



# Select Board

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## Select Board Meeting Minutes September 13, 2022

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

**Also Present:** Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works, Marc Portieri, Police Chief and Steve Traver, Fire Chief

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

### Approval of Minutes:

Kathleen asked to move the approval of the August 29, 2022 minutes to the next meeting.

### Citizen Speak:

Town Historian Bob Salerno noted that the Town will be 250 years old in 2024. He suggested that the Boards and Committees start work on organizing a celebration well in advance.

### Host Community Agreement with Wiseacre Farm:

Kathleen reported that she, Marie and Town Counsel have been working with Counsel for Jon Piasecki's Wiseacre Farm to create a Host Community Agreement (HCA) which has just been completed.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to approve and accept the Host Community Agreement between the Town and Wiseacre Farm as written on September 13, 2022.

All Select Board members voted to approve.

### Public Hearings – Time and Day of meetings:

Finance Committee Chair Bob Salerno stated that the Finance Committee at times held their FY23 budget meetings on weekday mornings because that is when most department heads were available to attend. There was discussion about holding any committee or board public

hearings after 5 PM on a weekday or on Saturday if possible.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, that the Town requests that all public hearings by any Board or Committee are to be held after 5 PM on any weekday or on a Saturday morning as appropriate.

All Select Board members voted to approve.

**8 Town Regional School District Planning Board Request for money:**

The 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board has requested an additional \$15,000 from each Town to assist with their costs. Town Account Elaine Markham suggested that, if the Board votes to pay this, it should be to take the money out of the Stabilization Fund. This would require a 2/3rds majority vote at a Special Town Meeting. Finance Committee Chair Bob Salerno agreed.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to add an article to the warrant for the October 6, 2022 Special Town Meeting to request taking \$15,000 out of the Stabilization Fund to be given to the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board.

All Select Board members voted to approve.

**Fire Department Update: Fire Chief Steve Traver**

Fire Chief Steve Traver informed the Board that the Fire trucks will be serviced next week. There has been an issue due to the recent drought with the fire hydrants. However, he said that there is plenty of water available using the tanker trucks.

Richmond has hired two EMTs, whose services will be shared by the two Towns. Steve had hoped to introduce them to the Board, but they were not available.

**Set date and time for Trick or Treat:**

Marie requested that the Board vote to set the date and time of Trick or Treat as October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4 PM – 6 PM.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to set the date for Trick or Treat as October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4 PM until 6 PM.

All Select Board members voted to approve.

**Posting Agenda Packet on the Website:**

Andy Potter suggested that the agenda packets be posted on the website prior to Select Board meetings for attendees to be able to review what the Select Board will be discussing in advance.

The Board agreed and Marie will begin doing this for each Select Board meeting.

## **Traffic Study on Great Barrington Road – Update by Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works**

Curt explained that the Town hired a firm to complete a Traffic Study on Great Barrington Road due to complaints of speeding and increased truck traffic on this road. The study was done on Wednesday, June 29th and Thursday, June 30th.

The study results showed that there are approximately 1450 vehicles per day using this road. Between the hours of 12 AM and 12 PM the truck traffic averaged approximately 5% of the total, and between 12 PM and 12 AM approximately 1.5%.

Curt reported that approximately 67% of all drivers exceeded the speed limit during the 48-hour time period studied.

Kathleen asked Chief Portieri how the traffic calming efforts were evolving, and Marc reported that the cruisers were – as much as possible – following the busses to and from the schools.

The Board asked Chief Portieri to continue to step up efforts to stop and warn, cite, or ticket drivers speeding in Town and on all roads within the Town limits.

Speeding and traffic control continue to be the main complaint received by the Select Board.

### **Select Board Speak:**

Andy Potter would like the Assessor's Clerk to attend a Select Board meeting for a discussion about the Senior Tax Abatement Program. Marie will set that up in the near future.

Andy Potter would also like to meet with the tenants of the Trail Park to discuss possible new ownership and overall concerns of residents of the Park.

### **Town Administrator Update:**

There will be a COVID vaccine and Flu shot clinic at the Town Hall on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM – 12PM. There is a flyer posted on the Town website with a link to sign up for an appointment.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Potter.

All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Marie Y. Ryan  
Town Administrator