



**Meeting Minutes for October 3, 2023, at 6:30 PM,**

This meeting was held in person, in meeting room #4 at the Carver Town Hall  
This meeting is being videotaped and rebroadcast by Area 58 TV.

Attendees: Johanna Leighton, Chair; Savery Moore, Vice Chair; Patrick Meagher, Treasurer

Also in attendance:

Absent: Roger Noblett, Member

Meeting opened by Ms. Leighton at 6:33 PM

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**Discussion and possible vote(s):**

- **Redevelopment Authority Board Member vacancy –**

Ms. Leighton,

- Posting – Ms. Leighton distributed a copy of the posting. It is on the front page of the website
- Deadline – October 31, 2023
- Tentative Joint Meeting with Selectboard – November 7, 2023. Mr. Meagher can attend. If we don't have applicants, we will not have that meeting. Mr. Moore – We can have our next meeting right after we adjourn the Selectboard Meeting.

- **Consultant for hire –**

Ms. Leighton,

- Posting – Mr. Moore put it together and I added the deadline of October 31, 2023. I posted it on the website.
- Submit resume [RDA.Contact@Carverma.gov](mailto:RDA.Contact@Carverma.gov)

- **Open Meeting Law violation – Attorney General response**

Ms. Leighton – I don't have an update. Mr. Moore – We voted to have KPLaw send the letter at the last meeting. I don't think we need to take any other steps until we receive a response.

- **Route 44 Project update**

- Conservation Commission, September Meeting

Ms. Leighton – I watched the meeting; it was a public hearing. Mr. Moore will give everyone an update.

- Wetlands update, re-mapping – Mr. Moore – At the last Conservation Commission Meeting, we had to approve the wetland delineation. Route 44 did a survey about 6 years ago. They have rescinded that plan and needed to resubmit. Nothing has really changed except that it is now one lot.
- PFAS Mitigation – Mr. Moore – They have capped the larger area of PFAS. The smaller area was removed and relocated to the larger area prior to capping it. This is the best solution available. Capping is the way to go right

now. There was a third PFAS zone that is deeper and comes from Ravensbrook. There is nothing they can do with that.

Ms. Leighton – What is the process? Mr. Moore – The theory is that if nothing comes from the top, nothing moves the PFAS. By capping it, it stops the water and the movement of the PFAS. Ms. Leighton – The DEP approved the process and was happy with it.

Mr. Moore – RDA moving forward, when plans are finally made for this area, it was noted at one of our meetings a year or so ago, that where the cap is, cannot be built upon; they can't risk puncturing the cap. They said the area where the cap is, will be made into a parking lot which adds an extra layer or secondary cap of protection. Ms. Leighton – When they divide this land, they will have to plan for that. Mr. Moore – I believe that when they divide the property, the entirety of the cap will be in one parcel.

Rebecca Lipton, 30 Prospect Road, Plympton – I guess if you had polluted water from this site, you wouldn't find it funny. There are people that are downstream; what you didn't see was the October 19 of 2022 meeting when they discussed that the Whetstone Brook that goes out to the Winnetuxet River, which goes out to the Nemasket and the Taunton River Watershed, which goes out to the ocean. This PFAS was dumped into the wetlands. That water is now flowing through to other areas. If you are downstream from that and your water was polluted, you wouldn't think it was funny and that the residents don't have a reason to be upset. Ms. Leighton – Is your well affected? Ms. Lipton – I am not going to talk about that with you. I am upset that this was allowed in the first place. People elect officials and Selectmen appoint the Carver Conservation Commission and the Planning Board permits these things. This happened a long time ago. Plympton was very upset; Carver allowed and permitted somebody to pollute all the wells on Plymouth Street. Then other people came along behind Aubuchon and did a cap, which is not the best solution. If you did your research on PFAS sites, you would see that it needs to be removed and there are places to take it. It is expensive but there are better mitigation strategies than capping. I blame anybody who was involved in allowing the permitting of these projects. Any resident has the right to come and voice their opinions to boards who allowing things to happen that pollute people's wells and then have to have the high cost of putting systems in. I was at the last Conservation Commission Meeting. I was also at the 10/19/22 Conservation Commission Meeting when the woman came and tested water; that was in Plympton that she tested water, this is all the results of that. It is highly concerning to me that the mitigation process is to throw some soil on top of it, put a parking lot on it. Water moves under the ground; that is where our aquifer is. It is not that deep; to me, it is not the proper way to do this. I don't care what the state says. The state also says that our levels of PFAS are at 20; the EPA says we are at zero. They have to come into compliance with that soon.

Ms. Leighton – I appreciate you coming. Ms. Lipton – Were you here when all the residents filled this place? They were angry about Plymouth Street – That was Ravensbrook. I was here! Ms. Leighton – When was that? Ms. Lipton – This was a while ago; our group received an award from Toxic Actions in Boston, Residents against waste. Mr. Moore – That was decades ago. Ms. Lipton – Yes and there are still people hooked up to Middleboro water. The residents had to incur the costs. Now their wells are polluted which affect property values. Ms. Leighton – We have Town water; whenever that project happens, it will be with Town Water. Wells would only be for hydrants. Because Carver was able to work with Middleboro to bring water to our town, I am questioning why our Town can't give water to your affected area. Ms. Lipton – Where is your water coming from? Ms. Leighton – Cole property. Mr. Moore – When it works. Ms. Lipton – There are problem there. That is an unstable solution. Ms. Leighton – That could be a proposal. Ms. Lipton – I think Plympton prides itself on environmental strengths. We like our well water and want to keep it clean. We share an aquifer with Carver; you have responsibilities to look after keeping our resources healthy. Ms. Leighton – I have been in Carver for 51 years. We have five dumps in Carver; those people that did it are gone! The damage is done; things that happened then are presenting with issues now. We are trying to solve these problems. The DEP, even though the remediation was not quite at your level, did accept the remediation.

Ms. Lipton – The Whetstone is part of the Taunton River Watershed. The Taunton River Watershed Alliance has jurisdiction to see if everything there is acceptable; that is a watershed district. I don't know if that was overlooked or they didn't know about it. Mr. Moore – We approved a certificate of compliance that they had done what we approved for them to do last year. Ms. Lipton – We are in a situation that we are affected; it is coming from upstream; water moves underground (aquifer). This PFAS mitigation is not the best option. If you watch the October 19, 2022 meeting, they dumped 25 feet worth of material into the water. There are a lot of other things happening; PFAS can make you very sick. Now that this is in the water, I don't find it funny; I am really upset about. The Town of Plympton Selectboard came when Ravensbrook happened.

Mr. Moore - The PFAS that is there has been there a very long time. PFAS is a relatively new discovery as a carcinogen. Ms. Lipton – I am not talking about Ravensbrook now; I am talking about behind Aubuchon. We came to meetings and talked about this dumping. I was talking to a newspaper and I was describing, with biosolids, all the heavy metals that were completely toxic; not PFAS at the time. Someone was bagging biosolids and selling it to unsuspecting people. Mr. Moore – There is no argument that bad things happened there. Ms. Lipton – Ravensbrook is a whole other story. I am talking about North Carver. You didn't listen to us back then. Mr. Moore – I wasn't here! Ms. Lipton - This was preventable; these are forever chemicals. They should be removed. We tried to prevent this and this is why I am sitting here decades later. Our fears came true; wells are polluted. Ms. Leighton – We protested back then too. We are being charged today with taking a hard look at what has happened and doing something about it. I understand what you are saying, but you have to at least know that we are caring about what is going on. We are trying to remediate the best we can do. Ms. Lipton – The remediation of the North Carver landfill is something I would like to speak about. Mr. Moore – The Brownfield remediation was done by the state. Ms. Lipton – Let's learn from our mistakes. It is the Towns people's responsibility to get out and vote for people who care about our natural resources. You have people that knew this was happening decades ago that are still involved in all of this; that still sit on Boards! A lot of people have polluted wells. It's unfortunate that the citizens are at the mercy of the decision of the people on these boards.

Ms. Leighton – The people involved in the North Carver landfill pollution, have all been transitioned over to Town Water, at a cost to the Town of \$450K. Ms. Lipton – Is it working? We had an aquifer that was working beautifully, but now, with the decision making of certain entities, we don't. Now it's affecting Plympton. That was dumped in the Whetstone Brook. The Whetstone Brook goes through 150 acres of land that we all voted to save. It's a preserve now. Now, that brook, an everything that was dumped moves to this preserve. Ms. Leighton – What was dumped in the brook? Mr. Moore – It's a collection of everything that was dumped in the 220+ acres.

Ms. Lipton – If I were here handing out permits, I would follow up. Ms. Leighton – When Jack Hunter was here, he created a Brownfield and wrote the necessary articles to have the government come in and put in all of these monitoring wells, etc. That was 10 or more years ago. They didn't close their eyes; they did something. It took time. Now, time is not on our side; PFAS has been exposed. Nobody is turning a deaf ear; they are doing something. They are doing the approved thing. DEP approved the remediation. Today, no one is closing their eyes. Ms. Lipton – Only because the property is selling for development. There is a drinking water problem and toxic contamination. This is something that had to happen; they found stuff buried in there. It is a toxic site. This isn't something that you guys remediated, it's something that had to happen because it is a toxic site. Ms. Leighton – Now there is action. Ms. Lipton – Because there has to be! You are acting like everyone in the Town came together and decided that they wanted to clean it up. It was a forced hand issue. These people want it developed. Stuff was buried there. If you look at the 10/19/22 meeting, you will see. What you are doing in your development of this property isn't going to help any of the residents that are downstream of this issue. Now they have to get a \$30K reverse osmosis system. How is that helping your neighbors? Ms. Leighton – What happens after the remediation, I have no idea. Ms. Lipton – We need more information on that. We should all know how water moves; it's forceful. Ms. Leighton – What is your bottom line? Ms. Lipton – I wanted to find out what was happening up there tonight. I feel that the PFAS should be removed. Mr. Moore – There is one place that does that. Ms. Lipton – You have to figure it out; it needs to be remediated in a way that gets it out of here. If you look at the concentration of PFAS sites in this area; there are three now, in a very small area. How is that fair to the neighbors of Carver. Mr. Moore – What

would be your solution for Ravensbrook, which has a larger concentration of PFAS? Ms. Lipton - I think that needs to be remediated too. That was years ago; they just capped it and put solar panels up there. I don't expect you to do what they are doing down in Edwards, which would be a great idea because it's working down there. It costs a lot of money. Who is responsible for it? Mr. Moore – The responsibility lies with those that did it and they are all gone.

Ms. Lipton - My whole vision of this is I want to oversee what is happening now; I have watched failure after failure after failure. I don't live here in Carver, but it's affecting other Towns. Mr. Moore – They are going to monitor it.

Ms. Lipton – Once per year in spring is not acceptable. Mr. Moore – They said they would find the highest concentration in the spring. Ms. Lipton – Is that the engineer for the builder? Mr. Moore – I believe so. Ms. Lipton – Well, let's do what's right for the builder and not for the residents. Mr. Moore – You need to set up a control. Ms. Lipton - It should be tested at least every 4 months. That would be the responsible thing to do. Mr. Moore – I don't agree. You need a control, consistency. The hope is that the water quality will remain the same or get better. Ms. Lipton – So you have to wait and wonder for a whole year. Mr. Moore – That is how testing works. There could be other factors. If the numbers go up one year to the next, in fall and then go down the same year to the next in spring, where is your conclusion? Ms. Lipton – That is a hypothesis; that's not factual so I can't talk about that. Mr. Moore – But that could happen. That is why you pick a control and you test that.

Ms. Lipton – Why do we still have all of these PFAS problems if they been supposedly mitigated? We have the North Carver dump and Ravensbrook. To answer your question, I am here because this upsets me. Plympton is affected. Ms. Leighton – Okay, we do need to move on as there are other things to get to tonight. You are welcome to stay; I am glad you are keeping an eye on things that are going on. Ms. Lipton – I am hoping that the Select Board, Conservation Commission and the Planning Board need to work together, in harmony to do the right thing. Ms. Leighton – Thank you, I appreciate your time.

- **Wade Street –**

- Conservation Commission, September Meeting, Vote to accept – They voted to accept Wade Street. Mr. Moore – I went to the Conservation Commission with the 3 remaining items that needed to be taken care of on that parcel. The Conservation Commission voted to accept the property, as is. The Conservation Commission will send a letter, with a timeline, to the homeowner requesting that they fix those three issues. If they fail to do so, Conservation Commission will hire someone and send an invoice to the homeowner. They have been very cooperative in the past so I don't see this becoming a problem.
- Next steps - Ms. Leighton – I spoke with Kathleen. She indicated that we need to go back to Art Borden to make sure the stone bounds are set. He needs to finalize that job. Mr. Moore – I believe our contract with him was for six bounds. He would then send an invoice. She has the deed; it's all ready to go. Sharon and I had gone to the Select Board. They said they would rescind the vote when the Conservation Commission accepted. Kathleen will send us a form for signatures; I will sign, as Chair, for the RDA, the Conservation Commission will need to sign that they accepted it and the Select Board will need to sign that they approved it.

Ms. Leighton - Mr. Moore will reach out to Mr. Borden. Kathleen will file the Form 81X, along with the deed.

#### **Treasurers Report:**

Mr. Meagher -

Account balances as of September 30, 2023

Checking                \$53.99

URP	\$1,280.45
Money Market	\$59,630.82

Nothing outstanding. When we get Mr. Borden's bill, I will move money.

*Motion to accept the Treasurers Report, as submitted: Mr. Moore*  
*Second: Ms. Leighton*  
*Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*

**Topics not anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting**

Ms. Leighton - Roger and myself are on the review of maps and data group, tomorrow (10/4/23), 2-4 PM

**Members Notes:**

Nothing tonight

**Minutes – June 20, 2023, August 1, 2023 and September 5, 2023**

*Motion to approve the minutes of June 20, 2023, as written: Mr. Moore*  
*Second: Mr. Meagher*

Discussion:

*Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*

*Motion to approve the minutes of August 1, 2023, as written: Mr. Moore*  
*Second: Mr. Meagher*

Discussion:

*Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*

*Motion to approve the minutes of September 5, 2023, as amended: Mr. Moore*  
*Second: Mr. Meagher*

Discussion:

Ms. Leighton –

1. "Hillside" should be Hillwood, Mr. Moore's question around page 4.
2. "St. Francis statue to be removed - **add** "as well as the backhoe bucket."

*Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*

**Next Meeting:**

Our next meeting will be held on November 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

*Motion to schedule the meeting on 11/7/23, to immediately follow the Select Board Meeting or 6:30 PM, if no joint meeting: Mr. Moore*  
*Second: Mr. Meagher*  
*Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*

Ms. Lipton – How many acres is the property behind Aubuchon? Mr. Moore – There are two numbers; the area that is zoned as Green Business Park is a little over 300 acres. The area that Route 44 Development owns, within the Green Business Park is about 250 acres. Ms. Lipton – Has an archeological survey been done up there? Mr. Moore – I have no idea? Ms. Lipton – Is that required? Mr. Moore – I do not know. Ms. Lipton - It's called the Whetstone Brook for a reason; do you know what a Whetstone is? Mr. Moore – I do; one was donated to the Town; we are trying to put it in front of the library. Ms. Lipton – I am concerned as there have been documented historical burials removed in all this earth removal stuff going on here in Town. Dr. William Fowler did the archeological dig, at one of the sites. Mr. Moore – I don't know the answer to your question; it wouldn't be an RDA responsibility, nor Conservation Commission.

**Adjournment:**

*Motion to adjourn at 7:42 PM: Mr. Moore*

*Second: Mr. Meagher*

*Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*