

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2017**

6:30 PM: Open Meeting

Quorum present: Curt Wilton (CW), Chair; Peter Skorput (PS); Bernie Fallon (BF). Also present: Admin Asst Mark Webber (AA).
Press present: Local Yokel.

CW congratulates Bernie Fallon on his recent election victory to the Board of Selectmen and thanks Earl Moffatt for his nine years of service to the Town as Selectman.

Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen following the May 8, 2017 Town Election: CW nominates PS to be Board of Selectmen Chairman for the next year. BF seconds the motion. Vote taken, 2-0 in favor; PS abstains. PS nominates CW as Board of Selectmen Clerk for the coming year. BF seconds the motion. Vote taken, 2-0 in favor; CW abstains. CW nominates BF as Board of Selectman Clerk. PS seconds the nomination. Vote taken, 2-0 in favor; BF abstains.

Board reviews and approves previous meeting minutes.

Board reviews and approves warrants.

Other Business/Discussion/Action Items:

- Bob Salerno, West Stockbridge Historical Society, informs the Board that the Society will be holding a fundraising event at Turnpark on June 2nd and is expecting 100 to 125 people. Invitations are provided to the Selectmen.
- Marge Powell, member of the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, asks for approval to use the Village School grounds to hold a community picnic event. Tentative date for the event is August 5th. Marge states that the event will be scaled back from prior years' Zucchini Festival. Board welcomes the idea and encourages Marge to continue with planning the event.
- CW continues previous Board meeting discussions on the MRI fire services report issued on the West Stockbridge Fire Department operations. PS recuses himself as W.S. Fire Chief and he and CW switch chairs for the purpose of the discussion. CW notes that Peter has made significant improvements to the Department over the past months. CW notes that the Fire Chief will issue his monthly report at next week's Board meeting. In response to a question, PS states that the Department currently has 12 volunteer members. PS provides copies of NIMS training certificates for 10 of the 12 members and notes that the remaining 2 have completed the training. PS states that he will take the advanced 300 and 400 level NIMS trainings when he has more opportunity over the coming winter since the course offerings are limited. CW asks that Peter announce those members who participate in weekly training sessions in order that they be recognized for their service. BF asks Chief Skorput if there are ways to increase volunteer recruits. Chief responds that the most effective way is word of mouth and local advertising. Chief notes that there is a high burn out rate among new volunteers once they realize the extent of the required commitment. BF asks if there are other methods used by other communities that might work to increase membership, including incentives and benefits. Doane Perry asks if the Chief has been offered office management help. CW responds that yes, the Board in the past has suggested and offered assistance but the Chief has declined. Marge Powel asks if the Department would benefit from software such as IM Responding. Chief responds that current Department incident reporting is working fine and that the software is too expensive. CW notes that the MRI report states the need for documentation and storage of same. CW closes the discussion by again noting that Peter has made significant improvements and that the MRI report should be considered as a guide for improving the Department. CW adds that the Chief's next monthly report to the Board will be at next week's meeting.
- Board approves a Village School Use permit to use the Community Room for a Monopoly Club 2 Fridays a month from 4-6PM.
- Board approves a driveway permit application for James Hallock, West Center Rd.
- Resident Bob Thibeault discusses the need to place a follow up warrant article on a June 2017 Special Town Meeting to appropriate funds for gap cleaning coverage for the public restrooms. He suggests that it's might not be necessary following a recent discussion to allocate a percentage of annual rooms and meals tax receipts to a to be formed downtown merchants' association as a 501c organization. Board agrees.
- AA is working on scheduling a date for a joint Richmond/West Stockbridge Selectmen's meeting to discuss sharing possibilities.
- Governor Baker will be in West Stockbridge tomorrow for a walking tour to highlight Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) success in Town and the positive impact on local businesses.
- Board will meet next on May 22nd.
- Evie Kerswell, Mill Pond Trailer Park, provides a submittal related to the open and continued Rent Control Board hearing. AA cautions Board that it is inappropriate to discuss an open hearing acting in a separate capacity on a subject not on the meeting agenda. Board agrees

to forward the provided documents to Town Counsel for review and comment

8:10 PM: There being no additional business to come before the Board, CW motions to adjourn the meeting. PS seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

Meeting minutes approved by:

Peter Skorput, Chair

Curt Wilton

Bernie Fallon

Date: _____