



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes January 18, 2022

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

Others Present: Police Chief Marc Portieri, Director of Public Works, Curt Wilton and Steve Mack from Foresight Land Services.

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

Hazard Mitigation Plan – Steve Mack, Foresight Land Services

Steve Mack stated that the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town is a requirement for each Town to enable them to qualify for grants through FEMA and MEMA. This plan reviews possible threats and contains recommendations to minimize the effects of different hazardous events by category. This plan is meant to be reviewed, revisited and changed by the Town as often as needed. In the back of the Plan is a summary of all the possible hazards and recommended actions for West Stockbridge and a separate section throughout the Plan with expanded information on each type of hazard. There are currently two bridge listed which require replacement/repair for capital planning in the future located at West Center Road bridge (5 year plan) and Cone Hill Road bridge (3 year plan). Steve said this Plan could be used for Capital Planning for the Town working along with the Hazard Mitigation Committee to prioritize projects.

Roger asked Steve if this document could be used by the Emergency Management Director. Steve responded that this document can be used as a guideline for the process during a hazardous event for the Director. The Director could create a shorter document from this Plan.

Eric thanked Steve for creating this useful document in a short time frame.

Eric made a motion, seconded by Roger, to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan of 2021.

Roll call vote:

Roger Yes

Kathleen Yes

Eric Yes

Plan Adopted.

TurnPark Annual Entertainment License – Jared Gelormino, Manager

Marie mailed notices to all abutters of TurnPark to notify them of the discussion and vote tonight on the Annual Entertainment License for TurnPark. She did not receive any comments, calls or letters in return about this license.

Truc Nguyen asked Jared if there will be a cut off time for ending the music and Jared replied that most events are planned to end early, about 8:30-9 PM. He stated they only plan on holding one large event in June for the summer solstice which will go until about 10 PM.

Curt Wilton asked Jared to maintain control of the parking situation during the events. Curt said in the past they have done a good job on Moscow Road with parking and requested them to continue this way. Jared hopes to improve the parking situation by adding temporary lighting as well as more signage.

Roger told the Board that he felt that since the Foundry has restrictions on their Entertainment License that possibly the same restrictions should be attached to the License for TurnPark. Eric disagreed. He felt that the restrictions attached to the Entertainment License for the Foundry were created by the two attorneys involved in the conflict during the Special Permit Process. There was no public process in the creation of those restrictions, nor did the Select Board have any role in shaping them, and they should not apply to other Licensees. Kathleen agreed with Eric. Eric explained that the Town has been working on creating a new and more substantial noise bylaw that will allow all businesses (and residents) to have a clear and uniform set of rules to adhere to, and give our Police Chief a clear method of enforcement. Public input and a majority vote at the Annual Town Meeting are critical to this process.

Eric made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the Annual Entertainment License for TurnPark.

Roll call vote:

Roger Yes

Kathleen Yes

Eric Yes

Motion Passed.

Traffic issue in Town – Kathleen Keresey and Police Chief Marc Portieri

Kathleen expressed her continued concerns in regards to truck traffic and speeding throughout the Town that is an issue of safety as well as quality of life. Marc was asked to respond with his thoughts on how to best deal with these issues.

Marc explained that the Town normally has one officer working per shift and that officer does

some traffic patrol but has all the other responsibilities to attend to as well while on shift. He does understand the frustration in Town with speeders. Once they know where the radar is set up they slow down then speed up after they go by. He also stated that due to the noise that the large trucks make, it sounds like they are speeding but they really are not. Marc said he is open to whatever process the Board would like him impose but it will be difficult with only one officer per shift. Eric explained that they all need to work together and come up with some solutions. There is a quality of life and safety issue that needs attention. Roger and Eric suggested that Marc include in his budget a line item for an extra officer each shift or a portion of each shift to just do traffic patrol, possibly during the busiest traffic hours. Roger suggested the use of the Part Time officers that do not want to attend the Bridge Academy to cover some shifts. Marc had previously mentioned that those officers would be given hours strictly for patrol. The Board agreed there is an issue that needs a solution and that if it requires a cost then the Town should try it for a year and see if it helps with the traffic issues.

Kathleen suggested using the traffic study that was completed in October 2020 on Main Street to determine a time frame for when the Officers should patrol Main Street. The Board discussed non-enforcement traffic calming as well such as speed bumps. These speed bumps would be seasonal. Curt cautioned the Board about placement of these speed bumps. He suggested a large community meeting for input in regards to the location of them due to the noise and possible complaints by the residents. He felt that once you get the community input then that is something the Town could install and see how that works.

Eric requested that the Board and Marc try to embrace some “out-of-the-box” thinking and come up with some innovative to address these problems, and the Board will revisit this issue in a month.

Special Permit Process – Roger Kavanagh

Roger requested to table this agenda item until the next meeting. The Board agreed to table this item.

Right of Way – Town Aquifer – Roger Kavanagh

Roger shared his screen to show a map of the Town Aquifer which is on two separate Town owned parcels of land (T1 and T2) off of Swamp Road. The parcel labeled T2 is approximately 9.6 acres and includes a right of way easement that was conveyed to the Town in 1994. This right of way is restricted for use of the Town well. The T1 parcel was deeded to the Town in 1995 however, that deed did not include any language in regards to an easement or right of way. Roger explained that Town Counsel has suggested that the Town add an easement to the language of the deed for parcel T1 to make it a clean deed for permeant access to parcel T1.

Eric made a motion, seconded by Roger, to add language to the deed for parcel T1 for an access easement of parcel T1 to parcel T2.

Roll Call Vote:

Roger Yes

Kathleen Yes

Eric Yes

Motion passed.

Roger will begin looking into another right of way located on Lenox Road. He currently has information from the Assessor’s Office and will get a letter together with his information to send

to Town Counsel to review soon.

Approval of Minutes:

Eric made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the minutes from November 15, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Roger	Yes
Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes

Eric made a motion, seconded by Roger to approve the minutes from December 13, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen	Abstain – Not present at that meeting
Roger	Yes
Eric	Yes

Eric made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the minutes from January 3, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Roger	Yes
Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes

Town Administrator Update:

Marie informed the Board that the Town approved \$10,000 to purchase Moscow Road property at the Annual Town Meeting in 2018. The Town also, approved an additional \$12,000 for additional closing costs of the Moscow Road property purchase. To date, the Town has paid Town Counsel \$1000 and Foresight Land Services \$\$6741.75 leaving an approximate remaining amount of \$16,853. Roger had inquired about the additional costs and how much had been spent to date. Roger's concern was whether or not that additional cost was suppose to pay the legal fees for National Grid, which is what he believes that Town Counsel stated. Marie will look further into the matter and get back to the Board.

Marie asked the Board if they would like her to mail out the Town Reports this year as some residents requested last year. Marie explained that previously the Town had 800-1000 copies mailed out to the residents of which more than half were placed in the recycle bins at the Post Office. Last year Marie purchased 500, handed them out at Town meeting and Town Election and still had about 100 left over. After a short discussion, the Board and Marie agreed to stay with the process used last year but to also mail out postcards to the residents to notify them that the books are available and where to pick one up or request one be mailed to them. Marie will mail the postcards out around April 1st.

Marie explained that the Police Union, which was official in October 2020, currently does not have a contract. The Town will begin contract negotiations the week of February 7th. The Board asked Roger to work with Marie on the Union Contract.

Select Board Speak:

Roger reminded the board that it is time to complete Marie's annual review. He asked the Board to think about how they would like to proceed with that and discuss the process at the next meeting.

Citizen Speak:

Amy Brentano, owner of the Foundry, asked the Board why they did not put any restrictions on the Annual Entertainment License for TurnPark, similar to the ones placed on the Foundry's Entertainment License. Eric reiterated that the restrictions on her Entertainment License were a product of a private negotiation, and not something that the Board created, nor that a public process approved. The Board does not want to unilaterally place unvetted restrictions on all the licenses. Eric reiterated that the Town hopes to have a new bylaw voted on at the Annual Town Meeting to address all noise issues in town. The result of that public process should apply to everyone equally.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 PM, seconded by Roger.

Roll call vote;

Roger Yes

Kathleen Yes

Eric Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents:

-Minutes from November 15, December 13, 2021 and January 3, 2022

-Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021

-Annual Entertainment License Application from TurnPark

-Right of Way information on Town Aquifer