



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes Meeting via Zoom April 12, 2021

Open Meeting

Quorum present: Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Eric Shimelonis and Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Members, and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

Others in Attendance: Police Chief Marc Portieri, DPW Director Curt Wilton, Amy Brentano (Foundry Owner), Peter Thorne, Joe Roy, Jr., Carter White and Jeremy Kenny (Rouge Manager).

Roger called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Select Board Minutes from March 29, 2021 will be approved at the next meeting.

Town Administrator Update:

Early Voting by mail will be available for the Annual Town Election, the applications are available on the Town Clerk page of the website. The Town Meeting will be held on May 3rd and Town Election on May 10th. The Town Meeting will be held rain or shine outside. More information will be posted on the website along with the warrant.

The State Department of Fire Services has awarded a Fire Safety Equipment grant for \$7,853.33 to our Fire Department to purchase a thermal camera.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

Roger made a motion to approve the warrant, Eric seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Eric, Yes Roger, Yes Kathleen, Yes

Motion Passed.

The Foundry: Amy Brentano, The Foundry Owner

Amy Brentano gave an update of her opening plans for The Foundry. Part of the plan will have people dining on the green space where there is normally parking available. A discussion ensued about the parking issues in Town. The Select Board will have a discussion in regards to parking solutions in downtown at a future meeting.

Traffic/Speeding on Swamp Road: Police Chief Marc Portieri & Resident Chris Kramek

Marc stated that the Police have added patrols on Swamp Road as well as the speed trailer and moving radar. Chris commented that he appreciates the hard work by the Police Department but was hoping that the Town could install a permanent flashing radar. He asked the Board how to get funding started for this type of radar. Roger will discuss with the Police Chief on how to proceed and have this as an agenda item in the future.

Earth Day Town Cleanup: Eric Shimelonis and Peter Thorne

Peter Thorne explained for Earth Day, volunteers will be going around Town to cleanup trash. This will be held on Saturday, April 24th. He will be at the Fire Station to hand out neon vests and garbage bags provided by the DPW. He thanked Curt Wilton for allowing his crew to pick up all the bags on the side of the road the next day and for providing the bags.

Eric stated the McGraths, Swamp Roads residents, have accepted an offer from volunteers to clean up the garbage they have on the edge of the pond. Curt has also offered to help by picking up the garbage with the Town truck, once it is placed on the side of the road.

Peter will provide flyers and information to Marie to be posted on the website.

Green Communities Designation: Eric Shimelonis

Eric told the Board that the Town is close to obtaining the Green Communities Designation. Eric asked the Board for permission to sign off on the paperwork. Roger and Kathleen requested information for review from Marie, however, they both felt confident in Eric signing the paperwork.

Land Trust – Vision Committee: Carter White and Joe Roy, Jr.

Carter White discussed what a Land Trust is, why the Town would want to have it, how to get it set up and how much it would cost the Town.

The Land Trust would take into repository any land in Town which the Committee felt is important to keep in its natural state if that is what is the best use of the land. The Land Trust would work to maintain the character of the Town. The cost would be a loss of tax income if taken into repository but would enhance and maintain open spaces. He explained Land Trusts at times, will have fund raisers where they give the funds back to the Town to help replace lost tax revenue.

Joe stated that the Vision Committee is in the very beginning of the process. Carter said that the first step is to see if the Town and/or Select Board have any interest in pursuing this before going any further.

Eric said he would pass on the information to the Master Plan Committee and the Planning Board.

Center Street Closure: Eric Shimelonis

Eric stressed that this conversation is to discuss possible solutions to parking and public safety in the downtown area. The Board has already approved the continuation of the Center Street closure to allow Rouge to have outdoor dining on the street and this conversation does not change that approval.

Jackie Moffatt asked Jeremy (Rouge Manager) if Rouge could hold off on the road closure until 5:30 PM instead of 5 PM and he agreed he could do that.

Some merchants expressed their concern for the appearance of the items used for the street closure. They would like to see the street look more attractive with the barriers. A discussion continued. Jeremy stated they now have planters to use as more attractive barriers.

Kathleen stressed these are uncertain times and that in order for businesses to survive, they need the support of the Town. She feels they still need that ability to have outdoor dining. The pandemic is not over and that the Shared Spaces and Streets Grant did provide many planters to help with barriers.

Eric summarized that Rouge has offered to change the time they close the street as well as use more planters as barriers. This was a long process last year and there was a lot of thought put into the road closure for public safety.

Roger noted that the Board has several logistical challenges with the parking, traffic, and public safety in the downtown area but that they will continue to work on the issues at a future meeting.

Select Board Speak:

Roger reminded the Board that the Community Preservation Committee Bylaw is on the warrant for the 2021 Annual Town Meeting and the Board will need to appoint committee members in the near future.

Citizen Speak:

Joe Roy thanked the Board for listening to the information about the Land Trust. He also expressed his hope that the Board will continue to explore the downtown parking issue.

Frank Landsberger asked the Board to look into receiving more information from the School Committee on what our tax dollars from West Stockbridge are paying for. Roger said he would take up this issue..

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM, Eric seconded.
Roll call vote:

Eric, Yes Roger, Yes Kathleen, Yes
Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

Documents:
The Foundry 2021 Summer/Fall Season COVID19 Control Plan