

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 27, 2023
6:30 p.m.
ZOOM MEETING - TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Chuck Cardillo, Jamie Minacci, Patrick White

Call to Order:

Chuck opened the meeting and stated that this meeting was scheduled for second homeowners but all were welcome.

Jay Dubner, 11 Lakeview Drive, commented that he was glad that the RTA is not again a major discussion but understood there are people who might not be able to pay their bills. He asked why Stockbridge did not have a cannabis dispensary to bring in added tax dollars. Chuck said the Town has a cannabis bylaw and it is allowed in specific areas but there has not been interest. Patrick said that as boarding states are legalizing cannabis, the need is changing. Bob Jones, chair of the Lee Select Board, said that they allow two cannabis stores and the market is changing as Patrick mentioned. Local concerns are size and parking.

Jamie said that there are ways for residents in need to receive help. Chuck said that the Town does everything possible to help home owners.

Sandy "inaudible," Grove Road, asked if there is a list of specific boards and committees that second home owners are allowed to be on. Patrick said that there is a list on the Town website and we currently have second homeowners and people who live in other Towns currently on committees. Chuck added that they advertise openings on the website and at meetings.

Eric Tarlow asked Patrick about the possible, more economical restoration of the Curtisville Bridge. Patrick said that they held a meeting with Alan Wilken, Mike Canales and an engineering firm specializing in historic bridges. The firm said that modern guardrails would need to be added if restoring to a road bridge and considered keeping it as a walking bridge. This was a preliminary meeting and will be brought to the Board. Chuck reviewed the other bridges up for construction. Mr. Tarlow asked about the status of the Talbot Center. Hugh said that they have made a number of improvements at the Transfer Station and they will be adding a swap shed. They currently have a clothing drop box available. Hugh also reminded homeowners that they can be heard without being on committees; show up to meetings and call.

Nancy Gilbert, 29 Beechwood, asked if there were updates on having a farmer's market. Chuck said that he believed they are looking towards next year.

Lucy Malatesta, Mahkeenac Heights felt it would be great to have the Curtisville bridge be a pedestrian bridge and gave thanks to the staff at the Transfer Station for all they offer. Shelley Camhi, 10 Mahkeenac Heights,

questioned what Highway attention they could get for their roads. Hugh said that they have been working on the road aprons and the Town roads are on the paving list. He asked them to reach out by calling 413-298-5506. The private roads however are not Town property, only the paved loop. Joe Newberg said that they have been very happy with the highway department but there are a couple Town roads there that are in bad shape. Chuck commended Hugh and his department on all the work they are doing and catching up after a season of being extremely short staffed. Fire Chief Garofoli suggested that anyone living on private roads, let the Town know who is contracted to maintain those private roads. In an emergency situation the Town works together to get to the homes.

Patty Caya, Housatonic Road, thanked the Selectboard and Michael Canales but felt that this meeting was not necessary as today anyone can get on Zoom but was thankful for them honoring the tradition. Patty also thanked Hugh and the Highway department especially for the beach upgrades. She also said that she has concerns with the accessory dwelling unit bylaw language that keeps coming up, specifically Patrick who is supporting owner occupancy requirements which would exclude second home owners. Patrick made the point that second homeowners can become residents and voters. Chuck said that it was sidelined but before it comes up again, he would like to meet with the Planning Board, go over the proposed bylaw line by line and come up with a compromise. Patrick said that the market does not need help but the goal of this bylaw is to help people live in the community. He would like to have policies so that everyone can live here. Patty said that this is undermining the purpose of the housing goal and is using the housing mechanism for the wrong purpose. Patrick's opinion is that the economics do not work for this.

Discussion continued about dividing homeowners on issues.

Josh Peyron asked what a Justice 40 community is. Patrick said that it is a Biden proposal to help disadvantaged communities and Stockbridge was designated one based on its full-time census population. Peyron asked how those of lower means could afford to add an ADU. He felt it was risky. Mr. "inaudible", Mahkeenac Heights, said that the improvements at the beach are phenomenal but the geese situation is not. Hugh responded that they have many individuals cleaning the area daily and they have been looking into control options. It is not due to a lack of effort. Dorry poles were suggested. He added that the affordable housing issue has become the elephant in the room. He said that when issues are put out there it does create a divide but does not agree with Patrick's paths to get there. He felt that zoning changes could accomplish housing that could be affordable. Chuck said that it is not just one thing (zoning) that is affecting our housing; many things need to be looked at.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Chuck adjourned the meeting.

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