



Select Board

21 State Line Road PO Box 525 West Stockbridge, Mass. 01266-0525

Tel. (413) 232-0300 x319

Fax. (413) 232-7195

E-mail: admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Select Board Meeting Minutes

October 09, 2019

6:00 PM: Open Meeting

Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Doane Perry, and Town Administrator Marie Ryan. Board Member Eric Shimelonis was absent.

Board reviews and approves warrants; payroll and vendor.

Board signs Pole Location petition for Baker Rd./Albany Rd.

Board signs one day liquor license for Historical Society.

Board signs Community Room Usage Request for Paul Cunningham.

Agenda Items/Action/Discussion Items: Meeting Opened at 6:00PM

Chief Marc Portieri – The Chief gave an updated list of all Police Officers to the Board. He then reported that the Department has been working hard on the traffic issues in town. They have made 143 stops for speeding in town since July. The Chief stated that when residents call the station in regards to concerns about speeding on a particular road, they have a list on the wall and when shift changes happen, those are the roads that the police will patrol. Doane asked the Chief if he could give an update to the Yokel Local so people know how much work the Police are doing on this. The Chief agreed.

The junk car issue status is at the court level at this time. There were 5 people that had court dates with the Magistrate and the Chief that were not open to the public and only one showed up. This person had registered their car and is all set. The other 4 will be getting a new court

date at which point if they do not show up for that date, they will then have a warrant out on them.

The Chief reported the evidence room security is being updated. He and Sergeant Messina have been taking a class to do updates that the State is requesting the Departments complete.

Earl Moffatt, Board of Health Agent – Earl stated that the Board of Health has issued 11 Orders of Conditions to people in the Trailer Park. These complaints are mainly due to trash and junk. He explained this is a multi-step process just like the junk car issue. The people are given a certain time frame to comply with the orders. If they do not comply then they will be taken to court for a hearing with the Magistrate. If they still do not comply the next step would be an open court hearing, etc.

Earl asked the Select Board for permission to have Town Counsel assist the Board of Health with the paperwork and procedures on this issue. He stated that he would do most of the paperwork and be the one to show up at the hearings but that he needs Town Counsel to work with him on the legal aspects. He said it would only cost a few hundred dollars and not a large amount of time from Town Counsel. The Select Board asked him to work with Marie and keep her updated and she can then inform the Board as to the status of the progress. Earl agreed to keep Marie up to date.

Joe Roy, Vision Committee – Joe informed the Board that the Vision Committee is starting to form sub-committees and working in groups on different projects. They want to have a Master Plan Committee which would include a few members of the Vision Committee as well as Curt Wilton, Public Works Director; a Zoning Board of Appeals Member; a Planning Board Member; Kathleen Kersey, a member of Vision Committee as well as the Finance Committee; and Eric Shimelonis as a representative of the Select Board. Since these other members are from outside of the Vision Committee, Joe was asking for permission from the Select Board to include them and proceed with the planning. Bernie and Doane both agreed this was a good idea. Kathleen stated she has already started on getting this committee on track.

Joe then listed the six main issues that the Vision Committee are currently concentrating on and wanted to follow up on with the Select Board:

1. Speed Limit signs – mainly the two different speeds on Main Street. Bernie explained to Joe that the Mass DOT is the one who sets those speed limits and we cannot change them. He explained to Joe that the lower speed limit travelling south is due to the curves on the bridge and possibly due to the cars being parked on Main Street going south, trying to back out. Joe agreed that could be one of the reasons as well.
2. Card Lake Inn Parking Lot – Joe asked what the Board was thinking for use of this area. Bernie stated that this was, for now, just going to continue being a parking lot.

3. A. Zoning with Junk Cars – Joe stated that he knows this is being worked on, especially after hearing the Police Chief update.
B. Enforcement of Zoning – The concern is that the Building Inspector needs to do more enforcement, specifically at Troy's Garage. The residents are concerned with junk cars being on the residential area as well as all the golf carts and if they are for sale or not. Kathleen Kersey asked that the Board have Building Inspector Brian DuVal have a paper trail and continue to enforce the zoning bylaws. Bernie asked Marie to contact Brian and have him report at the next Select Board Meeting.
4. Solar Array Buffer – Marie showed Joe and the audience the planting that National Grid prepared for the solar near the turnpike. Everyone was happy with the plans. Joe asked about the Truck Stop solar array buffering. Marie stated that she and Mark Webber were going to look for the contract but that Mark Webber believed that there were no plans in the contract that had to provide buffering/plantings. She will give an update on this at the next Board meeting after researching it with Mark Webber. The Board also thought possibly, if there is nothing in the contract maybe the Board could request some plantings by letter to the owner any way.
5. Burying Utility Lines on Main Street – Steve Hayward from National Grid was present at the meeting and he had spoken with Curt Wilton and gave Curt a phone number and contact to get information in regards to burying the lines. He explained that they use an outside contractor that works with them to do this. Kathleen Kersey said that she spoke with Berkshire Regional Planning and that they said there are not really any grants available that help pay for this and she asked Steve what the cost may be and he stated it would most likely be over quarter million dollars.
6. Affordable Housing – Joe said that on this issue they are trying to include Planning Board, Vision Committee and Select Board to all work together on this issue. There was a possible suggestion of having the Planning Board change Zoning Bylaws to enable people to have accessory dwellings to have more apartments that may be beneficial to families, elderly, and young people to be able to afford to live in West Stockbridge to help increase population.

Miscellaneous Items:

There was discussion in regards to the "No Parking per Police Order" signs on Moscow Road. Marie will ask the Police Chief to have those taken down. Bernie said he believes they are there for the Farmer's Market and will be taken down when that is completed for the year.

The second concern raised was in regards to the fencing in front of the Pumping Station. The audience would like to see some screening like materials woven into the fencing of shrubs planted. Marie will discuss this with Curt.

Marie reminded the Board that the next meeting will be Wednesday, October 23rd.

Bernie motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM, Doane seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator