

## **Board of Selectmen**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**May 15, 2019**

6:00 PM: Open Meeting

Quorum present: Bernie Fallon (BF); Doane Perry (DP); Eric Shimelonis (ES). Also present: Administrator Mark Webber (MW). No press present. Meeting is being broadcast on PEG channel 190.

Board reviews and approves weekly warrants.

No previous meeting minutes are acted upon; Annual Town Meeting took place last week and Town Clerk develops those meeting minutes.

6:20 PM: BF opens the regular portion of the meeting and states that the first order of business is to reorganize the Board following the annual town election.

DP makes a motion to nominate BF as Chair. ES seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

BF motions to nominate DP as Board Secretary and ES as Board Clerk. Motions are seconded. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

BF then congratulates ES on his election victory and notes that it was a good election process and that the Board is now ready to move the Town forward.

BF then reviews the typical Board meeting process, noting that he chooses to run the meeting perhaps looser than some other communities but the following processes should be followed: Board chair first addresses a topic; followed by comments/discussion by fellow Board members; followed by audience comments/questions and; input from Town Administrator along the way.

Following a discussion on enhancing communication and feedback between the Board and residents, ES suggests that the Town implement a process similar to a 311 link as used in larger communities. For instance, a comment/feedback box could be installed on the Town website.

*Other Business/Action/Discussion Items:*

Board has a brief discussion recapping the May 6 annual town meeting. BF notes his pleasure with the Moderator Gene Dellea's handling of the meeting and his vote of confidence from the voters present.

MW informs the Board that after nearly two years of negotiations between the Town and National Grid, a final Letter of Intent to Purchase the approximate 2-acre parcel along Moscow Road has been finalized and once signed by the Board chair, a closing will be scheduled. MW notes that the acquisition will help both the Town and several residents and property owners along Moscow Road by clearing up past ambiguities with property lines and historic uses.

16 State Line Road update: MW provides the Board with copy of letter with previous relevant meeting minutes attached which was mailed to the property owner's lending and attorney of record. The letter states that the Board of Health may take condemnation action on the property because of public health and safety issues. Board comments that the Town has acted in a very generous fashion to assist the owner but that the owner has chosen to resist complying with the conditions of the agreement which allowed him to keep his property rather than sell it at tax title auction.

Class II & II auto license update: MW informs the Board that the property owner of Rte 41 Auto, LLC has requested a two-week extension to meet with the Board to discuss past licensing concerns. BF notes, after viewing the property this week, that the licensed premises appear to be largely in compliance with the license conditions.

MW informs the Board that the Town Administrator Search Committee has concluded their work and have forwarded the names of 3 finalists to the Board. Those finalists names are: Kathleen Neal of Southboro, MA; Kevin Rutherford of Marston Mills, MA and; Marie Ryan of Gt. Barrington, MA. MW asks that the Board keep with the standing schedule and conduct finalists' interviews at their next meeting (5/22). Board agrees. MW will first contact the finalists to make sure they are still interested and to coordinate interview schedule.

In response to a question from ES, Town Administrator Search Committee member Kathleen Keresey reviews the process the Committee took to review and cull the initial list of 20 candidates down to the 3 finalists. Kathleen states

that the Committee thoroughly discussed all 20, conducted their own research on several and unanimously agreed, over two meetings, on the finalists to be brought to the Board.

MW provides the Board with his proposed work schedule going forward from now through anticipated July 1, 2019 retirement date.

Board approves a one-day liquor license for Shaker Mill Tap house for a ‘soft opening’ event on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Board approves a Village School Use Request for the Guild of Berkshire Artists.

MW informs the Board that a full alcohol liquor license hearing has been scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The applicant is Foundry West Stockbridge, Harris St.

DP speaks to improving/enhancing the Town’s local access cable tv channel (190) and notes that the Cable Commission could use some more members, since it is down to 2. Board has a general discussion and ES states that he may be able to assist.

Resident Karen Carmean recaps a DEP sponsored wetlands discussion which was held at the Town Hall on 5/14.

Resident Karen Carmean suggests that the Board consider changing the title of Board of Selectmen to Selectboard. Following a general discussion, ES makes a motion to adopt a gender-neutral policy in Town government within a reasonable period. DP seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

Resident Liz DiGrigoli asks about the status on tree screening for the solar array adjacent to Interchange 1. MW will follow up with MassHighway.

7:50 PM: With all business concluded and no additional comments/questions from those present, DP makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. BF seconds. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

*Meeting minutes approved by:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bernie Fallon, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Doane Perry

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Shimelonis

Date: \_\_\_\_\_