

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 15, 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 led with the Pledge of Allegiance

Article for 2024 Town Warrant - To see if the town will vote to substitute the following terms wherever they are used in the Town of Stockbridge Zoning Bylaws:

- 1) "Selectman" with "Select Board member"
- 2) "Selectmen" with "Select Board members"
- 2) "Board of Selectmen" with "Select Board"
- 3) "Chairman" with "Chair"

Chuck read the above and Jamie made a motion to send this to the Planning Board. Chuck seconded. All were in favor.

Housatonic River - PCB remediation

Mike said that Shirley Miller had sent in a letter to discuss this topic.

Shirley Miller read her letter:

To whom it may concern Why are we fighting the Rest of the River contract? That is because we don't want PCBs in our river to be taken out and deposited in local landfills or carted out by truck to other places. We DO want the PCBs destroyed! There is a better way for PCB remediation that eliminates the need to take them out of the river. Therefor the problem of transporting PCBs elsewhere is eliminated. No trucks or trains needed! There is tested scientific evidence that there is a viable solution to destroying the PCBs in place and restoring the river. There are a number of ways to do this. I found one in the NIH Environmental Health Sciences article in Environmental Factor: Nature-based remediation technologies help clean up PCB Contamination, July 2023 (<https://factor.niehs.nih.gov>) A second article in Science Direct-Chemosphere, volume 78 Issue 9 Feb. 2010 Extraction of PCBs and water from river sediment using liquified dimethyl ether as a solvent (<https://doi/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2009.12.017>) Third article: Science direct Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering, volume 10, issue 3 June 2022 107839 Bioremediation Technologies These are just a few publications of the information that is out there on PCB remediation. In addition to that there is a new EPA Rule that will be effective Feb 26 2024 that could allow for changing the way the river is cleaned of PCBs. And lastly this is a much cheaper way of handling the cleanup and will not do further damage to the environment. We can move on to the Restoration of the Watershed contract that has already been

funded. Connecticut has already done this and the riverbanks are restored and useable for recreation.

Miller asked that the Town support this and to send a representative to upcoming meetings in Lee and Lenox; and Stockbridge should be heavily involved. Patrick said that he understood and welcomed people from Stockbridge to attend the meetings but not represent the Board. Chuck suggested asking residents to attend meetings and bring information back to the Board.

Presidential Preference Primary Warrant for signatures

The Board signed the warrant.

Not for Profit Cultural Orientated Destination Signage

Mike noted that they did not receive any comments on the signs. Doug Goudey, Barb Zanetti and Pam Boudreau represented the Chamber and discussed the directional sign for Tanglewood. Chuck made a motion that they approve. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

Appointments to Cultural Council: Wendy Strothman and Audrey Shachnow

Jamie made a motion to approve. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

Bridge Update

Mike said that he sent notification into Mass Highway and will be working with them over the next couple of weeks to get the barriers up, signage and lights needed for the one lane closure of the Glendale Middle Road Bridge.

The Tuckerman is in its review period. He began paper work to begin to contract with Tigh and Bond to do the initial assessment and feasibility study to have reasonable options to bring to Town Meeting: having engineering on tract for getting this project started.

SBSC Re-establishment – Stakeholder discussion

Mike said that he reached out to former members to see who was interested and so far, Jamie (Selectmen), Michael Nathan (SBA) and Mike Buffoni (Water Dept.) said they would serve. Mike Buffoni was also ok with coming to meetings as needed for the Water Department. The Select Board can modify the stakeholder groups and reestablish who are voting members. Patrick felt that they should just have a panel of five or seven members from the community as the stakeholder groups and to not have town employees be on Boards as a part of official duties. Gary Kleinerman was also interested. They decided to have an open group instead of specific stake holders and with the three people who wish to stay on the SBSC, there will be four openings. Patrick made a motion to appoint Jamie, Michael Nathan and Gary Kleinerman. Jamie seconded; all were in favor. Chuck asked for interested people to contact the Town.

COA position

Mike informed the Board that Polly submitted her resignation letter and a letter of what they might consider as the COA moves forward.

Old Talbot Center Building – removal and new swap shed

Mike said that they are looking to remove the old Talbot Center building and a swap shed is set up at the Transfer Station. The sign will be moved to the new structure. Chuck made a motion that they demo the building. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

Adopt Road Stream Crossing Inventory

Mike said that two years ago they went in on a culvert assessment program with other Towns, the first MVP project, and came up with up-to-date information to prioritize our culverts. They now have a complete inventory of all of the Town's culverts; location, flood risks, ownership, etc. Hugh is working with Allison Dixon to help with funding. The Board now adopts the inventory as an official document of the Town. Patrick encouraged residents to report if they know of any underground passage of water on private property to get them in the database. Chuck made a motion to adopt the Road Stream Crossing Inventory. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

Chuck motioned to take action on one day alcohol license for Berkshire Botanical Garden for an event on March 1st from 5-7PM. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

Chuck motioned to take action on minutes for January 18, 2024. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

Initial Budget Presentation

Mike gave an overview of the first draft of the FY25 budget. Entering this year the Town had contract negotiations with both unions. There are sizable increases to a number of departments and some changes. The overall is a 5.4% increase to the budget. The biggest areas hit are public works and facilities. This is one that brings in revenue expenses in and out. Some are in the Sewer Budget but one needing discussion is the Compactor. Over the last three years we were running at \$92 per ton to dispose of municipal solid waste and the new contract is \$128 per ton with a 5% increase or a CPI of trash removal that is greater. This means that we will be moving from \$130,000 to \$206,000 and in the next few years the cost of running the transfer station will be greater than the Water Department. Discussion should be around: is the Transfer Station a subsidized program or is it a utility. The projected budget is \$285,000 to run the transfer station. We get about \$85,000 in sticker income. If treated as a utility you would need to triple the cost of a sticker or it can be charged through taxation or a combination of both. The cost will be going up 5-10% and continues to become a huge cost. Patrick suggested adding it to the taxes and crack down on the commercial haulers. Life guards at the beach were

discussed and the Board felt that as a liability they should be eliminated. Patrick suggested to come up with a regular increase in line with the town budget for the Chamber instead of the current verbal agreement of 10% of the room and meals tax. The top lines on the Capital budget were discussed. The OPEB account is at \$3,814,592.61 (93% fully funded) and current retirement insurance payments are about \$83,000. Patrick suggested removing the \$83,000 to fund those already retired and lowering the taxes 1%.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Chuck adjourned the meeting.

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