



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes January 2, 2024

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 stated the December 18, 2023 minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Kathleen explained the protocol for citizens in attendance who would like to speak during the meeting. No person is allowed to speak until recognized by the Chair. She would like this process followed so that no one is speaking out of turn or interrupting the Board members. Meetings are for the Select Board to do the business of the Town, although she will welcome comments, but the procedures and order should be followed.

Citizen Speak:

Curt Wilton, Moscow Road resident, requested that the Board not reverse their original vote for the hours noted on the Entertainment License for TurnPark to end amplified music at 9 PM.

At this time, Kathleen informed the Board that Jared Gelormino, TurnPark Manager, has requested a postponement of discussion of the agenda item for this meeting in regard to changes to the TurnPark Entertainment License for 2024.

Mitchell Greenwald, Great Barrington Road resident, said the following Entertainment Licenses were approved in the past to TurnPark;

2021	1-Day event
2023	Annual License for 3 days/week 1PM- 10PM
2024	Annual License for Monday through Saturday from 5 PM- 9 PM

Mitch noted the TurnPark was required to get a Special Permit when they opened, which they did. Their Special Permit was approved in 2015 for a museum and restaurant. He suggested that TurnPark may be required to get a new Special Permit to include the type of events they now hold on the property.

Barry Girdler, Oak Street resident, spoke in regard to the agenda item for Michael Bolognino requesting a one-day Liquor License. Barry stated that he believes Michael would need a Special event permit to hold this ticketed function at their home.

Michael Bolognino – One-Day Liquor License:

Michael stated that he and his husband, Nick, intend on hosting a Fancy Fest Dinner Party on February 17, 2024. All food is prepared off-site and brought in. He has worked with the Board of Health Agent, Earl Moffatt and received a Special Event Permit from him. They plan on hosting up to 60 people. In regards to Barry Girdler's concerns, Andy Potter stated that Marie, Town Administrator, had asked the Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer, Brian DuVal, if he felt the event could be held at the home. Brian's opinion was that it was not a violation, but Andy asked for Brian to confirm.

Andy Potter stated that Kathleen was an abutter to Michael's property. Kathleen then stated that she felt she could be fair and impartial while voting on this matter.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the One-Day Liquor License contingent upon Michael clarifying the approval by the Building Inspector.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Property Tax Relief for Seniors – Sheila Thunfors:

Resident Sheila Thunfors and several other residents formed a small group to discuss concerns for the financial burden on senior residents due to property taxes. The group has spent many hours doing research on what exemptions are available to residents to help with some tax relief. The group primarily worked on gathering information on Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 41C and 41C ½. These laws could be adopted at Town Meeting and allow the senior residents to pay less in property taxes. There is an income requirement and an application must be submitted to the Assessors' office within the time allotted for this. Sheila stated that the group felt this could give relief to up to 60 households and would only add approximately an additional \$32 to all other households' tax bills in Town.

Sheila informed the Board that their group will be submitting a citizen petition to be on the Town Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. They will request that the Town adopt MGL chapter 4C ½ and also include an article to change MGL Chapter 41C, contingent upon MGL 41C ½ not passing.

The Board thanked them for all their hard work and suggested that they allow the Board to place that articles on the warrant. The group agreed.

The Board would like to work with them on this issue and hold a special meeting with the Assessors to review and go over all of this information. Marie will schedule a meeting for everyone in the near future.

Short Term Rental Impact Fees – Andy Potter:

Andy Potter wanted to bring up the subject of Short-Term Rental Impact Fees to the attention of the Board. These fees could go directly into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Dana Bixby, Planning Board Chair, stated that the Planning Board is reviewing this subject and may request to have a zoning change voted on at a Town Meeting. The Planning Board also

suggested that the Select Board create a bylaw change with administrative regulations and the two articles would work together.

Current Rooms Rate Tax – Andy Potter:

Andy stated that West Stockbridge currently has a rooms rate tax of 4% which has been in place since 1994. He would like an article to increase this to 6% for the Annual Town Meeting.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Krouss thanked everyone in attendance for being civil and polite throughout the meeting.

Andy Potter echoed Andy Krouss and hopes that this will continue throughout the budget season as well.

Kathleen stated that she will be attending a meeting tomorrow about the proposed removal of toxic waste from the Housatonic River. She will keep the Board updated as new information becomes available.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to adjourn at 7:11 PM.
All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator