

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: February 4, 2020
Time: 6:00pm
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

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

Others in attendance: Mary McGurn, Ted Remsnyder(Berkshire Record), Ellen and Charles Proctor, Richard Slutzky, Morris Partee, Ezra Parzybok, Deborah Levinson, Caroline Wilson, Eileen Vining, Ben Barrett, Ellen Maggio.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded by both the Town and the Berkshire Record.

MINUTES:

The minutes of both the January 21 and the January 28 meetings were accepted as amended.

NEW BUSINESS:

Richard Slutzky presented himself to the Board as an applicant for appointment to the Bylaw Review Committee. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Slutzky.

Ellen Maggio's resignation from the Bylaw Review Committee was accepted with thanks for her service.

David Seligman's resignation from the Bylaw Review Committee was accepted with regrets and thanks for his service.

Chet Delaney's appointment to the Bylaw Review Committee was postponed until he could be present.

Ellen Maggio was unanimously appointed by the Board to both the Historical Commission and the Cultural Council.

The First Congregational Church of South Egremont requested clarification of ownership of the generator that is hooked up to the Church. The Town owns the generator, though some of the expenses related to its working have been paid by the Church. As the Emergency Management Team has said they have no use for this aging and outdated generator, the Board voted unanimously to donate the generator to the First Congregational Church of South Egremont. A letter so stating will be sent to the church trustees.

As there has been some question as to the status of Richard Allen on the Bylaw Review Committee while he has been working on editing the town's General Bylaws, the Board voted unanimously to appoint him to the Committee.

Morriss Partee and Ezra Parzybok of Emerald River LLC were present to discuss their letter of intent to seek a host community agreement (HCA) for a retail marijuana facility along Route 23 in South Egremont. As Legal Counsel has advised a path to lift the moratorium on HCA's, the Board voted to authorize Legal Counsel Jeremia Pollard to move forward with negotiations on an HCA that mirror the one already executed for a retail facility, including the addition of the recently advised clause, and the one that is likely to be approved later in the meeting for a cultivation and manufacturing facility.

OLD BUSINESS:

It was announced the final version of the Materials Recycling Facility contract was signed. The new version includes language regarding pending approval of the costs of the contract at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting, and a clause as to MRF's inability to meet its minimum tonnage requirement.

The Board will advertise for applicants to the Zoning Board of Appeals. An applicant to fill the vacancy on the Conservation Commission is scheduled to come before the Board on February 18.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the host community agreement with Sparkboro Corporation for a recreational marijuana cultivation/manufacturing facility at 17 Sky Farm Road as amended by town counsel. The agreement, already signed by the president of Sparkboro, was signed by the Board.

Chairman McGurn and Vice-Chairman Vermeulen met with MassDOT official Tom Currier earlier in the day to review the Route 23/41 reconstruction plans. Mr. Currier is the project manager based in Boston. He assured the town that MassDOT was listening and trying very hard to work with the town's concerns. Issues talked about were tree removal/trimming, pole relocations, decorative lighting, sidewalks(raised and flush), the South Egremont School crosswalk, gateway medians, and the time frame. The project is slated for FY 2022, not 2024 as noted recently, and the public hearing should be in late April. The Town needs to talk about the issue of sidewalk winter maintenance as this will not be done by the state.

FOLLOW UP/UPDATES:

Not all town's have appointed their School Planning Committees so no further discussions have been held on the issue of consolidating the two school districts. Chairman McGurn noted that several town's, including Egremont, Sheffield, New Marlborough, Stockbridge and Great Barrington, are beginning discussion of sharing a Human Resources position, which could serve as a model for other shared services as consolidated school districts are undertaking.

Vice-Chairman Vermeulen reported that Adam Chait is reluctant to sign an agreement with the Town for broadband until he has a signed agreement with MBI. Meanwhile, it was felt the negotiating team could begin work on the subsidiary agreement needed with Holyoke Gas & Electric for back up to Fiber Connect.

The new 911 numbers on Mount Washington are installed and in place.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.20/feb4

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.