



# 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](mailto:admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov)

## Select Board Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2020

21 State Line Road, Town Hall also by Zoom

6:00 PM: Open Meeting

Quorum present: Select Board Members: Eric Shimelonis, Roger Kavanagh and Kathleen Keresey, Town Administrator Marie Ryan, Earl Moffatt, Board of Health Agent.

Signed warrants.

Review and act on previous meeting minutes.

### **Meeting Opened at 6 PM**

#### **Board of Health Update – Earl Moffatt, Board of Health Agent**

Earl began by saying that phase 3 of the COVID-19 Plan by the State has begun and guidance regarding outdoor activities changes weekly. He informed the Board of the following updates:

- Marie has ordered two portalettes, one for the Town beach at Card Pond and one for the soccer field at Town Hall. He said both have sanitizer in them and even though he wasn't comfortable about getting them originally, he feels that it is safer than having everyone coming in and out of Town Hall.
- State has set up a website where people can send any complaints about citizens not adhering to safe procedures, either business owners or patrons and that the Town has not received any complaints thus far.

- Card Pond is open and being used. The water is being tested regularly with no issues. The dock has not been installed per State guidelines so far.
- The Public Restrooms are still not open. Earl feels that due to the lack of cleaning protocols, the restrooms should remain closed until protocols are in place to keep them clean. He said in the past this has been done sporadically and even without COVID-19, he would have the restrooms remain closed until we can get some procedures in place to keep them clean. After a discussion about possible solutions the Board asked Marie to look into the cost of having a cleaning company come in and clean the restrooms on a regular basis and, alternatively, the cost of renting two portalettes for that area. She will inform the Board so that they have the information needed to make a decision.
- E.coli update- Earl stated that he was notified by the Housatonic River Valley Association that the E.coli levels were up in the Alford Brook and Williams River. They do routine testing for PCBs and when they find other issues they let the local Boards of Health know about it. Earl stated that in order to lift the alert, they need to have two consecutive negative tests. Kathleen asked what the sources of E.coli contamination could be. Earl explained it could be from any dead animal in the ground surface and it gets into the watershed. He also said that the source could be from animal waste near the water. He stated that in most situations the E.coli eventually washes out and the water returns to being safe for everyone.
- Transfer Station – Roger asked about updating the signage at the Transfer station. Earl said that the DEP issues new signs every couple of years and that he was informed they would be doing that this summer/fall. He and Curt have been in contact with the DEP and they are expecting to get several new signs to replace the ones currently at the Transfer Station. Roger also asked Earl about an issue he had heard about, with people just throwing their trash bags into the first bin at the Transfer Station and that when that goes to the Recycling Centers we get charged for all the stuff that shouldn't be in there. Earl said that it does happen sometimes and we get a slight charge for that but it does not happen that often.

Earl informed the Board that he is looking into the possibility of having a container for construction and demo materials at some point in the future.

He also provided an update on improvements that are going to be done at the Transfer Station in the next couple of months:

- New chute with a gate that can be closed when changing the container on the metal / plastic / glass recycling compactor.
- Roof work and new gutters
- New fencing, around the equipment area, fix gate & repair perimeter fence.
- Repaving the road in August from Rt 41 all the way through the Transfer Station area.
- New lighting and adding power in the swap shed



Policy about Masks – Kathleen asked Earl if there is policy in place about wearing masks in Town. Earl said that the requirements is you have to wear masks indoors all the time in public spaces but outdoors you only need to wear it when 6 feet distancing cannot be done. He said that the Attorney Generals Office, the Police Association and the Governor’s Office all met and said that they cannot attach any criminal charges or do anything about people not following the guidelines. It is not enforceable. Again, he said the only thing people can do is go to the online website for the State and submit a complaint.

#### **Vision Committee Appointments-**

Marie explained that per Joe Roy, the Vision Committee would like to have the Select Board appoint two new members to the Vision Committee. They would like to have I’in Cox and Carter White become members. Eric stated that these residents would be a great addition to the Vision Committee and he made a motion to appoint them, Kathleen seconded and all were in favor.

#### **Community Involvement-**

Eric presented the Board with a short paragraph he wrote for possible publishing in the Local Yokel to encourage the community to get involved and give their ideas to different Committees in Town. Roger and Kathleen both agreed it was a good approach to get community input and ideas. Eric will get this to the Local Yokel to be published.

*You have ideas! We need you!*

*There’s a lot happening in West Stockbridge, and we’re hoping that you’ll join in!*

*As we adopt the Community Preservation Act, become a Massachusetts Green Community, and organize our first Master Plan process in decades, we need your involvement. There are many opportunities for your voice to make a real difference.*

*Please reach out to us with your interest at [selectboard@weststockbridge-ma.gov](mailto:selectboard@weststockbridge-ma.gov), or call the Town Administrator at 413.232.0300 C319.*

*Together, we’ll work toward a brighter future for our beloved town!*

Roger brought up the Villages of the Berkshires. This is a voluntary group that is getting started to assist the people in our communities, especially the elderly and disabled.

At this time, their efforts are focused on just a few nearby towns. They plan to expand the program in the future and West Stockbridge can be included, once they get through the start up phase. Marie mentioned that she had also contacted them and was told the same thing. Roger and Marie both agreed this will be a good thing for West Stockbridge to be a part of when they are ready to include more Towns. Marie will keep tabs and update the Board when we can get involved.

**Select Board Speak Time –**

Roger mentioned to the Board that at the next regular meeting the Finance Committee will be on the agenda for discussion on the budget and how it works. Roger asked the Board to look over the FY21 budget beforehand and come prepared to discuss ideas about potential budget reductions that could be made before the tax rate is set for FY21. Kathleen responded that as a Finance Committee Member they had previously looked at potential cuts, and made modifications to the budget. She and Roger both thought they would also like to see budget versus actual expenses by department throughout the year. Roger stated he had no specific ideas for budget reductions at this time but he wanted the Board to have the conversation when they meet with the Finance Committee next week.

Eric suggested that the Board consider taking a look at the process of re-appointments and give some thought to how the Board could update the process to ensure that there is a good match between the person to be appointed and the position that s/he is going to fill.

**Citizen Speak Time –**

Joe Roy thanked the Board for appointing the new members to the Vision Committee. Roger mentioned to Joe that he had looked at the Committee's website and said he really liked it.

On a motion by Roger and seconded by Eric, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

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