



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes August 29, 2022

Quorum present: Select Board Members Kathleen Keresey, Chair, Andrew Potter and Andrew Krouss and Town Administrator Marie Ryan

Also Present: Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works and Marc Portieri, Police Chief

Kathleen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and listed Select Board members present.

Approval of Minutes:

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the Select Board minutes of July 18, executive session, July 18 regular meeting, August 1 and August 16, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Kathleen Yes

Minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

There was a suggestion about the possibility of holding hybrid meetings in the future.

Special Town Meeting:

Kathleen explained that Marie and Roger Kavanagh have worked on the Police Union Contract requiring an increase in the Police FY23 budget. Police Chief Marc Portieri reviewed the changes in the updated FY23 budget which will need to be approved in a Special Town Meeting to be held on October 6, 2022.

Marie informed the Board that there are 5 articles, which include an online off-site backup for the Town computers, the Police FY23 Budget increase, and some general and zoning bylaw

changes which should be included in the Special Town Meeting.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the articles, send the zoning articles to the Planning Board for review and hold the special Town Meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Kathleen Yes

Motion approved.

Appointment of David Evans as Conservation Commission Alternate Member:

John Masiero, Conservation Commission Chair, has requested that the Board appoint David Evans as the Conservation Commission Alternate Member.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to appoint David Evans as the Conservation Commission Alternate Member.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Kathleen Yes

Motion approved.

Department of Public Works Update: Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works

Curt presented the Select Board with the following update:

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
8/29/2022

HIGHWAY

Great Barrington Road Traffic Study

On July 21, 2022 BSC Group had completed the study on the existing condition of Great Barrington Road (A.K.A. rt.41). The existing conditions were performed during a couple different time periods. In a 48-hour span starting on Wednesday, June 29 and Thursday, June 30, 2022 Precision Data Industries installed instrumentation to record traffic counts and their speeds. On Wednesday, July 6, 2022 between the hours of 10:00am-2:00pm BSC Group visited the area and did a visual observation of the roadway by driving and parking along the corridor to experience first-hand what type of traffic patterns and motor vehicle violations were being committed. Detailed findings with recommendations have been forwarded to the Select Board and have been posted on the Town's Web-Site. It is my recommendation to have a joint round table discussion with myself, Select Board, Town Administrator and Chief of Police to review and better understand the findings. I believe this will answer many questions and we will all have a better understanding of the document. After we all feel comfortable and satisfied we can then schedule an open meeting to invite all the Public for their input.

SMITH/WOODRUFF and MAPLE VIEW ROAD PROJECTS

All 3 of these streets have been leveled and prepped with fresh asphalt and are awaiting their final wearing course of the Chip-Seal application. To date we have spent \$103,179.27 on asphalt and \$50,883.00 to lay it down. The remaining oil and stone wearing surface is estimated to be +/- \$75,000.

The monies earmarked for these expenses will come from a combination of State-Aid Chapter 90 Funds, State Aid W.R.A.P (winter road assistance program) and Town Borrowing. These entire projects should be completed by October 1. It is also our plan to Pave and Resurface Wilson Road this season but due to lack of qualified Contractors with scheduling conflicts this project may not happen until next spring 2023.

SHARED PARKING LOT #5 ALBANY ROAD

March 29, 2022 the Town signed and entered into a shared parking lot agreement between 2 other parties at #5 Albany Road. The DPW followed a pre-existing improvement Plan and performed all the necessary construction tasks to improve the area. Total cost \$8,296. (breakdown, Survey \$2,541.00 and remaining materials labor and equipment rentals \$5,755.00). This Lot is now for Public Parking and will benefit the Down Town area with over +/- 50 parking spaces. The Town assumes the responsibility to maintain said Lot.

TOWN BUILDINGS:

We are still receiving complaints about our exterior LED light fixtures from the neighboring abutters who live around the Town Hall. Although an energy savings attempt, these Light Emitting Diode fixtures are a very intense lighting source and if you look at them you can experience spots in your eyes similar to looking into the sun. A job

I inherited, I have been in contact with all who were involved and who actually installed these fixtures to help rectify this situation. I hope to have more information on this issue soon.

CEMETERY:

The Cemetery Commissioners have been very active and have been meeting regularly on the first Friday of each month. We have had only 1 Social Media complaint of the way the grass mowing was done at the Village Cemetery back on August 24th. This back and forth bantering has been displayed from individuals whom had not witnessed this so called "unsatisfactory weekly grass mowing" with their own eyes but just love to jump on the band wagon and add their 2-cents. I mention this to make the Board aware of any negativity that gets thrown out there and would like to make you all aware that if I deemed this work unsatisfactory I will take full responsibility and see that this type of workmanship will not be tolerated. These complaints have not been brought forth to the Commissioners for discussion. It is that time of the year when we begin the process of scheduling our fall tree removals. Numerous selected large Pine trees have been selected for removal this fall. These trees are over 80-years old and have out lived their life cycle. Years-ago we have developed a plan to remove these large over grown hazards due to the costly repairs to the monuments and grounds when they come crashing down.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Kudos to the Parks & Recreation Committee Members (Cait, Joe, JP, Helen and Ashley). A split rail fence was installed early summer to help detour the geese from swimming up onto the grass where they would make a mess on the sunbathing area. We have found this fence to be a benefit in more ways than one as it also keeps small children from wandering down the shore line and possibly falling into the water. For the first time in several years the Parks was able to secure a Life Guard (Max Linder) down at the beach during the busy times this summer. Lastly, the Town's Tennis Court has received a new face lift. A special Thanks to Piretti Tennis Inc. for a professional job and fast turn over. The total cost for this improvement was \$9,850.00 (there have been numerous donations to this cause so the actual cost will be even less once these donations are totaled).

SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION:

Work is being done down at the Compactor in preparation for a completely new asphalt overlay of the entire roadway and loop. The metal/scrap container has had a temporary new location as the old spot is experiencing wall deterioration. I am waiting on figures to pour a new wall in place to better suit our needs. I am working with Wayne on developing new signage that will help the residents in the proper

disposal of many items.

This concludes the DPW report.

Policy for Public Hearings – Time of Day:

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to create a policy for all public hearings to be held in the evening.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss Abstain

Andy Potter Yes

Kathleen Nay

Motion does not pass.

Senior Work-off Program:

Andy Potter stated that he would like to gather information about a Senior Work-Off program for the Town that was introduced by the Vision Committee. Andy Krouss and Kathleen both agreed this would be a good program for the Seniors in Town. Andy Potter will continue to the next steps of speaking with the Assessor.

In-person Hybrid Select Board Meetings:

Kathleen agreed to in-person hybrid meetings as long as the option remains for the Board to reconsider if circumstances change with COVID. Andy Krouss suggested that there be precautions in place such as masking and social distancing.

The Board agreed to hold the next meeting in-person and hybrid with required masking.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Krouss mentioned there are signs around Town that the people posting them have not gotten permission to be placed on Town Property. Marie said that people can contact her and she can have the Police collect the signs and keep them at the Police Station.

Town Administrator Update:

Marie requested that the Board change their September 26th meeting to another date since the 26th is Rosh Hashanah. The Board agreed and will let Marie know what date works best for them.

A representative from the Elizabeth Freeman Center was unable to attend this meeting but had intended to ask permission to post some signs for their fundraising walk for the month of September. The signs would be posted at the Library, Farmer's Market, Rte. 102 and Rte. 41 and Swamp Road.

The Board agreed to give permission to post their signs.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Krouss.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Kathleen Yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator