

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES

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Date: June 13, 2023  
Time: 10:00am  
Place: Via Zoom Meeting  
Egremont

Present in-person were Selectboard Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Selectboard member Mary Brazie, Doug and Wendy Mishkin, and for parts of the meeting Laurie Hills, Thomas Beasley, Rafe Bildner, Attorney Dennis Eagan, Julie & Ethan Buyon, Harald Scheid, Alice Tortoriello, Sue Turner and Sue Funk.

Others participating via zoom: Kate Sontag, Ronnie Sacco, Fred and Donna Bersch-Gordan, Chuck Ogden, Dan Blitzer, Marj Wexler, Robert D, Rick Ramsay, Liz Keen and Tom Reynolds.

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

MINUTES:

The minutes of the May 20 and June 6 meetings were accepted with minor edits.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

At 10:03am the hearing on the application of Hilltown Hot Pies LLC to transfer the liquor license and alter the premises was called to order. The applicant seeks to transfer the liquor license from Danny Smith DBA John Andrews restaurant to Hilltown Hot Pies, LLC Manager Rafi Bildner, and to extend the out door service area. Attorney Dennis Eagan, representing Mr. Bildner, told the Board that Mr. Bildner has purchased the property/restaurant from Mr. Smith and plans to operate a pizza restaurant. As well Mr. Bildner wants to extend the outdoor area covered by the liquor license to allow for an increased capacity outdoors. Mr. Bildner said he plans to operate a tranquil and calm outside dining experience. After hearing questions and concerns from Selectboard members and abutters Julie and Ethan Buyon, Dough Mishkin and Fred Gordan, about proper abutter notification, whether the outdoor service constituted a change of use, parking concerns, noise and lighting issues, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve only the transfer of the liquor license and to not approve the alteration of premises. Mr. Bildner noted that due to extended COVID guidelines, he can serve outside until April of 2024. Mr. Bildner will be taking additional steps that may include a special permit hearing to approve the extension of outdoor service, at which time the concerns expressed about noise, lighting and parking will be discussed. Hearing adjourned at 10:57am.

Assessor's consultant Harald Scheid presented data regarding the need for an additional 12-15% increase in property values. Sales data is still showing sale prices above the town's assessed values. In 2023 sales stabilized after a record number of sales and high selling prices for the prior 3 years, but sale prices did not drop. It is projected that the tax rate will decline again.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board approved a request from Liz Keen, Chair of the Agricultural Commission, to purchase a sign for the Pollinator Garden but asked to see the graphic design before finalized. The sign will be 2'x3' and will give educational information regarding the garden. The sign will be paid for in part from Forest Stewardship grant funds, Agricultural Commission and French Park funds. The sign will be installed in a place that does not interfere with mowing.

Chair of the French Park Dog Park Committee Ronnie Sacco noted that the Dog Park is thriving and has many new visitors who may not be clear on the rules. She discussed with the Board and Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Thomas Reynolds a reoccurring issue with dog waste and dog toys at the French Park Dog Park. Committee members agreed to clean the area early Wednesday mornings, before the area is mowed. Thomas Reynolds agreed to wait to mow, when he can, till after 10am on Wednesday mornings to give them time to do the clean up.

OLD BUSINESS:

Senator Mark and Representative Pignatelli have rescheduled their Remarks and Refreshment event a Town Hall to Monday, June 26. New flyers will be posted. Vice-Chairman Vermeulen will follow up with both offices to plan the event.

The Board voted unanimously to approve a interdepartmental transfers as follows:

Broadband Backup Operator 015122.713 to Town Telephone 015192.405 \$1075.00  
Building & Grounds Truck 015192.410 to Town Telephone 015192.405 \$600.00

FOLLOW UPS:

The Town of Mount Washington has reportedly sent the check for the balance due for the fire services agreement.

SELECTMEN ITEMS:

The Board scheduled the Fire Strategic Planning discussion for June 27 at 9:30am.

The Board agreed to schedule a presentation of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commissions's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy at the July 11 meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Board is June 27.

Meeting adjourned at 12:21pm.

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.23/jun13

*The recording of the minutes is on the town's web page. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.*