



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes January 9, 2023

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

Others Present: Building Commissioner Brian DuVal, Police Chief Marc Portieri and newly appointed Part-Time Police Officer Nate Sermini.

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

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the minutes from December 15 and December 19, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

Motion Approved.

Citizen Speak:

None

Building Commissioner Brian DuVal Update:

Brian reported that inspections have been slow but that he has been busy with zoning enforcement violations in the past few months. He informed the Board that the State adopted new guidelines requiring the use the International Building Code standards in all municipalities in Massachusetts. The Town will need updated International Building code books, which will add about \$600 to Brian's FT24 budget.

Andy Potter asked Brian what his Town Hall office hours were. Brian responded that all permitting is completed in the online permitting system on the website, therefore, he has no set hours. However, by request, he will meet with people by appointment at Town Hall. Andy also inquired about the zoning enforcement complaint process. Brian explained the process as follows:

- A written complaint is received.
- Verification is completed that the person complaining has standing to file a complaint and that the complaint is creditable.
- Notification is sent to the complainant that Brian will be either begin an investigation or not.
- The property owner gets a written notification of the violation.
- The property owner has 30 days to either correct the violation or appeal.

The Board thanked Brian for his update.

Police Department Update and Appointment of Nate Sermini as Part-Time Officer:

Police Chief Marc Portieri gave an update of the Police Department from the past year. The Department has been very busy this past year. He stated that arrests, motor vehicle stops, fire calls, domestic abuse calls, disabled vehicle calls and road hazard calls were all up from the previous year.

Chief Portieri reported that the funding for traffic calming still has a balance to be used. This is due to new training requirements and staffing issues the past few months. The department began last year with 11 officers and currently has only 6. With only 6 officers remaining, shifts are not as easily filled to allow officers to attend trainings or work on traffic calming.

There have been new traffic control speed signs posted on Great Barrington Road which seem to be very effective. There have been a few complaints about the flashing lights by some residents which he and Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works, will address by changing the placement of the signs.

Chief Portieri introduced Nate Sermini to the Board. Nate has worked in other local towns and has the experience and personality that Marc feels would be a good fit in West Stockbridge. Nate introduced himself to the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to serve in West Stockbridge. Marc requested that the Board appoint Nate as a Part-Time Police Officer.

Andy Potter made a motion, 2nd by Andy Krouss to appoint Nate Sermini as a Part-Time Police Officer for West Stockbridge.

Roll call Vote:

Andy Potter	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes
Kathleen	Yes

Motion Approved.

Vision Committee Update- Joe Roy, Jr.

Joe stated that the Vision Committee meets once a month and has been discussing many topics. Some of these topics include:

- Sound Control/possible sound ordinance
- Traffic, pedestrian, parking & crosswalk safety
- Livability in West Stockbridge
- Ways to sustain residents, young and old
- Improvement of education due to the pandemic
- Coordinate with all Boards/Committees
- Indexing/listing of all permits needed in various zoning districts

Joe stated that there are two major items he wanted to bring before the Board today;

1. Negative effects that the pandemic has had on the education in the schools
2. EV charging stations in town

Joe informed the Board that the Vision Committee is requesting feedback from the Select Board if they have any interest in either of these topics for further research. If the Select Board is interested, the Vision Committee is happy to research further and bring information back to the Board.

The Vision Committee would like to get information on how the schools are handling the education effects due to the pandemic. The Committee suggested that the Select Board have a meeting with the School Committee Representatives from West Stockbridge, School Superintendent Peter Dillon and the principals at the schools to see what is being done and what the towns could do to assist. The Board agreed this was a good idea and will do so in the near future.

Vision Committee member, Thom Lipinsky, has completed some research on EV charging stations and related that the cost will be approximately \$6,000-\$10,000 per station, which does not include the electrician costs. The stations would need to be located on Town property and have a specific type of electrical pole. There is still more research to be done. The Board agreed that this could be a good idea but they had concerns about the financial impact on the tax payers. The Board agreed they need more solid information before bringing this to a town meeting vote.

Kathleen mentioned that this type of project fits well with the planning being done by the Master Plan Committee, Complete Streets and Community Preservation Committee. She suggested that all the Committees keep working together.

Joe thanked the Board for their time and looks forward to continued productive meetings like this one.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Krouss informed the Board that Marie has submitted an application through Berkshire Regional Planning that will allow for more progress in Western Massachusetts on the broadband issues. He would also like to have the new HR person attend a meeting and give the Board for an update.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Potter at 7:05 PM.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator