



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes October 5, 2020 21 State Line Road, Town Hall

Open Meeting

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

Others Present: Curt Wilton, DPW Director, Marc Portieri, Police Chief and Joe Roy.

Roger opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. He said the warrants were signed and he made a motion to approve the minutes of September 14 and September 16, 2020. Eric seconded and all were in favor.

Town Administrator Update:

- Marie told the Board that she has added the State's COVID-19 update to the Town website. She will update the website as new updates are received.
- She will be applying for a Community Compact IT Grant to offset the costs of cleaning up the server area in the basement.
- The State Elections Division has worked with the vendors that provide election voting equipment and is allowing the Towns to purchase a spare voting machine for only \$150. She has accepted the offer and will purchase the spare machine which was already on site as a spare for the upcoming elections.
- The Board of Health, Parks Commissioners, Police Department and Fire Department have advised the Town not have Trick or Treat this year. As an alternative, the Parks Commissioners will be holding a parade and a drive-thru Haunted House. The Select Board supported the decision.
- Marie proposed that the Board conduct all future Board meetings, at least through the winter months, as virtual meetings via Zoom beginning on October 19th. The Board agreed.
- Beth Sack, Library Trustees Chair, Rachel Alter, Librarian and Karen Williams, Town Treasurer, have agreed to bring the Library Accounts back into the control and oversight of the Town Treasurer and Accountant.

- The Intermunicipal Understanding for the Fire Chief with Richmond still has one issue to be resolved and Marie hopes to have a final copy for signatures at the next meeting.
- Bob Salerno clarified the statement on the agenda regarding the timing of the Audit report. He said the Town would be better served, particularly in the development of the annual budget, if the audit report was available by Jan 1 each year. The Board agreed. Marie will ask Accountant to notify the Auditor of this change.

Master Plan Agreement with Berkshire Regional Planning: Dana Bixby, Planning Board Chair, requested that the Board formally approve the structure and process she proposed for executing the Master Plan project.

After Board discussion, Roger made the following motion:

I make a motion that the Select Board approve the Master Plan organization proposed by Dana Bixby and authorize her to modify the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission consulting agreement as she sees fit.
He then took a roll call vote:

Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes
Roger	Yes

Bike Share Feasibility Study Agreement: Roger told the Board that he had been in touch with Eammon Coughlin, the Berkshire Regional Commission contact for the Bike Share study and had informed him that the Town's \$3,000 matching fund commitment was not funded in the FY21 budget. As such, the Town was withdrawing its commitment to participate in the Bike Share Study. After Board discussion, Roger made the following motion:

I move to rescind the motion passed by the Board at the September 9, 2020 meeting which stated that the Town would commit \$3,000 to fund its share of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Bike Share Feasibility Study and to authorize Town Counsel to draw up a letter to BRPC stating that West Stockbridge is withdrawing its funding commitment and will not be participating in the Bike Share Feasibility Study.
He then took a roll call vote:

Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes
Roger	Yes

Host Community Agreement: Roger stated that the Board had been contacted by Sean Sheridan, a cannabis entrepreneur, who asked to speak to the Board about developing a Host Community Agreement (HCA) for a cannabis retail store in West Stockbridge. He told Mr. Sheridan that the Board would listen to his proposal and then discuss next steps. He asked Mr. Sheridan to tell the Board about his business background and experience and to share his ideas about establishing a business in West Stockbridge.

Mr. Sheridan said that he had owned and operated a cannabis dispensary in Colorado. He said he was interested in West Stockbridge because of its location near the NY State line and the Mass Turnpike. There was a lengthy discussion about licensing, location, traffic and the Town's very restrictive marijuana bylaws. The Board members asked if Mr. Sheridan if he could provide any details about the business he is thinking about establishing in West

Stockbridge. He shared that he has a broad range of business ideas but nothing specific at this time. He said he would develop specifics if the Town was interested in working with him to develop an HCA.

Roger said that the next step for the Board would be to meet and begin discussions about developing a process and an HCA application, similar to those developed by other towns in Massachusetts, that would guide the Town and potential vendors through the development of an HCA. Mr. Sheridan thanked the Board for their time.

Special Town Meeting: Marie stated that there are a few items that needed to be acted on at a Town Meeting. Specifically, the approval of the Community Preservation Committee Bylaw, the re-appropriation of funds approved at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting for fire department Gear Racks to be used instead to purchase other essential fire department equipment, and corrections/amendment to Chapter 135 of the General Bylaws per the Building Inspector. The date proposed for a Special Town Meeting is Wednesday, November 18th at 6 PM. The Board approved the proposed date by roll call vote:

Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes
Roger	Yes

Select Board Speak:

Roger informed the Board that he spoke with the Attorney for Ivan Barros at Formel's Salvage in regards to the truck traffic on Great Barrington Road. Mr. Barros is willing to meet and discuss this issue but does not want to do it in an open session. Roger suggested that he and Curt could meet him. Eric and Kathleen said they were OK with that.

Kathleen reported that the Shared Streets and Spaces project is progressing well. Most of the restaurants have the items they requested but there is still more work to do and she is concerned about completing the project by the October 9 deadline. She asked the Board for assistance with the work that remains and Eric agreed to help out with whatever she needs.

Citizen Speak:

Joe Roy read a letter he had sent to the Board about a recent incident where a car turning into Center street kept executing the turn even though his children were crossing Main Street in the crosswalk to board the school bus which had its yellow lights flashing. He provided a picture of the incident captured by his store security camera and several other pictures illustrating the difficulty motorists have actually seeing a pedestrian in the crosswalk. He also spoke about drivers not observing the speed limit downtown. He suggested either speed bumps and/or additional police presence.

Kathleen stated that the Shared Streets grant program provides funds to be used for "traffic calming" and that she and Curt have discussed speed bumps. Curt agreed that seasonal speed bumps would be effective in slowing traffic but there is a risk of additional noise as large vehicles pass over them, so it would be prudent to have a discussion with business owners and residents in regards to this issue. Curt added that the best deterrent to speeding would be a reputation of WSPD ticketing speeders so drivers will drive slow through town.

Marc Portieri, Police Chief believes there are issues with this crosswalk that make it difficult for drivers to see. He said there has been an increase in traffic lately and he thinks a flashing sign

would help. A patrol car could help but there is really no place for them to park on Main Street to do this in order to be effective. His department is doing what they can right now to try to slow the traffic down going through Main Street.

Kathleen reminded the Chief that this isn't just a downtown issue and she would like to see traffic controlled on the streets outside of the center of Town as well. Marc said they do radar and observe on all the roads in Town.

After hearing from other citizens on this matter, Roger made a motion to adjourn, a roll call vote was taken. Roger, Kathleen and Eric were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents:
