



Select Board

21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge, Mass. 01266

Tel. (413) 232-0300 x319

Fax. (413) 232-7195

E-mail: admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Select Board Meeting Minutes December 18, 2023

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

Kathleen opened the meeting at 6 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the minutes from October 12, 2023 and December 4, 2023.

All were in favor, minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

Rich Pfeiffer and Joanna Yurman told the Board that they have formed a concerned citizen group with West Stockbridge and Richmond residents that are affected by the odor coming from Wiseacre Farm. Their group is called the Neighbors Advocating for Fresh Air (NAFA). Rich encouraged the Select Board to make an active effort to hire a professional consultant to review the mitigation plans from Wiseacre Farm.

Richmond Select Board Member, Neal Pilson and his Board are in full support of their concerned residents and would like the West Stockbridge Select Board to resolve the odor issues as quickly as possible.

Appointment of Michael Murray to the Conservation Commission:

Conservation Commission Chair, Kathy Korte said that the Commission has a member that has resigned and requested that Michael Murray be appointed to the Commission to take that position.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to appoint Michael Murray as Conservation Commission member.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Fire Department Update: Chief Steve Traver

Chief Traver stated that the Fire Department has been very busy this past year. Last year at this time they had 224 calls and as of today they have had 292. Engine 2 has been out for repairs and he hopes to get that truck back this week.

Steve encouraged the Board to include him in any discussions involving a possible shared fire department with Lee and Stockbridge.

Annual Entertainment License for Heirloom Lodge:

Andy Potter made note that this Entertainment License states a location in the dining room so this would be an indoor only license.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve an Annual Entertainment License for Heirloom Lodge.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Dissolve Shared Human Resource Manager Agreement: Marie Ryan, Town Administrator Marie explained that the Shared Human Resource Manager, Sophia Beltsos, was hired for 4 hours a week in West Stockbridge. She worked for 6 months this past year in West Stockbridge, establishing an Employee Handbook and Policies and Procedures booklet. She also completed a majority of the job descriptions for the employees as well. Sophia was offered a full-time position in Great Barrington. The Great Barrington Town Manager, Mark Pruhenski, has requested that each of the remaining Towns vote to dissolve the Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) for the Shared Human Resource Manager.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to dissolve the IMA for the Shared Human Resource Manager.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Municipal Broadband Institute (MBI) Update: Andy Krouss

Andy Krouss noted that Robert Ireland, Berkshire Regional Planning Representative for MBI to West Stockbridge, has been busy researching all addresses in West Stockbridge that are currently not served by broadband or are unserved, where the internet speeds are inadequate.

Andy encouraged all residents to contact Robert if they have any issues with their internet. The more information Robert receives, the stronger the case he can make to the state on our behalf to receive grant money and assistance for improved broadband in the area.

Community Preservation Funds for Moscow Road property Development:

Kathleen explained to the Board that the Town received Shared Streets Grant money for a design to develop the Town owned land on Moscow Road. A few years ago, at the Town's request, Gregori Fateyev, architect and owner of Art Forms Architecture, submitted a design but the development did not go forward at the time. Kathleen would like to ask him to pick up the design work where it had been left off and offer a second direction so that the Town could have an alternative. She would then like to submit these designs in an application for Community Preservation money to get this area developed into a park. She will include the Parks and Recreation Committee as well. Andy and Andy were both in agreement to proceed. The Board will review early January any plans that are given to Kathleen.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter informed the board that he is working on several articles for the Annual Town Meeting warrant. These articles will help with taxes for seniors and low-income families in Town.

Kathleen discussed GE's proposed transportation route of PCB waste from the Housatonic River clean up. The proposed truck routes to transport the waste from clean up points along the River include passage through West Stockbridge to New York State. Rail is not currently being proposed as a viable method of transporting the toxic materials. The Board expressed concern about PCBs coming through West Stockbridge, either on the Turnpike or local roads. Kathleen will keep the Board updated as new information on this issue becomes available.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to adjourn at 6:53 PM.
Kathleen and Andy Krouss were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator