

Michael Borg
Town Manager



TOWN OF NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH
43 South Washington Street
North Attleborough MA 02760
508-699-0100

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: Tuesday, April 09, 2024
TO: Town Clerk Pat McNielly
FROM: Michael Borg
CC: Linda Catanzariti Town Accountant
Chris Sweet Tax Collector/Treasurer
RE: **Measure 2024-078- Authorization to begin the negotiation process with the current owners of the Webster Mill Property**

Town Council Meeting- President Justin Paré
Measure 2024-078- Authorization to begin the negotiation process with the current owners of the Webster Mill Property

Purpose and Justification:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize the initiation of negotiations and discussions with the current owners of the Webster Mill Property on Broadway, following its recent demolition due to safety concerns. The objective is to explore the potential procurement of this property by the Town of North Attleborough. This initiative seeks to resolve the current state of the property—now a blighted and demolished site—to address public safety and environmental concerns, while also considering the future development and use of the land to benefit the community. The Town aims to engage with the property's current owners and relevant state environmental agencies to outline a clear path forward for addressing remaining demolition debris, brownfield remediation, and the exploration of potential public uses for the property.

Justification:

Public Safety and Environmental Remediation: The property has been a blight on the community for over 40 years, presenting both safety hazards and environmental concerns. The recent demolition over safety issues underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive plan to address the remaining challenges, including debris removal and brownfield remediation. By taking proactive steps, the Town can ensure that these concerns are addressed promptly and effectively, mitigating any potential risks to public health and safety.

Economic and Community Development: Acquiring the Webster Mill Property presents an opportunity for the Town of North Attleborough to guide the redevelopment of the site in a manner that aligns with community needs and priorities. Whether the land is returned to the tax rolls through private development or utilized for public purposes, such as open space or a park, the redevelopment can stimulate economic growth, enhance community amenities, and contribute to the overall vitality of the area.

Community Engagement and Input: This measure emphasizes the importance of seeking public input in determining the future use of the property. By involving the community in

the decision-making process, the Town can ensure that the redevelopment of the Webster Mill Property reflects the values, needs, and aspirations of North Attleborough residents. This inclusive approach fosters a sense of ownership and pride in the community's development projects.

The Town Council met on March 25, 2024, and on behalf of the Town Council, a motion was made by Vice- President Simmons to refer Measure 2024-078- Authorization to begin the negotiation process with the current owners of the Webster Mill Property to the Finance Sub-Committee for further review and discussion.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Slobogan.

Motion carried. 8-0 UNANIMOUS

The Finance Sub-Committee met on April 1, 2024, and on behalf of the Committee, a motion was made by Councilor Donovan to refer Measure 2024-077- Authorization to begin the negotiation process with the current owners of the Webster Mill Property, back to the Full Town Council with a positive recommendation.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Costello.

Motion carried. 6-0 UNANIMOUS

The Town Council met on April 8, 2024, and on behalf of the Town Council, a motion was made by Councilor Slobogan to approve Measure 2024-077- Authorization to begin the negotiation process with the current owners of the Webster Mill Property.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Donovan.

Motion carried. 7-0 UNANIMOUS