

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 18, 2024
6:30 p.m.
ZOOM MEETING - TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Chuck Cardillo, Jamie Minacci, Patrick White and Mike Canales

Call to Order:

Chuck opened the meeting and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announce new meeting schedule

Chuck announced a change in their meeting schedule to the first and third Thursdays of the month from the second and fourth.

Easement for the First Congregational Church, 4 Main Street

Patrick recused himself.

Attorney Lori Robbins, representing the Berkshire Waldorf High School who is looking to purchase the old Town Hall, spoke on a Warrant article passed in 2017 authorizing the Selectmen to grant two nonexclusive easements. This was done. Working with Town Counsel, Robbins has drafted an easement from the Town of Stockbridge to the FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, STOCKBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS and presented it to the Board; a non-exclusive access easement for ingress and egress. The Planning Board has endorsed the plan. Chuck made a motion that they accept it. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

Letter of Thanks to The Stockbridge Housing Authority for in lieu of real estate taxes. Thanks was expressed.

Take action on one-day alcohol license for Berkshire Botanical Garden for an event on February 7th from 5-8 PM

Chuck made a motion to grant it. Patrick seconded; all were in approval.

Selectmen's priorities for CPC

Mike said that looking at the Lake dredging and being \$95,000 short, he proposed putting in an application for \$100,000 to get through the remaining engineering work for dredging. Another part will be going after a State inland dredging grant (2.5 million). The Board agreed that this was a good idea. Chuck made a motion that Mike propose this to the CPC. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

Patrick asked the Board to think about an open space fund to work with the Town and non-profits to remove old fencing. Another is to have a long-term plan for tree plantings. Between the two, Patrick was looking for \$50,000-

\$75,000 of open space requests. Jamie felt they were reasonable. Chuck agreed to the plantings but was not sure on the fencing. Mike said that this may not be approved as it is work on private property. Chuck said that priority wise he would go with the dredging, the trees and then the fencing.

Update on the Cat & Dog Fountain

Kate Fletcher said that the cat and dog fountain is finished. Hugh and Michael will be making arrangements to move them to a safe storage place. In the spring they will be installed. The watering trough was moved off site and Vern Tower will be working on it this winter.

BHRSD and Town amendment for additional office spaces

Mike noted that the school was renting two additional spaces on the ground floor. Mike wrote an amendment to their rent. Patrick made a motion to approve, Chuck seconded; all were in approval.

Stockbridge Mohican Commission and signage on the Housatonic River

Patrick said that at a previous meeting they had discussed setting up a working group to explore ways to strengthen ties between the Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohicans and residents of Stockbridge. Patrick noted that they had come up with various ways they can work together. Patrick asked to go forward with formalizing a group of towns folk to work with the tribe. The proposal is a six-person Commission comprised of three locals appointed by the Selectmen and three Mohicans appointed by the Tribal Council. Mike suggested that the Board approve it to be sent to the Tribal Council to see if they would also approve it. We would then advertise for membership. Chuck made a motion to do it. Jamie seconded. Aye Patrick, Aye Chuck, Aye Jamie.

Stockbridge Mohican Commission

The contemporary community of Stockbridge wholeheartedly embraces the reunification of the Mohican tribe with its ancestral home. The Fenn Farm/Monument Mountain acquisition provides a bold start to a new era, and the opportunity to foster closer ties. We will endeavor to learn lessons from our ancestors, while approaching reconciliation with the advantage of a contemporary view of the past. We know our work has just begun.

We propose a six-person Commission, comprised of three locals appointed by the Stockbridge Select Board and three Mohicans appointed by the Tribal Council of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans. They would be tasked with working together to learn from and support each other, educate our constituents, foster community, and build a lasting friendship between our peoples.

We leave it up to the Commission to define its objectives and priorities, which may include, but are not limited to:

People/organizational interactions
Student exchanges

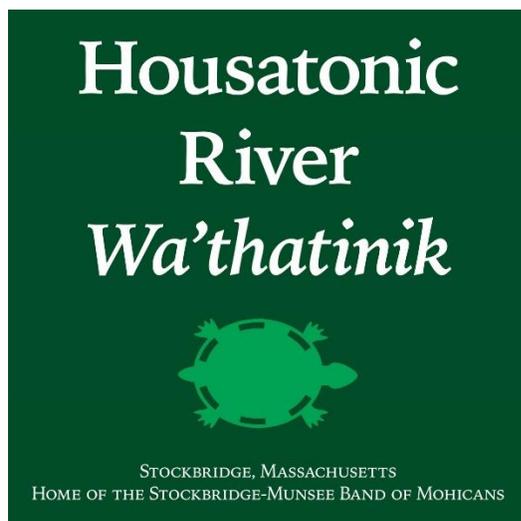
Town/Tribe collaboration
Family hosting
Sharing resources
Project brainstorming, advocacy, management
Broadening the effort within the region
Social gatherings

Educational initiatives
Advocacy to both individuals and institutions
Cultural and ancestral issues
Historical documentation/repository
Permanent or temporary installations both indoors and outdoors
Tours, storytelling, story maps

Land use and access
Property management and stewardship
Archaeological advocacy
Historical and cultural access
Burial grounds stewardship
Sensitivity around locations

The leadership of the Town of Stockbridge and the Tribe can take this first step by naming a volunteer commission to coordinate and manage these efforts. Let's together work to build support in the community and our many educational, cultural, and conservation organizations. Let's together resolve to understand our past and build a bridge to a common future.

Patrick also said that he was approached to pick a couple of river crossings on the Housatonic to place signs that both celebrate the river and the Mohican name for the river. Chuck said that he would be in favor as long as it fits into the Town's sign bylaws. Chuck made a motion we accept it under the condition that it stays within the Town Signage Bylaws. Patrick seconded. All were in favor.



Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Commission – Discussion of current status

Mike stated that since July the committee has not had a quorum or held a meeting. His recommendation is to send a letter to all the people listed on the SBSC, asking them to respond by a certain date, with failure to respond being a resignation. With those who choose to continue and to be committed, they will take the open positions and reconstitute the Board.

The Bylaw calls for seven voting members with identified stake holders. The Selectmen may modify the groups at their discretion but may not exceed seven voting members. Mike said that once they receive notice of who wants to remain on the Commission the Selectmen can move forward with possible modifications. Patrick questioned that Town employees are members and that it might be modified. He also suggested that Boards be able to appoint representatives other than only Board members. Chuck made a motion that Mike send the letters out. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

Take action on minutes for December 14th and 28th

Chuck made a motion to accept. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

Public Comment

Kate Fletcher suggested that the Affordable Housing Trust Committee and the make-up. She suggested that the Board have abutter representation, a seat on the Board, to current projects; currently from Glendale Middle Road.

Kate also questioned a change in the bylaws from Selectmen to Chair or Select Board. This would need to be a global change.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Chuck adjourned the meeting.

Please see <https://ctsbtv.org/government-channel-1303/> to view the full meeting.