established by the Town that would regulate wells. He anticipates that the Town will be approached by the EPA.

Selectman DePalma asked how many additional private wells are anticipated to be shut down. Mr. Trainer advised that he does not have a number as the EPA indicated there is a need to do additional testing of wells and have identified a number of irrigation wells.

Selectman Caira asked GeoInsight to comment relative to the EPA's plan. Mr. Trainer stated that the proposed alternatives are a reasonable, good balance of risks that could occur and achieving the remedial end point and protecting risks for the future.

Selectman Caira expressed concern that areas of groundwater with a concentration of less than 4,999 nanograms/liter will not be addressed and opined that is unacceptable. He asked if the Town can object. Mr. Trainer advised that the proposal is an interim plan and there will be a final plan to address those areas. Selectman Caira asked about recourse if those areas are not addressed and in ten or twenty years the number rises above 5,000. Chairman Eaton stated that the interim plan allows the clean up to begin and to learn more about the site to develop a final plan to clean up the site to a higher standard.

Selectman DePalma asked whether, when the soil is excavated, it will be removed from the site by truck or by rail. He was advised that transportation was not addressed in the plan.

Town Manager Hull stated that the slurry wall was installed at least 25 years ago at the direction of the Department of Environmental Protection and he recalls that the expected useful life would be 30 years. He stated that this knowledge emphasizes the fact that the Town needs to be particularly attentive to safeguard the slurry wall so it does not breach or crack.

Town Manager Hull advised that there will be a Zoom meeting for internal staff and representatives of GeoInsight to discuss the EPA's recommendation and to develop comments and questions. A comment document will be prepared and submitted. Town Manager Hull stated that one question that is reasonable to ask is the basis to establish the level of contamination at 5,000 nanograms/liter.

Town Manager Hull stated that, relative to the EPA seeking the Town to establish a by-law, the Town will have to review such by-law as it will impact a significant amount of property owners.

Chairman Eaton asked Daniel Deutsch, Special Counsel, whether he had any comments. He stated that he shares the concerns of the Town and Board of Selectmen with regard to the scope of the draft interim and final remedial action plans. He stated that he would like information about reasons certain parameters were adopted by the EPA. Mr. Deutsch noted that the process has been ongoing for a very long time and there was a need for an approximate interim approach to procedural direction. He opined that there will be a change to the direction and a solution will evolve over time and that there is not going to be a perfect solution.

Mr. Deutsch believes it is important for the Town to be aggressive in raising points and comments to the EPA.

Chairman Eaton asked if there were any additional questions or comments and there were none. He thanked Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Trainer for participating in the meeting and noted that the issue is the cause of anxiety, at the very least, and pain and suffering for many families. He thanked the representatives of GeoInsight for their continued guidance through the difficult and complex process.

Chairman Eaton reminded residents that a public informational meeting and question and answer session will be held virtually on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and a formal public hearing to provide oral comments will be held Tuesday, September 22, 2020 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Additional information is on the Town's website [www.wilmingtonma.gov](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov) or [www.epa.gov/superfund/olin](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/olin).

Chairman Eaton acknowledged Senator Tarr, Representative Gordon and Representative Robertson and expressed his appreciation for being strong advocates for the Town of Wilmington to clean up the Olin property.

**STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND ANGEL DONAHUE-RODRIGUEZ,  
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS, MBTA, RE: UPDATE ON INSTALLATION OF  
MBTA COMMUTER RAIL PLATFORM IN NORTH WILMINGTON**

Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez thanked the Chairman and members of the Board of Selectmen for their service during these extraordinary times. He thanked the legislators, noting that they are great to work with and confirmed the three gentlemen are fierce advocates for the community and the Town of Wilmington is well served.

Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez stated that since February 2020, commuter rail ridership has reduced by 93%. He advised that, pre-pandemic, at the North Wilmington commuter rail station there would be 57 riders to get on the train in the morning and 85 get off in the evening. The busiest train was 204.

Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez stated that Wilmington's legislative delegation secured \$180,000 in funding last fiscal year. He stated that the best estimate is that the project is expected to cost between \$400,000 and \$500,000. Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez described the design stating that they are hoping to have approximately 50 to 100 foot space between lights. In addition a long passport walkway will be constructed from the commuter rail parking lot and a fence will be installed between the walkway and the tracks. Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez advised that the design phase is continuing but, due to limited resources and the approaching winter, the earliest the project will begin is Spring 2021.

Chairman Eaton asked if there were any questions or comments from members of the Board. Members thanked Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez for providing the update. Selectman Caira asked if the Board will be provided with a description of the design so that they can see what it will look like before construction begins. Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez stated that he will speak with the engineers and railroad operations team to see if a rendering could be provided.

Selectman O'Mahony thanked the legislative delegation for securing the funding. She noted that she recalls when the legislative delegation was before the Board for a presentation, there was a rendering where a bridge from a project in Boston would be recycled as the platform.

Senator Tarr thanked Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez for the update and thanked the Board of Selectmen for the opportunity to participate in the Olin discussions. He stated that the delegation is fully committed to working with the Town to ensure the right plan for cleanup of the Olin site is identified.

Senator Tarr commented that it is unfortunate the North Wilmington train station was delayed due to the pandemic. The pandemic has disrupted many things. He thanked the MBTA for the innovative way to recycle the old bridge. Senator Tarr stated that there was fear that funding would be lost and advised that is no longer the case as most of it has been encumbered and the legislature took steps to provide an extension by allowing the funds to be carried forward. Senator Tarr stated that he looks forward to seeing a schematic design. He noted that as Princeton Properties moves forward with their project and makes improvements to that area through MassWorks grant, it is important to coordinate efforts to maximize improvements.

Representative Gordon commented that Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez reported that ridership is down due to the pandemic and he opined that it would be beneficial to begin construction while less people will be inconvenienced. Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez stated that the ridership is distinctly different than other modes of transportation and that most customers have the ability to work from home. He does not anticipate ridership to return to pre-COVID numbers for a while. He advised that, to the extent possible, construction has taken place while ridership is low and provided examples on the Green line, the Blue line, C branch and E branch.

Representative Robertson thanked Selectman Caira, Town Manager Hull, Police Chief Desmond and Fire Chief Cavanaugh. He stated that he would like to see construction begin before 2021. Representative Robertson assured the Board that the delegation will continue exploring funding resources and the construction timeline. Representative Robertson recognized the importance of the project as he, and Representative Miceli before him, received many calls from residents. He expressed his desire that shovels will be in the ground and a ribbon cutting will be in the near future.

Chairman Eaton thanked the legislative delegation and Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez for the update and he looks forward to seeing improvements at the station. Senator Tarr thanked members of the Board for their partnership and advocacy, it is appreciated.

**SHELLY NEWHOUSE, HEALTH DIRECTOR, AND WILLIAM CAVANAUGH, FIRE CHIEF, RE: UPDATE ON COVID-19**

Ms. Newhouse advised that the Town currently has six active positive cases and two individuals in quarantine. She advised that Wilmington has remained steady with ten or less cases. Ms. Newhouse reported that she has been busy with businesses reopening and with assisting the School Department to develop a plan to reopen. She noted that she has been very busy keeping track of residents who have traveled advising that hundreds of residents are in travel quarantine. She expects the numbers to increase because it is still summer and parents are bringing their students to college. Ms. Newhouse stated that she is also busy addressing complaints of non-compliance. She believes these activities will continue into the fall.

Chief Cavanaugh advised that his department has not seen an increase in cases at nursing homes and the number of responses to positive cases has decreased. He advised that members of his department are taking the necessary precautions when responding to calls as well and decontamination steps when they return.



Chief Cavanaugh reported that the Town has received \$313,000 in CARES funding. He advised that he submits monthly and the expenses related to the Annual Town Meeting and opening Town Hall to employees will be covered.

Chief Cavanaugh stated that personal protective equipment (PPE) ordered in March was recently received. It is his opinion that the public safety departments will be prepared in the event of a spike in positive cases.

Chairman Eaton asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. Selectman Bendel stated that he watched the School Committee meeting where Ms. Newhouse spoke to the committee and he commented how informative it was.

Selectman Caira thanked Ms. Newhouse and Chief Cavanaugh for their continued efforts. He noted that the Board is being asked to consider approving certain requests before them. He advised that the Board is being asked to consider granting a Hawk and Peddle License to an ice cream truck but the application did not reference use of masks and gloves and asked Ms. Newhouse whether it ought to be required. Ms. Newhouse advised that the ice cream truck will also require a Food License and when she inspects the truck she can discuss the proper safety protocol and therefore it is not necessary for the Board of Selectmen to address.

Selectman Caira advised that a second request is for the use of the Fourth of July parking lot to conduct a fundraising car wash. He expressed concern that the youth may have a good time raising money for a good cause and neglect the safety protocol. Ms. Newhouse noted that a car wash would not typically go before her and suggested that the Board of Selectmen direct the applicant to contact her and she will review steps that will need to be taken.

Selectman DePalma asked if Wilmington has more than one ice cream truck and was advised that there will be once the applicant before the Board of Selectmen receives a Food Permit from the Board of Health. *(NOTE: THE APPLICANT BEFORE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN IS THE SAME INDIVIDUAL THAT HAS RECEIVED A FOOD PERMIT)*

Selectman O'Mahony questioned the number of tests that are reported as being administered. She noted that families that are traveling may be tested before they leave the state and again when they return. She asked whether it would count as one or two. Ms. Newhouse advised that it would be separate tests and would count as two, provided the tests were administered in Massachusetts.

Chairman Eaton thanked Ms. Newhouse and Chief Cavanaugh for their diligence, keeping track and preparing for future developments. Town Manager Hull noted that it is important to emphasize that work Ms. Newhouse and Chief Cavanaugh are doing relative to COVID-19 is in addition to their regular responsibilities.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Town Manager Hull advised that the Board of Selectmen is in receipt of a memorandum from Bryan Perry, Finance Director/Town Accountant. He noted Mr. Perry is participating in the meeting and suggested he speak to the memo. Mr. Perry stated that he has been working with the Town's financial consultant and it has been determined this is the appropriate time, based on market conditions, to restructure the Town's debt. He advised that by restructuring the debt, the Town will benefit when it seeks to take on additional debt whether it be for a new school or new senior center. Selectman Caira asked whether the annual savings can be applied to the principal owed. Mr. Perry does not believe the Town can do that. Town Manager Hull stated that this creates space in the Town's borrowing capacity.

Town Manager Hull reviewed his memorandum regarding the status of local aid for fiscal 2021. Town Manager Hull stated that the state has announced that the legislature is not seeking to reduce Chapter 70 Education Aid or Unrestricted General Government Aid. He reminded the Board that prior to the Annual Town Meeting, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, he was projecting a 5% reduction on Chapter 70 and a 15% reduction in Unrestricted General Government Aid. Town Manager Hull advised that his projections were based on the anticipated reduction in state revenue and funds expended by the state to address COVID-19. The total amount that was reduced from the Town's projected revenue was \$1,053,197.80.

Town Manager Hull reviewed his memorandum regarding the status on Town committees which have members of the Board of Selectmen appointed to serve as designees. There are five committees: Economic Development Committee (G. Bendel), Commission on Disabilities (J. Eaton), Ice Rink and Recreation Facility Committee (K. Caira and M. McCoy), Inhabitant By-law Committee (M. McCoy) and the MBTA Advisory Committee (M. McCoy). Town Manager Hull advised that this reflects committees that have been active over the past couple of years and some may be inactive over the past several months due, in part, to the COVID-19 pandemic. Selectman DePalma serves on the Inhabitant By-law Committee but his name was brought forward by a member of the Board and approved by the full Board prior to his election.

Selectman O'Mahony requested that the Board of Selectmen invite the Chairpersons of these committees in to a future meeting to provide updates to the Board of Selectmen. She noted that Michael McCoy is a Selectmen designee on three committees and he is no longer a member of the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Eaton noted that the Commission on Disabilities is established by statute and is not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Caira commented relative to membership on the By-law Study Committee. He opined that Michael McCoy's name ought to be removed because he is no longer a member of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman O'Mahony suggested that Selectman DePalma serve as the Selectmen designee and Mr. McCoy continue to serve as an appointed citizen.

Chairman Eaton stated that he has spoken with a member of the By-Law Study Committee and was advised that the committee is in the first phase of working with the consultant.

A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman DePalma and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen recess for five minutes.

Chairman Eaton reconvened the meeting at 9:11 p.m. with all members present

Town Manager Hull reviewed his memorandum regarding available training from KP Law. Town Manager Hull advised that the agreement with KP Law stated that they will provide two free training sessions for the term of the agreement. He inquired as to the opportunity to carry the unused training opportunities from FY 2020 into FY 2021. He stated he spoke with Town Counsel this afternoon who advised that the Town will be allowed to use the two sessions from FY 2020.

Discussion took place regarding what trainings members of the Board believed would be beneficial. Chairman Eaton asked if there were any objections to taking the relevant agenda item out of order. There were no objections. Selectman Caira cautioned that when the Open Meeting Law and Public Records Law training was conducted, it counted as two trainings. He suggested that the Board receive confirmation that certain trainings would count as one.

A motion was made by Selectman Bendel and seconded by Selectman O'Mahony to instruct the Town Manager to schedule training for the Board of Selectmen and other Town employees for a future date in the fall.

Chairman Eaton clarified that the motion was not specific as to which trainings would be scheduled. Selectman Caira asked if the Chairman was looking for a list prioritizing the topics and suggested the trainings include: Effects of Technology on the Public Records and Open Meeting Laws; Public and Private Ways; Conflict of Interest and the fourth could be Procurement and Contracting which may be of particular benefit to Town employees. Town Manager Hull clarified that it is the consensus of the Board to schedule How to Conduct a Flawless Public Hearing; Effects of Technology on the Public Records and Open Meeting Laws; Conflict of Interest and Procurement and Contracting. Selectman Caira stated that he included Public and Private Ways because Selectman O'Mahony was interested and it has been a topic of discussion at Board of Selectmen meetings. Town Manager Hull stated that he will have a discussion with Town Counsel relative to the five topics and will provide a memo to the Board of Selectmen for their meeting of September 14.

Selectman Caira suggested that the last training was long and if future trainings will be as long that they should be scheduled earlier in the evening or have two separate sessions.

Chairman Eaton called for the vote and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen instruct the Town Manager to schedule training for the Board of Selectmen and other Town employees for a future date in the fall.

Town Manager Hull advised that the Board of Selectmen is in receipt of a memorandum from Christine Touma-Conway, Town Clerk. He noted Ms. Touma-Conway is participating in the meeting and suggested she speak to the memo. Ms. Touma-Conway's memorandum provided a status update on the State Primary to be held on September 1, 2020. The memorandum addressed legislation that was passed to address the challenges presented by trying to conduct a busy fall election season under the extraordinary conditions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the goals of the legislation is to provide ample opportunity for voters to cast ballots safely and securely, spreading out methods of voting to prevent a single concentrated day of in-person voting.

The legislation provides for mandatory Early Voting to begin on Saturday, August 22 and run through Friday, August 28, inclusive of Sunday, August 23. It also expands the period during which Early Voting ballots may be sent out beyond just the period that begins the first day of in person Early Voting to the first day that ballots were received in a municipality.

Voted ballots being returned by voters will be in a postage pre-paid envelope. All pre-paid postage costs will be borne by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts but the cost of mailing the ballots out is currently to be paid by the communities.

All recommended precautions relative to personal protective equipment for election workers, plexi-glass dividers to separate election workers from voters, mandatory masks for voters, sanitizing procedures, availability of hand sanitizer, social distancing and limiting the number of voters allowed into the voting locations will be implemented and observed. New voting booths have been ordered and should be received in time for use at the primary.

Ms. Touma-Conway advised that as of today the Town Clerk's office has received 3,500 applications and has mailed 3,300 ballots.

Selectman Caira asked when the Town Clerk anticipates being able to announce the winner. Ms. Touma-Conway advised that she anticipates approximately 8:30 p.m. She stated that unlike a previous election where Early Voting ballots were not able to be processed until the day of the elections, municipalities can process the ballots during the Early Voting.

Selectman O'Mahony asked about the timeline to mail out a ballot once the application is received and was advised that it is mailed out within 2 to 3 days. She advised that an employee of the Public Buildings Department picks up the ballots in the afternoon and delivers them to the Post Office where there is a system to process the ballots. Ms. Touma-Conway advised that if residents are not comfortable mailing the ballot, they can drop it off in the mail slot located in the wall of the building on the left side of the main entrance.

Town Manager Hull advised that the Chairman that he has been keeping counsel apprised of the Board's meeting and asked whether he is inclined to table the Board's Executive Session scheduled for after the open meeting. A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman O'Mahony and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen table the Executive Session scheduled to commence following this evenings open meeting to a date to be determined.

Town Manager Hull advised the Board of Selectmen is in receipt of a memorandum from Christine Touma-Conway, Town Clerk. He noted Ms. Touma-Conway is participating in the meeting and suggested she speak to the memo. Ms. Touma-Conway's memorandum proposes to change the voting location for the election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. One of the provisions of legislation passed grants to the Board of Selectmen the ability to vote to change any polling place to be used in either fall election if it is determined that the public convenience or public health would be better served.

The memorandum addressed voter turnout statistics and Ms. Touma-Conway opines that, for September 1, it is reasonable to believe that the usual polling locations can accommodate voters, staff and necessary equipment without having long lines of voters waiting to vote at the polls while remaining within the parameters of COVID-19 precautions. However, it is likely that the November election will be much busier and given the unpredictability of the weather at that time of year, the necessity of complying with social distancing, and the relatively small size of the polling locations, strong consideration should be given to moving the polling locations for the State Election. Another important factor is that we do not know what the state of the pandemic will be and the idea of having so many voters congregating in schools, even if they are not in session on Election Day, is not optimal.

The Board of Selectmen was advised that the preliminary conversations and a brief site visit have been held with a representative of the Shriners Auditorium. The auditorium would be available on the days needed for set up, to conduct the election and to break down the equipment. The venue boasts 37,000 square feet of space (compared to the total 7,500 square feet in which Wilmington's elections are currently held).

The Board of Selectmen must consider whether changing voting locations would have a disparate adverse impact on access to the polls on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income or age. None of Wilmington's current polling locations are located at or near public transportation, close to public housing, elderly housing or large apartment complexes.

Selectman DePalma asked what the cost would be and was advised there would be no cost to use the Shriners' Auditorium.

Discussion took place regarding notification to voters. Selectman Bendel expressed concern that not all voters are on social media. Additional ways to notify residents include notice on the board at Rotary Park, message sent through the Everbridge notification system and to mail post cards to each residence.

Members of the Board asked questions relative to set up and were advised that the Engineering Department would be asked to do a schematic design.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a letter from Eric M. Hocky, Clark Hill, PLC to Surface Transportation Board (STB) providing a status update relative to New England Transrail (NET) and Wilmington Woburn Intermodal, LLC (WWI). Mr. Hocky advised that in October 2018 representatives of WWI presented the Board of Selectmen their concept for a potential project alternative to the project which is the subject of NET's petition before the STB. The conceptual alternative would involve an expanded version of its proposed warehouse for the bulk transfer and storage of retail and other commodities.

An Interim Action Feasibility Study and a Feasibility Study were submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on April 30, 2020. USEPA has publicly announced its plan to release the Proposed Remedial Action Plan for these media on August 10, 2020 and it is anticipated that a Record of Decision will be issued by USEPA soon thereafter. Mr. Hocky advised that WWI expects to promptly review their current plans for the property in the context of the Proposed Remedial Action Plan when it is issued and to discuss with any stakeholders any potential areas of variance or benefits of their proposed development.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a letter from Daniel Deutsch, Esquire, to Cynthia Brown, Surface Transportation Board, who wrote on behalf of the Town of Wilmington to provide a status report relative to New England Transrail, LLC and Wilmington Woburn Intermodal. Mr. Deutsch acknowledged that the report submitted by NET and WWI summarizes past discussions concerning a conceptual alternative to the project. The pace and timing of WWI's engineering and planning of a potential alternative redevelopment project depend upon both the development and approval of remedial options for clean-up of the Olin site by the EPA. Additionally, timing is impacted by Olin Corporation, also the decision making of WWI and NET, matters which largely are beyond the control of Wilmington. Wilmington stands ready to resume consideration of any additional relevant information and submittals from WWI and NET when circumstances permit. Wilmington and its environmental consultant continue to actively monitor the development of the Interim Action Feasibility Study by Olin and the EPA providing relevant technical comments in that process and will participate in the review and comment on a Proposed Remedial Action Plan for the Superfund Site when it is circulated by USEPA. Wilmington is ready to hear further from WWI/GFI about its redevelopment proposal once USEPA issues the Proposed Remedial Action Plan.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a memorandum from Paul Alunni, Town Engineer, regarding Town Boundary Validation. Mr. Alunni advised that the Engineering Division reviewed the Town boundary map provided by the US Census Bureau's final Boundary Validation Program. The US Census Bureau conducts the BVP every ten years to provide leaders of local government an opportunity to ensure the Census Bureau has the correct legal boundary and name for their

government. This information is used to tabulate data for the 2020 Census. Mr. Alunni found that the map provided by the Census Bureau accurately depicts the current boundary for the Town of Wilmington.

**BOARD TO CONSIDER EXECUTING AGREEMENT WITH OLIN CORPORATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF WATER MAIN FROM MAIN STREET (ROUTE 38) TO COOK AVENUE**

Chairman Eaton stated that the installation of a water line to residents of Cook Avenue has been a goal of the Board of Selectmen for a long period of time. Town Manager Hull reviewed the obligations and responsibilities of Olin contained in the agreement. A motion was made by Selectman Bendel and seconded by Selectman DePalma. Selectman Caira asked whether the agreement included hooking the houses up to the water. Town Manager Hull advised that the two homes that are currently receiving bottled water will be connected to the water main and there will be stub outs for the other properties. By the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen execute the agreement with Olin Corporation for the design and construction of Cook Avenue/Burnham Avenue Water Connection Extension.

**BOARD TO CONSIDER REQUEST OF CHRISTINE TOUMA-CONWAY, TOWN CLERK, TO APPOINT ADDITIONAL ELECTION WORKERS FOR 2020**

A motion was made by Selectman O'Mahony, seconded by Selectman Bendel and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen appoint the following individuals as Election Workers for the year 2020:

David Anick	Linda Hartsough	Tyler Ressler
Robert Costine	Nicholas Labello	Elizabeth Robillard
Deborah Dudley	John Liston	Michael Robillard
John Duhamel	Shawn Moran	Angelyn Ciampa
Carolyn Fenn	April Nichols	
Kelsey Flynn	Marjorie Pearson	

**BOARD TO CONSIDER SIGNING WARRANT FOR STATE PRIMARY TO BE HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

A motion was made by Selectman DePalma, seconded by Selectman Bendel and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen sign the Warrant for the State Primary to be held Tuesday, September 1, 2020.

**BOARD TO CONSIDER REQUEST OF LOUIS CIMAGLIA, DIRECTOR OF VETERANS' SERVICES, TO USE THE FOURTH OF JULY PARKING LOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF QUEUEING A PATRIOTIC ROLLING PARADE ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020**

Mr. Cimaglia wrote requesting permission to use the Fourth of July parking lot to queue a Patriotic Rolling Parade to honor the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WWII on Wednesday, September 2, 2020. He noted that classic cars will drive by the homes of WWII veterans, or their widows, to show appreciation of The Greatest Generation. The parade will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman O'Mahony and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen authorize the Director of Veterans' Services to use the Fourth of July parking lot for the purpose of queueing a Patriotic Rolling Parade on Wednesday, September 22, 2020.

**BOARD TO CONSIDER ILLUMINATING TOWN COMMON IN GOLD DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER IN OBSERVANCE OF CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS**

Chairman Eaton stated that the American Childhood Cancer Association has declared September Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. He stated that he reached out to Town Manager Hull and requested that he follow up with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to receive an update on the Childhood Cancer Study. Chairman Eaton stated that the Board of Selectmen last received an update in October 2019. Town Manager Hull did not receive an update at the time the agenda was finalized. Chairman Eaton advised that the Town has received information that the peer review period ended in February 2020 and the internal review is ongoing but was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Public Health is in discussions to determine how to release study results and they would like to host a meeting with key stakeholders. Town Manager Hull stated that he asked for a timeline and was advised that the Department of Public Health would contact the Town once the internal review has been completed.

Chairman Eaton advised that he believes it would be appropriate to light the Town Common gold and advised that costs have been donated by an anonymous donor.

A motion was made by Selectman Caira, seconded by Selectman O'Mahony and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the request that Wilmington Town Common be illuminated in gold during the month of September in observance of Childhood Cancer Awareness.

**BOARD TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM KHALID HAZIMEH, TONY'S ICE CREAM, TO OBTAIN A HAWK & PEDLE LICENSE TO SELL ICE CREAM**

Chairman Eaton acknowledged Selectman Caira's inquiry of Health Director Newhouse relative to the requirement of Mr. Hazimeh to wear a face mask and gloves. Ms. Newhouse advised Selectman Caira that Mr. Hazimeh would require a Food Permit and she would take the opportunity to discuss protocols at that time. Chairman Eaton reviewed recommendations from Police Chief Joseph Desmond and Health Director Shelly Newhouse, both of whom recommend approval.

Chairman Eaton asked if there were any questions, comments or a motion. A motion was made by Selectman Caira, seconded by Selectman DePalma and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen issue a Hawk & Pedle License to sell ice cream to Khalid Hazimeh, Tony's Ice Cream.

**BOARD TO CONSIDER REQUEST TO CHANGE NAME ON FLAMMABLE LICENSE FROM ATI REALTY, LLC TO 100 EAMES STREET, LLC FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 100 EAMES STREET**

Chairman Eaton reviewed recommendations from Town Clerk Christine Touma-Conway and Fire Chief William Cavanaugh who indicated they have no objection to the name change.

A motion was made by Selectman Caira, seconded by Selectman Bendel and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the request to change the name on the flammable license from ATI Realty, LLC to 100 Eames Street, LLC for property located at 100 Eames Street.

Chairman Eaton advised that for the next two items it would be by open nomination, the nomination will not require a second. If only one nominee, he will allow discussion before calling for a vote of either yea or nay. Chairman Eaton advised if there is more than one nominee he will entertain discussion then when he calls for the vote, selectmen must respond with the name of the individual.

**BOARD TO CONSIDER DESIGNEE TO SERVE ON COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND OWNERS' PROJECT MANAGER FOR TOWN HALL/SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

**BOARD TO CONSIDER DESIGNEE TO SERVE ON COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND OWNERS' PROJECT MANAGER FOR SENIOR CENTER**

Selectman Caira nominated Selectman Bendel to serve as the Board of Selectmen designee on the committee to recommend an Owners' Project Manager for a Senior Center. Chairman Eaton asked if there were any additional nominees and there were none. Chairman Eaton asked if there was any discussion and there was none. Chairman Eaton called for the vote and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That Selectman Gregory Bendel serve as the Board of Selectmen designee on the committee to recommend an Owners' Project Manager for a Senior Center.

Selectman Bendel nominated Selectman Caira to serve as the Board of Selectmen designee on the committee to recommend an Owners' Project Manager for a Town Hall/School Administration Building. Chairman Eaton asked if there were any additional nominees and there were none. Chairman Eaton asked if there was any discussion and there was none. Chairman Eaton called for the vote and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That Selectman Kevin Caira serve as the Board of Selectmen designee on the committee to recommend an Owners' Project Manager for a Town Hall/School Administration building.



## **BOARD TO CONSIDER CONTINUED USE OF CERTAIN TOWN PROPERTY BY PRIVATE BUSINESSES**

Chairman Eaton stated that at their June 22, 2020 meeting, the Board authorized the Town Manager to make decisions without the Board of Selectmen approval for the purpose of allowing businesses to use certain Town property. Since that time, there was one request to use Town property and asked Town Manager Hull to elaborate on the nature of the request and the result. Town Manager Hull advised that the request was for the use of the Swain Green and was from the Wilmington Dance Academy. Town Manager Hull advised that an application was created, as well as a license to use the property. The request was authorized and the event was held on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Town Manager Hull read from an email he received following the event where the organizer indicated it was a success.

Chairman Eaton stated that the Board of Selectmen is not scheduled to meet until September 14. The opportunities to use outdoor space is getting low and suggested that the Town Manager continue to have authority to authorize events through the September 14 meeting. After that time the Board of Selectmen will resume their regular schedule and can make time sensitive decisions.

A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman O'Mahony and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

**VOTED:** That the Town Manager have the authority to accept, review and authorize requests from Wilmington businesses to use Town Property through September 14, 2020.

## **BOARD TO CONSIDER REQUEST OF ALEX KENNEDY TO USE THE FOURTH OF JULY PARKING LOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF A CAR WASH**

Chairman Eaton stated that the Board has a request from Alex Kennedy, an incoming freshman, to conduct a fundraising car wash. Mr. Kennedy was cast as the lead in the performance of Shrek the Musical and it would have been his best friend's first show. The show was cancelled a week before the scheduled opening due to the pandemic. In addition, he was scheduled to be in shows in Children's Theater Workshop and those shows were also cancelled. Mr. Kennedy would like to produce a show called "13 the Musical" with the help of friends. Mr. Kennedy advised the Selectmen that he would need to raise approximately \$2,500, a portion of which will pay licensing rights.

Chairman Eaton stated that he spoke with Alex' father, Jason Kennedy, who was proud of his son's initiative and assured Chairman Eaton that the students will be well-chaperoned. Chairman Eaton suggested approving Mr. Kennedy's request with the caveat that he be directed to speak to Ms. Newhouse to receive guidance on how to safely run the car wash.

Chairman Eaton asked if there were any questions, comments or a motion. A motion was made by Selectman Cairra, seconded by Selectman O'Mahony and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Selectmen approve the request of Alex Kennedy to conduct a fundraising car wash on Saturday, August 29, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Parking Lot on Middlesex Avenue.

## **BOARD TO CONSIDER SCHEDULING TRAINING BY TOWN COUNSEL**

This agenda item was addressed under communications.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Eaton reminded viewers of the process to make public comment. Chairman Eaton was advised there were no callers and he advised he would wait a moment in the event anyone was trying to dial in. Chairman Eaton asked if there were any callers seeking to comment and there were none.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

## NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Town Manager Hull reviewed important dates including:

Through

October 11 – Drive-Thru Farmers Market – Town Common Parking Lot – 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Pre-Order Required – [wilmingtonfarmersmarket.com](http://wilmingtonfarmersmarket.com)

August 22 – Last Day to Register to Vote in State Primary Election

August 22 – Early Voting – Town Hall – 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

August 23 – Early Voting – Town Hall – 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

August 24-

August 28 – Early Voting – Town Hall – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

August 25 – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Public Information Meeting,  
re: Record of Decision for Olin Superfund Site – Virtual – 7:00 p.m.

September 1 – State Primary Election – Polls Open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

September 2 – Patriotic Rolling Parade – 10:00 a.m.

September 7 – Labor Day – *Town Offices Closed*

September 9 – Brush Drop-Off – Old Main Street – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

September 12 – Brush Drop-Off – Old Main Street – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 12 – Sons of Italy/Band Parents Yard Sale – Municipal Parking Lot

*SELECTMAN CAIRA ADVISED THAT THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO A DATE TO BE DETERMINED*

September 14 – Board of Selectmen – Town Hall – Virtual – 7:00 p.m.

*TOWN MANAGER HULL ASKED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD TO CONTACT HIM AND ADVISE WHETHER THEY ARE COMFORTABLE MEETING IN PERSON*

September 19 – Shredding Day – Municipal Parking Lot – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

September 21 – Candlelight Vigil – Town Common – 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

September 22 – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Formal Public Hearing, re: Record of  
Decision for Olin Superfund Site – Virtual – 7:00 p.m.

September 25 – Wilmington Incorporated 290 Years Ago

September 28 – Board of Selectmen – Town Hall – Virtual – 7:00 p.m.

### SALUTE TO SERVICE

Chairman Eaton introduced this new agenda item stating that it was inspired by former Selectman Ed Loud who would recognize a veteran during the Announcement portion of the meeting. Chairman Eaton would like to continue the tradition and allow at least one member of the Board of Selectmen to salute a veteran or a member of the community that has gone above and beyond to give back to the community. Wilmington has a long history of residents willing to step up to the challenges and he would like to recognize those individuals, past or present, who have made sacrifices to improve our country or our community. Chairman Eaton stated that he reached out to Director of Veterans' Services, Lou Cimaglia, who provided the following in recognition of the service of Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Elmer Malcolm Drew.

*Seaman 2nd Class Elmer Malcolm Drew was in high school, months from his eighteenth birthday, when he joined the US Navy in the spring of 1944. Immediately embarked to England, he arrived with 100 other S2Cs on May, the newly formed Naval Combat Demolition Units. Specifically, he was assigned, with two other new arrivals, to augment the undermanned NCDU 46 under the command of Ensign John Bussell. Along with members of the 299th Engineer Combat Battalion, NDCU 46 would form the crew Gap Assault Team 11. In the predawn hours of June 6, 1944, the forty man crew of Boat 11 (a Landing Craft, Mechanized) were aboard the Landing Ship, Tank towing their LCM when the tow ship began to take on water. As the LST foundered, Gap Assault Team 11 quickly transferred (in pitch blackness) to their LCM which would take them to the beaches of Normandy. According to the invasion plan, Omaha Beach was divided into ten sectors and Gap Assault Team 11 was to land on the Easy Red sector at H-Hour+3 (06:33 hours). Their task was to literally create gaps in the obstacles (hedgehogs, Belgian Gates and mine capped ramps and stakes). To accomplish this task, the demolition trained team members carried "Hagansen Packs" containing two pound demolition charges of C2 explosives and primacord. Elmer Drew and the other new arrival team members, untrained in demolition, were assigned as coxswains for the LCM's rubber boats. The rubber boats were loaded with up to five hundred pounds of the team's additional demolition charges and primacord. On June 6, 1944 at 06:33 hours, Boat 11 hit the Easy Red sector of Omaha Beach and dropped its ramp. According to Chief Machinist Mate Jerry Markham, a member of NDCU 46, the men were met with a fusillade of murderous machine gun fire. In addition to the beach obstacles, the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht (German High Command) had spent years fortifying the Norman Coast. Especially fortified were the "draws", the exits off the beaches, that led to the commanding overlooks. To protect these exits the Germans had constructed Widerstandsnestern (abbreviated WD, German for "resistance nests"). What lay in front of Boat 11 at Easy Red was the St. Laurent Draw. What sat to the left was WD 64 and to the right, WD 65. WD 65 was more heavily fortified and featured a concrete casemate armed with a 5 cm anti-tank gun that could cover the beach with enfilading fire. 2000 meters east was the even more heavily fortified WD 62 featuring two casemates emplaced for enfilading fire and equipped with 7.62 cm guns. Together, they could bracket the entire Easy Red sector with withering fire and their design made them nearly impervious to attack from the sea, even by naval bombardment. As the Army engineers disembarked ahead of NDCU 46, they were cut down by raking gunfire. Soon however, mortars and artillery (probably the aforementioned casemated anti-tank guns of WD 62 and WD 65) zeroed in on Boat 11*

*and the Gap Assault Team. As Seaman Drew and the other coxswains struggled to drag a rubber boat ashore, an artillery round struck and set off its demolition charge cargo. Nearly the entire team was killed including NDCU 46 commander Ensign Bussell and Seaman Drew. CMM Markham, who survived, was awarded the Navy Cross for actions that morning. Later in life he described finding Ensign Bussell's body riddled with shrapnel and floating face down in the water. Seamen Drew however, wasn't immediately identified. It was not until July 19, 1944 that his mother Wavie Drew was informed of Elmer being killed in action. The NCDUs of Force "O" (Omaha) were later awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for their actions on D-Day and the "Grateful Citizens of Wilmington" later dedicated Elmer Drew's Memorial at the intersection of West and Woburn Streets.*

Selectman Bendel recognized Jonathan Murray, US Army, who was recently deployed. He stated he knows how proud JT's family is of him and he wishes Specialist Murray a safe return.

A motion was made by Selectman Cairra, seconded by Selectman DePalma and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Recording Secretary