

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: July 9, 2019
Time: 6:00pm
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the table were Selectboard Chair George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others in attendance: Heidi and Ari Zorn, Attorney Christine Shank Hargrove, Hannah Shirley(Berkshire Record), Marj Wexler, Alina Hsu, Peter Puciloski, Eileen Vining, Steve Agar, Clark Downs.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

The Board will act on the June 11 minutes at its next meeting. The minutes of both July 25 meetings were accepted as presented.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

Heidi and Ari Zorn, and their Attorney Christine Shank Hargrove, presented the Board with a draft Marijuana Host Agreement for their proposed retail marijuana shop at 71 Main Street, South Egremont. Their deadline to file with the Cannabis Control Commission is November 9. The Public Information meeting was held and the special permit has been issued by the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA placed several restrictions on the permit. The Zorn's feel that those restrictions gives the Town the protection needed thus making the impact to the Town minimal. For this reason the Zorn's are asking that no impact fee be assessed. It was noted that the Town will be voting to adopt the 3% sales tax on September 17, 2019. The Board will seek a meeting with Town Counsel to review the host agreement. The Board will discuss the host agreement further with the Zorns at its July 30 meeting.

Peter Puciloski and Clark Downs, Alford Broadband representatives, attended to discuss the broadband build out to Egremont residents. As the Fiber Connect proposal to the Town of Egremont includes the areas on Rowe Road, Boice Road and Route 71 that Alford agreed to build out those areas can be removed from the agreement with Alford, leaving only White Hill Road. The estimate for the building out from Alford's engineer is \$7,915. The funding for this is included in the MBI grant.

CITIZENS TIME:

Alin Hsu, an Egremont resident on Whites Hill asked if it was possible for the residents to collaborate to pay for the build out on White Hill. It is but at this point the Town plans to pay. She also asked if the build out with Fiber Connect would include an avenue to help those who can't afford to pay for the service. Yes, the proposal requires some form of subsidy.

Richard Allen said that he thought the ribbon cutting was scheduled for July 27 (it was later confirmed that it is July 20 at 10am).

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to allow the Mount Washington Church to hand its banner announcing its annual fair on the Egremont Village Green as it has in past years.

The Board accepted the resignation of Steve Parkington from the Police Department. Mr. Parkington has taken a position in West Stockbridge.

The Board voted unanimously to approve an interdepartmental transfer in the amount of \$153.83 from Police Vehicle Expenses to Police Department Expenses.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board discussed with Steve Agar the Sanitary Survey from DEP which noted several violations at the Water Plant. The Water Department was found in violation of employing operators that were not fully licensed and not having a fully licensed operator at the plant the required number of hours. According to Steve Agar, Chair of the Water Commission, this has been corrected. Mr. Agar was unable to tell the Board for how long the retired Operator needed to continue to work. The Water Department continues to process a large percentage of water that is not being billed to customers indicating leaks. DEP required the Department to update its capital plan to show how it will correct this. The Water Department is still relying on funds and subsidies from the Town. DEP is requiring that the Water Department increase its rates over the next 3 years so that it is sustainable on its own. There are other violations that Mr. Agar was unable to give details. The Board will discuss this further at its July 30 meeting.

The board made the following appointments:

Emergency Management Director: Ed McCormick, Assistant Will Brinker

Town Historian: William H. Wood

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

Negotiations with Fiber Connect will resume when Fiber Connect has presented promised data and documents.

An edited MBI Action Plan was received after discussions between MBI and Fiber Connect. The Board agrees to the edits and Vice-Chair Vermeulen will sign the Action Plan.

The Board agreed to notify the Town of Mount Washington that Egremont will no longer need to move forward with Mt Washington bringing its broadband service to Egremont residents on upper Mount Washington Road. The Fiber Connect proposal covers that area.

The ADA upgrades are moving along smoothly and will be completed well in time for school to open. The Lead Paint contractor that they school contracted with and paid a deposit too has backed out. The District is seeking talking with a new contractor who will be slightly more expensive. The possibility of encapsulating the paint instead of removing it was brought up as a less expensive option.

The Planning Board feels that it may have an Accessory Dwelling Unit bylaw for the September 17 Special Town Meeting.

Office Administrator Brazie will get an update on the Affordable Housing Project from Construct.

Office Administrator Brazie will keep checking with MassDOT on the Route 23/41 construction project.

Someone who used the park recently broke into the center door in the bathrooms at French Park to get to the water hose. The Police Chief has a name is following up. Signs for the Tennis Courts will

be ordered.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

The Board appointed Lucinda Vermeulen as Co-Chair for the planning of the August 24 Town Birthday celebration to work with Susan Bachelder. The Board would like to recognize Ruth Silberman who is turning 100.

When asked about fireworks it was noted that the Town has no regulations nor does the town have any regulations regarding noise. A permit is needed from the Fire Chief.

The Board was asked to look at some form of water fountain or filling station at French park for the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

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The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.