



Select Board

21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge, Mass. 01266

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**Select Board Hybrid Meeting
21 State Line Rd., West Stockbridge, MA
Monday, September 18, 2023**

6:00 PM

Open Meeting

1. Approval of Minutes from August 21 and September 5, 2023 meetings
2. Citizen Speak Time
3. Discussion/Business/Action items:
 - Discussion/Vote to hold Special Town Meeting on Monday, October 23, 2023
 - Discussion/Vote on setting Trick or Treat as Tuesday, October 31 from 4 PM- 6 PM – Marie
 - Discussion of methods of disseminating information to the Public
 - Discussion/Vote to join Berkshire Regional Transit Authority– Marie
4. Select Board Speak
5. Adjourn

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Sep 18, 2023 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: SB Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86861490244?pwd=UWR3N1pZN1BqUEdxMIBHV1IsRkFzZz09>

Telephone: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Webinar ID: 868 6149 0244

Passcode: 836707



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Select Board Meeting Minutes August 21, 2023

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

Others Present: Director of Public Works, Curt Wilton

Approval of Minutes:

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to approve the minutes from August 7, 2023.

Kathleen Keresey abstained and Andy and Andy were in favor. Minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

Curt Wilton suggested that the Board allow citizens to speak during the Board discussion of each agenda item if requested. He feels that people may have additional questions during the discussion prior to the Board voting on each agenda item. Kathleen stated that the Board would like to keep to the citizen speak time but agreed that there may be times that citizens may have additional questions and the Board will try to comply with requests if possible.

David Potter and David Ingles, both residents of Pixley Hill Road stated they have about the Complete Streets project that refers to the trail off of Pixley Hill Road. This project is to improve the current town-owned cleared area near the crossing of the Housatonic Rail Trail and Pixley Hill Road. Install bicycle parking, seating, and map board on poured concrete pad, placed at-grade. Improvements to the trail itself are not in the scope for this project. They would like to have community involvement in the discussion when this project is considered. Curt and the Board assured them that this project was not up for consideration for the grant application at this time and that in the future community outreach.

Josh Billings Runaground: Abby Chaput, Director

Abby Chaput introduced herself as the new Director of the Josh Billings. She requested approval from the Board for the race to go through the Town as it has in previous years. Director of Public Works, Curt Wilton, assured her that the Town roads are all in great shape to

host the race through West Stockbridge.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the use of Town roads for the 2023 Josh Billings Runaground.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Zucchini Festival Resolution: Andy Potter

The Board thanked Marge and all her staff for their hard work on this successful event for the Town. Andy made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to request that the Board acknowledge a resolution in regard to the work done on this event. He then read the attached resolution.

TurnPark One Day Liquor Licenses for two events: Jared Gelormino, Manager

Jared requested the Board approve two One-Day Liquor Licenses. One event is on September 1, 2023 from 7 PM-10 PM for a film screening to serve beer and wine only. The other event is on October 7, 2023 for a craft fair from 3 PM- 10 PM to serve all alcoholic drinks. Both events will use parking at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and will serve snacks and food. Curt Wilton and Police Chief Marc Portieri agree with the parking plan for the event.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the two One-Day Liquor Licenses for TurnPark on September 1 and October 7, 2023.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Appointment of Molly Meador as Library Trustee: Andy Potter

Andy Potter, Library Trustee, is requesting the Select Board appoint Molly Meador as a Library Trustee to fill the position left by the resignation of Sarah Scheaffer, until the next Annual Town Election when the position will be on the ballot. Molly will be appointed to fill the position until the election.

Molly introduced herself to the Board and thanked them for their consideration to be a Library Trustee.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to appoint Molly Meador as a Library Trustee until the next Annual Town Election.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Complete Streets Projects: Curt Wilton, Chair of Complete Streets Advisory Committee

Curt explained to the Board that the Committee has completed Tier 1 and 2 of the Complete Streets Grant. Tier 2 allowed the Committee to come up with 15 total projects that have since been approved by the State to be eligible for grant funding. The Committee would like to get four of the projects on the list submitted for grant funding for the October 1, 2023 deadline. They are asking the Board for approval. In the spring, the Committee will have community outreach to prioritize which remaining projects to submit for further funding. The four projects they would like to submit now are:

1 – Create traffic calming/gateway treatments at T-intersection of Swamp Rd and Main Street. Remove existing crosswalk pavement markings, add new curbing, and repair the

sidewalk. Install 2 new ADA-compliant curb ramps with new granite curbing. Install new painted crosswalk and stop line. Restore brick sidewalk and landscape areas.

3- Installation of 2 pole-mounted digital speed feedback signs along Lenox Road, approaching the thickly settled area toward the village center.

#7 - Based on high reported number of left-turn roadway departures when turning from Main Street in to Swamp Road, additional curb edge indication is proposed in the form of 2 decorative breakaway bollards within the existing paver sidewalk. Approximately 250 Ft of centerline extension lines will be installed to better guide turning movements.

15- Based on high reported number of left-turn roadway departures when turning from Main Street in to Swamp Road, additional curb edge indication is proposed in the form of 2 decorative breakaway bollards within the existing paver sidewalk. Approximately 250 Ft of centerline extension lines will be installed to better guide turning movements.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to approve the four projects, items numbered 1,3,7 and 15, to be submitted for funding through the Complete Streets Grant.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Affordable Housing Trust: Kathleen

Kathleen brought up the fact that the SB had asked that letters of interest for the Affordable Housing Trustees were to be submitted by August 1st. She had heard from a number of interested people who were not aware of the deadline, and she asked the board if they would be willing to open up the time for people to submit letters of interest. She felt that the time frame and the outreach approach did not allow for qualified people to submit their letter of interest.

After a Board discussion, Frank Landsberger, an applicant, stated he would like to withdraw his letter of interest.

Kathleen made a motion to extend the deadline and open up the time for additional applicants to send in their letter of interest. There was no second, motion failed.

Kathleen stated that the Board will appoint the members at their next meeting.

Housatonic Water Company: Kathleen

The Housatonic Water Company is requesting to increase their rates to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). They are holding an informational zoom meeting on Wednesday, August 23 at 6 PM and there will also be a Public Hearing about this at the Monument Mountain Regional High School Auditorium on September 26th at 7 PM. Information in regard to both meetings is on the Town website. Kathleen asked Andy Potter if he would be interested in working on this project if needed.

Update by Town Administrator: Marie Ryan

Marie updated the Board on the transportation for residents. She noted that the Annual Town Meeting approved money to purchase a new van, which she is in the process of purchasing. This van will be used by the Tri-town Connector. The Town of West Stockbridge has joined this program that provides rides for all residents for a very low fee. All the information about

this program is available on the Town website.

Marie provided a copy of an application to be used for any rent increase at the Trailer Park to the Rent Control Board (the Select Board) which Town Counsel created. The owner of the Trailer Park plans to request a rent increase and an application needs to be provided to him. Marie asked the Board to approve the application.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the Rent Control Board Rent Increase Request Application form.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Krouss noted there is a survey on the website to help the Town in gaining hi-speed internet access. He urged everyone to take the survey noting that the more information the State receives back, the better the chances are they will help financially support the Broadband issues in the Berkshires.

Andy Potter gave an update on his record management project. He will be working with Curt and the Highway Department to create a list of which records they have.

He also mentioned that the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board will be meeting tomorrow to discuss outreach to the Towns on the proposal that the Planning Board passed by a vote of 16-2. There will also be a meeting for all 8 Towns' Select Boards in Sheffield on Monday, August 28th at 7 PM. This meeting will also have a zoom link for people who cannot attend in person.

Andy acknowledged Angelina Korte, who passed away on August 11th.

Kathleen informed the Board that she has spoken with a member of the Select Board in Lee and Stockbridge in regards to the shared Fire Department. She would like the Boards to have a joint meeting to further discuss the possibility of West Stockbridge joining with them. Kathleen stressed that this was not a commitment at this time, but an information sharing opportunity. She has also spoken with Neal Pilson, Richmond Select Board member, about the possibility of several shared services. She asked the Board if they would be willing to have a joint meeting with Lee and Stockbridge to further discuss the possibility of joining in the shared Fire Department, they agreed.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Potter at 7:26 PM.
All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

Resolution Recognizing the Outstanding Contributions to the West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival

WHEREAS, the West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival has been and has returned as a beloved annual tradition, celebrating community spirit, creativity, and the bountiful zucchini harvest; and

WHEREAS, the success of the West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm of numerous individuals who generously donate their time and effort to ensure its success; and

WHEREAS, the festival's seamless execution and vibrant atmosphere are a direct result of the diligent planning and coordination by the West Stockbridge Cultural Council and the Zucchini Festival Committee; and

WHEREAS, the festival has brought together the residents of West Stockbridge in a spirit of camaraderie, fostering a sense of belonging and unity among community members; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Stockbridge recognizes the exemplary leadership and dedication of Marjorie Powell, Chair of the West Stockbridge Cultural Council/Zucchini Festival Committee, and Council Members Jacqueline Moffatt, Sue Leo, Scott Sawyer, and Curtis Thierling, for their tireless efforts in organizing and overseeing the festival;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the West Stockbridge Select Board expresses its deepest appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to the many good folks of West Stockbridge who selflessly donated their time and expertise to all aspects of the West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the West Stockbridge Select Board extends its special thanks to the following individuals whose contributions were pivotal in making the Zucchini Festival a resounding success:

- Anne Roy
- Joe Roy Jr.
- Joe Roy Parks & Rec
- Caitlin Graham Parks & Rec
- Jenni Roy - Zucchini Decorating
- Chris Powell - Build/Paint organizer Art design/social media
- Ron & Pat Kujawski - Paint/Build
- Karlene Kantner Build/Paint creative
- Lily Thorne Build/Paint creative
- Jackie Murray
- Les Losaw
- John Korte
- Jason Rosa
- Lauren Rosa

- Amy Butterworth
- Sharon Vidal
- Lynn Ryan - Baking Contest
- Julie Medeiros - Pet Parade
- Dave Medeiros - Pet Parade
- Kathy Wilson - Signage

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the West Stockbridge Select Board expresses its gratitude to all members of Public Works, Police, Fire, Board of Health, Town Administrator, Town Treasurer, and Town Accountant for their unwavering support and collaboration in ensuring the success of the West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the West Stockbridge Select Board eagerly anticipates the next year's Zucchini Festival and looks forward to the continued involvement of the community-minded individuals who make West Stockbridge a vibrant and united town.

ADOPTED this 21 day of August, 2023.



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Select Board Meeting Minutes September 5, 2023

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

Approval of Minutes:

Kathleen Keresey requested to approve the minutes from August 21st at the next meeting.

Citizen Speak:

Bob Salerno believes that the Board should extend the application period for interested parties to submit their letters of interest to serve on the Affordable Housing Trust as Trustees. This committee is responsible for very complex issues and the trustees should include talent in Town that can deal appropriately with these issues.

Dana Bixby has worked on several Affordable Housing Trust projects as an architect and believes the West Stockbridge Affordable Housing Trust could benefit from the guidance of people who have worked in related fields. She encouraged the Town to move toward more professionalism in town management. and urged the Board to extend the application period.

Wayne Cooper showed the Board a thick section of wires that he said is an example of what would need to be in place for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. He has concerns with possible power failures. He feels the electrical grid will not be able to handle the electrical usage.

Affordable Housing Trust

Kathleen said the applications for the Affordable Housing Trust should have been more inclusive and she would like the Board to extend the time for accepting applications. She also would like the Board to have a discussion on developing a better process to get information out to the residents for agenda items such as this.

Kathleen suggested that one way to increase communications could be to send out to the

information to Committee/Board Chairs and then have them disseminate the information to everyone as well as using the website and Local Yoke.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to have this as a discussion item on the next agenda at the end of September.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to appoint Kathleen as the Select Board representative on the Affordable Housing Trust and Frank Landsberger, Christopher Powell, Mark Webber, and Andy Potter and that the Trustees form an Advisory Committee to include professionals with whom the Trustees can consult and gain advice from.

All were in favor, motion passed.

The final Trustee would be the Town Administrator or her designee. Marie stated that she would appoint a designee by the next Select Board meeting.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations - Joe Roy, Vision Committee

Joe Roy, Vision Committee member, explained to the Board that they have been gathering information on EV Stations for the Town. He would like to know if the Board wants the Vision Committee to continue with their research and if they can have the Select Board permission to state they are doing this as representatives of the Town as they gather the information.

The Vision Committee feels that benefits will be a great for the Town to install these charging stations. The Committee has received assistance and information from National Grid and Peter Rothstein, a resident and consultant on clean energy. Joe appreciates that Andy Krouss comes to all their meetings and Andy Potter for offering to assist on this issue as well.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to endorse the research phase by the Vision Committee on EV Charging Stations and allow for gathering information with the authority of the Select Board.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Moscow Road Landscape Design – Kathleen

Kathleen explained to the Board that the landscape design for parcel that the Town purchased on Moscow Road has stalled and she would like to get that work completed. She said the Town has yet to spend the \$10,000 set aside as seed money for this project.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the initial work on a landscape design for the Moscow Road Town owned property.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Select Board Speak:

Kathleen has had very preliminary discussions with the Towns of Stockbridge and Lee about their progress in creating joint Fire and EMT departments She said that the two towns are looking and feasibility and that it would be prudent to have a discussion about the future of

Regionalized Services for our Towns. Kathleen would like to set up a meeting with them and our Board. Andy and Andy agreed.

Andy Potter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Krouss at 7:15 PM.
All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator



Halloween

in West Stockbridge

Tuesday, October 31st

Trick-or-Treat 4-6pm

Please turn on your porch light
if you will be receiving revelers

**Party to follow, beginning 6pm
with Costume Contest at 6:30pm**
at the Town Hall gym

Brought to you by
West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation