



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes March 25, 2024

Quorum present: Select Board Members; Kathleen Keresey (Remotely attended), Chair, Andrew Krouss, Andrew Potter, and Town Administrator Marie Ryan.

Kathleen opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter to approve the minutes from March 11, 2024.

All were in favor, minutes approved.

Dog Park Location Discussion- Michael Bolognino

The Committee received a \$25,000 grant to hire Berkshire Design Group to assist with finding a location and to create the design for a dog park. Michael informed the Board that the Dog Park Advisory Committee hired Berkshire Design Group to review 4 different possible location for a dog park in West Stockbridge. The four locations are; Card Pond, old landfill on Oak Street, between the cemeteries on Albany Road and at Town Hall. After using the following criteria; size, noise, environmental impact, site character, site infrastructure, safe location, accessible location and compatible with adjacent land uses, the Committee determined the best location would be at Town Hall. Michael presented two concept options for the Town Hall location. Concept A shows a location behind the tennis courts requiring clearing of brush and a few trees. Concept B shows a location that is behind the tennis courts and partial clearing and a portion of the dog park located into the area of the soccer field. This would require a shift of the soccer field.

Kathleen mentioned that over the years, various town officials and committee members had suggested that it could potentially be a location for affordable housing and that she thought that that should still be a consideration. After some discussion in regard to using this area at Town Hall for affordable housing, Andy Potter and Kathleen stated that using this area for housing not been defined at this time.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the Dog Park Advisory

Committee to proceed with their plans for a dog park at Town Hall in the location of Concept A.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Resolution on Paint Stewardship Legislation- Tom Irwin

Tom requested that the board support the Paint Stewardship Legislation. This legislation would allow for residents to return all unused and unwanted paint to any retail store in Massachusetts for no fee regardless of where and when they purchased the paint. Customers would pay a small fee when they purchase the paint to pay for this program. Tom stated that the retailers and distributors in the state also have supported this legislation.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen to support the Paint Stewardship Legislation.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Resolution for Municipal Empowerment- Andy Potter

Andy Potter read the following Municipal Empowerment Act and requested that the Board vote to endorse it;

We wholeheartedly and enthusiastically endorse Governor Healey's bill titled "An Act Empowering Municipalities and Local Governments," also known as The Municipal Empowerment Act. This legislation, a result of advocacy from local municipal leaders, aims to enhance efficiency and effectiveness within Massachusetts' municipalities.

The proposed changes outlined in The Municipal Empowerment Act will streamline collaboration between local and state governments, making it easier for them to serve Massachusetts residents. These changes include logical reforms to state programs and rules, such as adjusting procurement rules to increase thresholds for competitive bids and allowing communities to raise local meals and lodging taxes through local options.

West Stockbridge, like many other cities and towns across the Commonwealth, is experiencing significant cost increases that surpass our yearly revenue growth. Granting the Town the ability to generate additional revenue locally will be crucial as we strive to bolster our financial stability.

As municipal leaders dedicated to supporting our residents and finding solutions to preserve local services, we kindly urge your support for the Municipal Empowerment Act. Given the pressing budget constraints faced by communities statewide, it's imperative that the Massachusetts State Senate and House of Representatives swiftly and favorably advance this legislation to assist local leaders.

We appreciate your time, attention, and consideration of the Municipal Empowerment Act. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen to support the Municipal Empowerment Act.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Approval

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter to approve the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Krouss reminded everyone that there are two great events coming up, the 250th Anniversary of the Town Celebration in July and the Zucchini Festival in August. He hopes that everyone will attend these events.

Andy Potter congratulated the Monument Mountain Regional High School Drama Department for their fantastic job with their performance of this year's musical, "Once Upon a Mattress".

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to adjourn open session and enter into executive session and not to return to open session.

Executive session pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; Housatonic Water Company.

and

Anticipated executive session in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A Paragraph 21 (a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, as meeting in open session would have a detrimental impact on the Board's negotiating position (Police Chief Contract and Director of Public Works Contract)

Roll Call vote to enter into executive session and not return into Open Session.

Kathleen Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Andy Krouss Yes

Open Meeting Adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator