



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes April 25, 2022

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

Others in Attendance: Director of Public Works Curt Wilton

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and listed Select Board members present.

Approval of Minutes:

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Roger, to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2022 meeting with the amendment of a deletion of two sentences under the Master Plan paragraph noted by Roger.

Roll call vote;

Roger Yes

Kathleen Yes

Eric Yes

Minutes approved.

Town Administrator Update:

-The Farmer's Market will begin on May 26th and run through October 6th from 3 PM-6PM every Thursday. Marie asked Curt to make sure the public restroom is open by May 26th.

-Curt and Marie are working with the Town of Richmond to apply for a Municipal Vulnerability Program Grant to assist with stormwater drainage and culvert issues in Town. If awarded this grant, the State will pay 75% of the cost of the projects listed in the application and the remaining 25% will be split between the two towns. Roger requested to see any plans for this grant and Marie said she would forward the draft plan for the application to the Board.

-Marie asked how the Board would like to handle questions at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting. It was agreed that the Board would have the most qualified person on the subject in question, answer any questions at that time.

-Marie asked the Board if they want to hold their next meeting in person or by zoom. It was

agreed to keep the next meeting via zoom.

Police Department Update – Marc Portieri

Police Chief Marc Portieri stated that the Police have been very busy this year so far and gave the following update in regards to the Police Department:

- there have been 1975 calls so far this year
- there have been five arrests
- there is an ongoing investigation involving some residents
- they worked with State Police involved in a standoff on the Mass Pike
- there has been ongoing work with the Drug Task Force in Town
- there have been multiple brush fires in the past few days
- the Bridge academy begins in July and there are 4 eligible officers that can attend
- Marc has submitted a grant application for K-9 support
- the Police Union contract should be finalized in the next few days.

Roger asked Marc if all 4 officers that are eligible for the academy are all interested in attending. Marc responded yes, they all plan on attending.

Historical Society Sign Permit:

Eric stated that the Historical Society has updated their Sign Permit application. They are located in the VCOD Commercial District where the sign regulation size is a maximum of 16 sq. ft. The Historical Society is requesting a permit to put up a 14 sq. ft. sign on the building. Eric made a motion to approve the Sign Permit for the Historical Society, seconded by Roger.

Roll call vote;

Roger Yes

Kathleen Yes

Eric Yes

Permit approved.

Merritt Way – Vote to place on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Eric explained that this vote is part of the process to make Merritt Way a public way and for the Town to have an easement on this road. The Board had the road laid out by Foresight Land Services, referred this to the Planning Board, and now the Board needs to vote to place it officially on the Town Meeting Warrant. Marie explained that on the original map layout, it notated that Spencer Way was a public Way. She was notified by a resident that this was actually a private way and should be notated as such. Marie agreed there was never a Town vote to make Spencer Way a public way so she requested that Foresight update the wording on the map to show Spencer Way as a private way. The map has been amended.

Eric made the following motion, seconded by Kathleen;

I move that the Town accept Merritt Way as a public town way in the location ordered by the Select Board and depicted on a plan entitled: "Easement Plan of 15 Feet Right-of-Way 'Merritt Way' Prepared for Town of West Stockbridge, Harris Street, West Stockbridge, Massachusetts," dated April 25, 2022, prepared by Foresight Land Services, and to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, rights in the land within the layout sufficient to use said way for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of West Stockbridge, and to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of acquiring such rights and paying all costs incidental and related thereto.

Roll call vote;
Roger Yes
Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes
Motion approved.

RBC Wastewater Unit – Vote to use ARPA money to pay for repair

Roger stated he was very disappointed that the repairs are now at a state of an emergency repair. In the future he would like to see this department on a capital plan. He requested that representatives from the Water and Sewer Commissioners be present at the Town Meeting to answer any questions. Curt will ask Plant Operator, Mike Buffoni to attend the Town Meeting.

Eric made a motion, seconded by Roger, to approve use of \$50,000 from the Town’s ARPA money to pay for a new RBC Unit at the Wastewater Plant.

Roll call vote;
Kathleen Yes
Roger Yes
Eric Yes
Motion approved.

Select Board Speak:

Roger noted that this was his last meeting as a Select Board member.
Kathleen thanked Roger for his service as a Select Board member.

Citizen Speak:

Bob Salerno, Finance Committee Chair, noted that the Wastewater Plant/Water & Sewer Commission should be involved in the Capital Planning with the Finance Committee in the future.

Roger made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathleen.

Roll call vote;
Roger Yes
Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes
Meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie U. Ryan
Town Administrator

Documents:
-Sign Permit application from the Historical Committee
-Merritt Way Layout from Foresight Land Services