

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2017**

6:30 PM: Open Meeting.
Quorum present: Curt Wilton (CW); Bernie Fallon (BF). Peter Skorput (PS), attending a CPR training session and unable to attend Board meeting. CW to act as Chairman for tonight's meeting.

Board reviews and approves previous meeting minutes.
Board reviews and approves weekly warrants.

Other Business/Action/Discussion Items:

- Attorney Lori Robbins (LR) addresses the Board regarding a small parcel (36' x 42') of Town owned land located within what is known as the Viola Farm at the top of Hotel Street and east of Orchard Street. LR states and provides some documents showing that the parcel was conveyed to the Town in 1879 for use as a "hearse house and town jail". LR adds that there is currently no record of the exact whereabouts of this parcel or its disposition, if any. There are no visible signs of its location on the property either. LR notes that a 1911 Town Report shows a town meeting warrant article asking voters to approve repairs to the hearse house and jail or to dispose of the property. No recording of that vote can be found. LR is seeking formal action to have the Town give up its rights to this parcel so that the current owners can use the property as they please. Currently, the unknown status of the Town parcel, makes surveying and division of this land difficult. LR and the Board then discuss the status of Orchard Street since it abuts the Viola Farm property (approximately 80 acres). It is noted that Orchard Street shows up on Town assessor's maps but that it is considered a 'paper road' and was never actively used as a town way. CW expresses concern that by relinquishing rights to the small Town parcel, the Town may be responsible for improving Orchard Street and the owners would have claim to use Orchard Street as legal frontage for a subdivision or building lots. Board discusses the Town Meeting process of abandoning Orchard Street. Following further discussion, CW and BF tentatively agree to place an article (as drafted by LR) on the November 13, 2017 Special Town Meeting warrant for voter consideration. However, the Board won't be signing the warrant until the end of October and their position may change based on Town Counsel's review and other considerations.
- Board officially sets November 13, 2017 at 7:00 PM for a Special Town Meeting.
- BF opens a discussion on establishing a more formal swap shop at the Town's Transfer Station. BF adds that volunteers could supply some of the necessary materials and labor to construct a stand-alone building or shed to house swap items. Doing so would clean up and formalize the long practice of dropping off items that others may find useful. CW supports the idea but points out that the Board of Health has authority over the operation of the Transfer Station and recommends that they review and give a formal recommendation back to the Selectmen before going forward. BF agrees.
- Following a discussion, Board recommends that Transfer Station attendant Wayne Cooper submit a periodic short piece to the Local Yokel with helpful hints and updates at the Transfer Station.
- BF continues discussion from prior Board meetings regarding promoting all that is good about West Stockbridge. BF would like to improve communication among residents and Town Officials and Board has a general discussion about expanding the Town's website to be more interactive and to provide feedback; a town wide survey is also discussed to facilitate citizen response. BF adds that the Selectmen should be putting out positive messages periodically in the Local Yokel or other formats. Board will continue this discussion and CW states that he supports and appreciates BF's efforts.
- CW notes that the Conservation Commission issued a Notice of Intent to allow work in and around the Williams River adjacent to the Shaker Mill dam in order to make repairs to the east side retaining wall. Work is expected to commence in the next 2 weeks.
- CW notes that the Route 41 south paving project is completed and line painting of same will take place in the next 2 weeks.
- AA provides a letter from the MA Division of Wildlife and Fisheries (MDWF) which states that the Department is not opposed to the operation of hydroelectric turbines at the Shaker Mill Dam (attached). AA notes that the Town recently re-filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) which then contacts multiple interested parties for comment before issuing their decision on licensing the project. AA notes that under the previous application, MDWF did not support the project.
- Parks and Recreation discussion of playground at Village School and other capital items will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

7:55 PM: There being no further business before the Board and no comments offered under Citizen Speak time, CW makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. BF seconds the motion. Vote taken, 2-0 in favor.

Meeting Minutes approved by:

Curt Wilton, acting Chair

Bernie Fallon

Date: _____