



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 1 PM Meeting March 14, 2022

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

Eric called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and listed Select Board members present. This meeting began outside of the gym in the parking lot at Town Hall.

Eric began by stating that he will test several different sound levels of music and other sounds. A speaker was placed in the opening of the gym door turned sideways.

Eric played sounds of different genres of music, a chain saw and construction noises at the levels of 60, 65, 70 and 75 decibels. Everyone stood back about 40 feet from the door to hear the sounds. After this demonstration, everyone went into the gym for a discussion.

Eric asked the Board for their reactions to the different sound levels.

Roger stated that he believes the issue is not just the sound levels but a question of enforcement. Who will enforce this, where will they stand to measure it, how long will they need to take the measurement? He has reservations on creating a bylaw that may not be able to be enforced. Kathleen agrees with Roger in the context of enforcement. She also felt that 70 decibels sounded reasonable.

Eric stated that though there are certainly difficulties of enforcing a noise bylaw, that adopting clear limits would help venues and residents to "self-enforce." He went on to point out that we are a town of reasonable and considerate folks, and that no one is out to create an inhospitable atmosphere. If someone were to create a consistent and problematic noise problem, then enforcement would actually be much easier.

Eric made clear that he wrote this bylaw in response to our changing climates in town, but would personally rather the Town be able to move forward without a new bylaw. He feels it is the responsibility of the Board to put forward a comprehensive solution for consideration. The

important factor, he said, was to come to a consensus as a town, and for there to be a clear mandate either for a bylaw or against.

Marjorie Powell, resident, added that years ago she and her husband had an issue with the noise at Crane Lake Camp and it got worse every year. The noise has to be dealt with so that everyone is taken into consideration with creating a noise bylaw.

Truc Nugyen, resident and business owner, suggested that the Board is trying to push this bylaw through at Town Meeting too quickly. She would like to see the Board take time and do more research on the issue. The Board disagreed with Truc and said they have been working on this bylaw for months and have done a lot of research to draft this bylaw. Joe Roy, resident, agreed, he felt the Board was pushing this through too quickly. He would like to see the Board have more community input with community meetings on the issue.

After further discussion, the Board decided to not include the draft Noise Bylaw in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant but to have more community input, and to hold a special Town Meeting in the near future to include this bylaw. Joe Roy suggested that the Vision Committee could work on this draft bylaw and assist with community input to bring an updated draft before the Select Board in the near future to be placed on a Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Eric stated that the Board is advocating for all sides of this issue and thanked everyone for their input.

Eric made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathleen at 2:26 PM.

Roll call vote;

Roger Yes

Kathleen Yes

Eric Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie U. Ryan

Town Administrator