



Select Board

21 State Line Road PO Box 525 West Stockbridge, Mass.
01266-0525

Tel. (413) 232-0300 x319

Fax. (413) 232-7195

E-mail: admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Select Board Meeting Minutes October 19, 2020 Via Zoom Meeting

Open Meeting

Quorum present: Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Eric Shimelonis, Select Board Member, Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Member, and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

Others Present: Marc Portieri, Police Chief and Rosario Messina, Police Sergeant.

Roger opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. He stated that the warrants were signed by a quorum and he made a motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2020. Eric seconded and a roll call vote was made:

Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes
Roger	Yes

Motion passed.

Town Administrator Update:

- Albany Road Cell Tower update – Town Counsel has been working with Charter's attorney to undo changes they made to forms that can't be changed per Mass General Law. He is confident that these changes will be made and that they will come to agreement on the terms of the land lease.
- Moscow Road Property with National Grid – Town Counsel Kate Klein is working with National Grid to clarify the easements they want on both sides of the overhead lines that border Moscow Road. Kathleen asked Marie to arrange a meeting with Kate to go through the details of the agreement.
- At the request of Fire Chief, Steve Traver, the Town will begin a new burn permit process in January. Burn permits will be requested using an online process. A phone number will be provided to enable residents who don't have access to the online system to call and request a burn permit. The new process eliminates the burn permit fee. Information about the new process will be posted on the Town website and in the Local Yokel.

Board of Health Update:

Board of Health Agent Earl Moffatt was not able to attend the meeting. This item will be rescheduled.

Traffic Safety Solutions- Police Chief Marc Portieri

Chief Portieri told the Board that he has changed the hours of the day shift to 7AM – 4PM. This will allow him to assign a patrol officer to monitor traffic on Main Street in the AM and PM when school buses are picking up and discharging children.

He offered two other suggestions for improving traffic safety on Main Street:

1. Add seasonal speed bumps.
2. Add new bright lime green crosswalk signage and lights.

He added that the crosswalks at Center Street and Main Street are not effective because they don't stand out and drivers don't notice them. He suggested painting them so they look more like other crosswalks and drivers will be more likely to see them. After discussion about options for new signage and/or warning lights at the crosswalks, the Board asked Marc to work with Curt Wilton to develop solutions they could both support and to bring those to Marie for consideration by the Board.

Intermunicipal Agreement for Fire Chief with Richmond:

Roger reviewed several key items within the agreement and proposed that a copy of the agreement, along with two other intermunicipal agreements between West Stockbridge and Richmond, should be posted to the Town website.

A roll call vote was taken on a motion to post the agreements.

Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes
Roger	Yes

Motion passed.

Order of Taking of Silver Mine Lane:

Roger explained that the "Order of Taking of Silver Mine Lane was the last step in the process of making Silver Mine Lane a Town road. The article to take Silver Mine Lane as a Town road was approved at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

Roger made a motion to accept and approve the Order of Taking for Silver Mine Lane. Eric seconded and roll call vote was taken:

Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes
Roger	Yes

Motion passed.

Fleet Vehicles Policy – Green Communities – Eric Shimelonis

Eric explained to the Board that this is one of the steps that the Town needed to take to meet the requirements of the Green Community grant. He reviewed the key elements of the Fleet Vehicle policy, pointing out that the vehicles the Town currently owns (fire trucks, DPW trucks, Police cruisers) are all exempt from this policy but if the Town were to purchase a fleet vehicle in the future it would have to meet the efficiency guidelines in the Policy.

After Board discussion, Eric made a motion to accept the Fleet Vehicle Policy, Kathleen seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes
Roger	Yes

Motion passed.

Host Community Agreement – Potential next steps

This item was a follow up to the discussion at the October 5, 2020, Board meeting about a Host Community Agreement for a retail marijuana establishment. Roger proposed that the Board begin working on developing a Host Community Application and Process so that the Town would be prepared to deal with vendors who may approach the Town in the future looking to establish a Host Community Agreement for a marijuana establishment.

He added that the HCA Application that was in the Board packet for tonight's meeting was a sample provided by Town Counsel that could possibly be used "as is" or modified by the Board to become the West Stockbridge HCA application. Kathleen and Eric both agreed that the sample document was very comprehensive and supported the idea of reviewing the document at future meetings and finalizing a version that would be adopted as the standard HCA application for West Stockbridge.

Noise Ordinance Bylaw:

While there was discussion at the last Select Board meeting about adding an updated Noise Ordinance to the warrant for the Special Town meeting on Nov 18, the Board agreed that this wasn't feasible. As an alternative, the Board agreed that forming a citizen's committee to take on the task of updating the Noise Bylaw would be a good approach. They also asked Marie to contact Town Counsel and ask if they had sample noise by-laws that could be used to help with the Noise by-law update process.

Select Board Speak –

Roger said that the process of ordering items that had been approved as part of the Shared Streets and Spaces grant revealed that the Town might need to think about getting a Town Credit Card to use when ordering from on-line vendors. Since this was not on the agenda for this meeting he said it would be a discussion item for the next meeting.

Citizen Speak –

Frank Landsberger's comments:

- Credit card/debit card is a good idea but would need a process in place.
- A light activated by pedestrians at the Main Street crosswalk would work great
- The town should talk to National Grid about putting utility wires underground as part of the Moscow Road purchase
- The Town should use electronic signatures for documents if possible

Joe Roy, Jr.'s comments:

- He thinks the cannabis entrepreneur who spoke at the last Board meeting wanted the Town to commit to an HCA before giving a detailed proposal, so he is happy the Select Board is taking their time to create an HCA application and process.
- The Town needs to evaluate the need for a Town credit card.

Roger made a motion to adjourn, Eric seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes
Roger	Yes

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marie V. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents: Intermunicipal Agreement with Richmond for Fire Chief
Order of Taking for Silver Mine Lane
Fleet Vehicle Policy for Green Communities
Host Community Agreement sample from Town Counsel