



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes January 23, 2023

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

Others Present: Rachel Alter, Town Librarian and Donald Taggart, National Grid Representative.

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

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the minutes from January 9, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Andy Krouss Yes

Motion Approved.

Citizen Speak:

None

Berkshire Velo Bike Club: Phil Gentile, Member

Phil Gentile requested permission from the Select Board to host a recreational bike ride on Saturday, April 22nd starting between 10 a.m. and noon. They have held this event which begins on Moscow Road for the past couple of years. This is a self-guided bike ride with approximately 100 riders.

Kathleen made a motion to approve permission for the bike event to be held on April 22nd beginning on Moscow Road, seconded by Andy Potter.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Andy Krouss Yes

Motion Approved.

Library Update: Rachel Alter, Town Librarian

Rachel reported that the attendance and use of the library is almost back to pre-pandemic levels. There has been a lot of traffic through the library this past year. The Community Health Children's Play Group Program has been meeting in the Library on Monday mornings which promotes use of the Library by new young families. Rachel also The Library has a high school intern, Francesca, who has been a tremendous help and will be earning community service credit for her work. The Friends' of the Library have been a huge help with the book sale and supporting the use of museum passes. Overall, Rachel is happy to report that the Library is thriving.

Pole Location on Baker Street by National Grid: Donald Taggart, Representative

Don explained to the Board that there is a requirement to place 8-9 poles on Baker Street to supply electricity to the new Wiseacre Farm. They will place the poles on both sides of the road to minimize tree trimming. Kathleen asked if there was any consideration of placing the lines underground. Don stated that trying to place the wires underground would be extremely expensive, would take a lot of time and could present an issue if any portion of the lines have to go in wetlands. Don said that the best option is to place the wires overhead on the poles.

Andy Potter made a motion to approve the pole location by National Grid on Baker Street as requested, seconded by Kathleen.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Kathleen Yes

Motion Approved.

Select Board Speak:

Kathleen reported that it has been a busy week in the Town. There was a fire at the Amici Restaurant and she thanked the Fire Department, Police Department and the Highway crew for all their work during this event. She also mentioned that there were up to 15 other towns that responded as mutual aid and she thanked them all for their support. Kathleen thanked the Highway crew, who did a terrific job taking care of the roads during the recent storm keeping everyone safe. There was also a water main break on Swamp, Road Curt Wilton and Mark Viola got the water running within a couple of hours.

Andy Potter gave an update to the Board in regards to the 8 Town School District Planning Board. He informed the Board that the Planning Board is expecting to ask each Town to hold a Special Town Meeting in the Fall of 2023 when they feel they will have all the information needed to go forward on a vote to merge the school districts. There will be a monkey survey posted on the Town website to get input on the name for the new district.

Andy reported that the Complete Streets working group will be meeting on Thursday at 10 AM to discuss the 15 ranked projects. He will update the Board at the next meeting. He also stated that there will be a meeting on Tuesday, January 24th at Town Hall at 6 PM for anyone interested in working on the Zucchini Festival which he plans to. Marie, do you want to mention that he told us the budget is still being worked on, etc.

Andy Krouss told the Board that he and Joe Roy are working on collecting more information about broadband in West Stockbridge. The Town currently does not have adequate

broadband coverage for our residents. Their next step will be to reach out to Smitty Pigantelli. to assist them in a process that will increase coverage. He will keep the Board updated.

Andy Potter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Krouss at 6:44 PM.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Andy Krouss Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator