



Select Board

21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge, Mass. 01266-0525

Tel. (413) 232-0300 x319

Fax. (413) 232-7195

E-mail: admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Select Board Meeting Minutes July 24, 2023

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

Others Present: Police Chief Marc Portieri

Marie called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Marie asked for a nomination for the position of Select Board Chair. Andy Potter nominated Andy Krouss for the position of Chair, there was no second. Andy Krouss nominated Kathleen for the position. Kathleen 2nd and accepted. All were in favor.

Zoning Board of Appeals Request for Town Counsel:

The Zoning Board of Appeals has requested assistance from Town Counsel during their Public Hearing on July 24 regarding the Building Inspector's decision on the Foundry's Special Permit requirements.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to approve the use of Town Counsel Jonathan Eichman for the Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Kathleen made a motion seconded by Andy Potter to approve the minutes from July 10, 2023. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

Sheila Thunfors read a letter in regards to the Town healing after a contentious election cycle. She hopes that everyone can work together and get along.

Tom Lipinsky, member of the Vision Committee, stated that the Committee has been gathering information about Electric Vehicle charging stations. He asked the Board if they want the

Committee to continue the process. Kathleen stated that this needs to be an agenda item to be able to discuss. Marie will place this as an agenda item on a Select Board meeting.

TurnPark request for One Day Liquor License on August 11, 2023 – Jared Gelormino, Manager

Jared requested approval from the Board for a One Day Liquor License for a Comedy Night at TurnPark on August 11, 2023. They expect 75-100 people to attend. Jared will have a parking attendant to assist with parking the cars. Andy Potter asked if there will be amplified sound and music and Jared responded yes, it will be amplified but there will not be music and the show should run from 7 PM until 9:30 PM.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve a One Day Liquor License for the TurnPark event on August 11, 2023. All were in favor, motion approved.

Police Department Update – Chief Marc Portieri

Chief Portieri handed out a sheet to the Board with the following statistical information on the Police Department activity for 2023 to date.

The Chief stated that the Department has been extremely busy this year. There has been an increase in heroin issues which concerns him.

The weekend of August 10-12 will be very busy in Town and all officers will need to be working. On August 10th, the Crane Lake Camp will be closing which will create a lot of traffic throughout that day, August 11th will be the TurnPark event which will require a Police Officer for traffic and safety issues, and finally on August 12th is the Zucchini Festival, which will also require several Police Officers on duty. The Department has been working on Traffic Calming with an extra officer working 4 hour shifts during the day to address different traffic violations throughout the Town.

Andy Potter inquired about the percentage of Mutual Aid calls that are from Richmond. Marc stated that about half of them are Richmond calls. Andy Potter suggested that the Board try to have a joint meeting with the Richmond and, possibly, Alford Select Boards to discuss sharing Police resources. The Board agreed and will try to set up a meeting for a discussion.

Marc then handed the Board a letter and information on the status of the Police Chief's salary. The letter requests an increase that is comparable to other Chiefs' in the surrounding towns. He requests that the Board read through the material and discuss it at the next meeting.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter informed the board that the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board voted to approve a draft regional agreement which supports the merger of the two school districts. The next steps will include a State review of the agreement for any changes, presentation of the agreement to the 8 Towns' Select Boards and finally a Special Town Meeting in each of the 8 Towns for a vote for the merger in the fall.

Andy Potter has been working on a document of FAQ's (frequently asked questions) which he hopes to have the proper departments review and then have available on the Town website.

Kathleen has worked with Marie and Curt to create a list of tasks to be worked on with different people responsible for each task. She will update it and bring to a Select Board meeting for discussion.

Kathleen thanked Sheila Thunfors' for her letter and hopes that everyone can begin working together for the sake of the Town. Andy Potter agreed that when you work in the public life, there is always an assumption of good intent which is needed.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Potter at 6:46 PM.
All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator