

# STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 11, 2022

6:30 p.m.

ZOOM MEETING - TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

## **Present:**

Patrick White, Chuck Cardillo, Jamie Minacci and Mike Canales

## **Call to Order:**

Patrick called the meeting to order.

## **Public Comments/Informal Discussion**

Patrick moved Gould Meadows in connection to the Josh Billings to the top of the list. Patti Spector, the Josh Billings race director explained that there needed to be some changes to the race; the end/finish line/parking and the bash. She is requesting to use Gould Meadows for parking as they are no longer have the option of using Tanglewood. Patrick stated three options: 1) let Conservation Commission or chair Ron Brouker make the decision, 2) declaring an emergency and acting as a Board 3) put it on a future agenda creating a 2-week delay. Patti said that two weeks would make it extremely difficult. Jamie made a motion that they make this an emergency and decide tonight. Chuck seconded; all were in favor. They need parking on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> for 450 – 500 cars. Chuck and Ron were leery about the usage for parking. The one field in question is the one directly behind the parking area. Ron stated it is a hay field not a parking lot and if it rains, it will be a mud lot. Hay also burns easily. There is also no access for cars which must be addressed. Patti said there will be attendants there throughout the event. It was noted that alcohol is also illegal on the property. Ron requested trash pick-up and porta potties on site. Patti agreed. Chuck was concerned with using protected property and opens up use for others. Patti said that the Josh Billings would be covering any issues resulting from the use of the lot. Ron said that if an emergency basis he would like the Selectmen to make the decision.

After much discussion, Patrick made a motion that they allow the Josh to use Gould Meadows for parking for the 2022 road race without any implication that this is policy of the Town or is for future road races or any other events; on an emergency basis. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

## **Public Comments/Informal Discussion**

Patrick stated that per an HHS request, everyone should get their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> boosters shots if not already.

Next, Patrick said that there will be a PowerPoint posted on the intersection and will put it on the agenda for the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Patrick asked for the public to ask questions on any topic, ask about updates, or for the board to provide brief, informal updates.

Ron Brouker asked the status of the dog and cat fountain. Mike said that work is continuing with it to be completed by next spring.

Patrick said they received a request to ban planes on the bowl and Mike said that under the great pond's statute, Towns have the authority to make rule and regulations on aircraft usage, but first must first be approved by the Massachusetts Aeronautical Commission. Therefore, they can develop a proposed bylaw to go to Town Meeting, but first must be sent to the Massachusetts Aeronautical Commission for approval.

Patrick said that they have received many questions around grants. Mike said that they just received funding for design (\$100,000) for the second Averic Road bridge, followed by going out for a \$500,000 construction grant in 2023. They have received a Shared Streets \$132,000 grant for crosswalks, the town is receiving RAP funding (winter road assistance program) \$142,000. The Street Lights committee has brought in \$62,000. Working with the Agricultural, they have the USDA \$70,000 for the Hemlocks. Through the MVP program, they are a part of a culvert community grant: \$295,000 for the initial study and additional money as each community identifies a single culvert to be a priority project, the Hawthorne Street culvert replacement has been identified and applying for a 1.2-million-dollar FEMA grant.

Patrick asked how the Town compares to surrounding towns of similar size as grants receipts. Mike answered that it varies. Once they get Ch. 90 review for the Tuckerman Bridge, they will apply for up to a million dollars for a Mass Works grant.

Mike noted that the Council on Aging will be having a reopening reception in September and the Town board has been re-established.

The Swap Shop should reopen in the spring.

Remarking on a small spot of Cemetery digging; Patrick said that it is being looked into. The first two month's cost of hybrid meeting coverage for June and July 2022 was \$945.00. It cannot be continued at this cost and boards with secretaries will run their meetings in the future.

Next, Patrick brought up Residential Tax Exemption. Jay Bikofsky, Finance Committee chair, said that the Selectmen represent all town residents and a detailed real estate tax evaluation study should be done to see what majority benefits the most and which benefits the least. Then documents should be circulated, addressing numbers, increases, savings; prior to a public meeting open to all residents. The Finance Committee requests a meeting prior to this with the Select Board, Town Administrator and Town Assessor.

Chucky said that the public comments listed on the agenda are agenda items, not public comment. Chuck said that the tax exemption discussion be moved as they are not ready to discuss it, he is not ready to discuss it in detail and they need to schedule a meeting devoted to this topic. He did not feel that it was an appropriate time for this discussion.

Patrick said that he wanted Mike to provide some sample numbers for the public. Chuck made a motion to remove this from tonight's agenda. Jamie seconded; Aye Chuck, Aye Jamie, Patrick abstained. Steven Stern commented that they need to take broad strokes and encourage more full-time residents. Joseph Newberg was against a residential exemption. Chuck said that it is a very important topic the effects everyone and he needs time to get all of the information he can. Patty Caya said she appreciated the data but hopes the board presents data on the targeted population basing this need on. Mary Berle said she appreciates the intent but questioned how it effects someone like her with more than one property. She asked if there were any Ch 90 submissions or any DOT grants.

Mike said that the Averic planning grant was submitted in May and are approved. They have secured the Shared Streets \$132,000 grant for crosswalks. She specifically asked if chapter 90 was submitted and if there is any work on the intent to connect Pinewoods to Main Street with bike paths? Mike said he was not aware of that project. Patrick said that he planned on putting this on an upcoming meeting. Mike said he will reach out to Berkshire Regional Planning on the Complete Streets to get the status on where they are with Stockbridge. Steve Knopf requested an update on the Larrywaug Bridge project and the restoration of his property. Mike said that he would address it with him. Jim Balfanz said he believed that they have always had one tax in Town rate and if there has ever been more than one in Town. Patrick said he could not answer that. Patty Caya asked if there a mechanism to find out if any marijuana related businesses have applied for licenses in Town. Mike said she could do a public request and Chuck said he did not know of any.

## Parking and Electric Charging Station Discussion

Laura Dubester, Chair of the Green Communities Committee, thanked the committee and gave an update on installing electric vehicle charging stations. They engaged Guardian Energy as a consultant for a proposal. The back side of the Town Offices by the Police Station was identified as the best place for stations. They are looking at the level two chargers. They are possibly looking for up to \$50,000 in grant funding from National Grid and the DEP. They think that there is enough room on that side of the Town Offices for about 10 -12 parking spaces. Chuck said he was ok with these as long as there is no cost to the tax payers.

Cara Farrell, Town Planner from Berkshire Regional Planning reviewed her power point presentation shown below:

### Off-Street Parking

August 11, 2022 - Presentation to the town of Stockbridge Selectboard



### What Seems To Be The Problem Here?

1. Historically, some merchants park on the street, in front of and closest to their stores; often leaving fewer options for their customers.
2. Many establishments in the Business District are physically unable to conform to the current off-street parking requirements in the zoning bylaws.



### Top Two

Location	Main Street Town Hall	Park Street Stockbridge Town Park
Parcel Owner	Town of Stockbridge	Town of Stockbridge
Distance from 44 Main Street* *Random "central" location	0.2 miles	0.35 miles
Pedestrian Safety & Traffic Exposure	Low	Moderate
Pedestrian Impact on Traffic Flow	Low	Low



### BioMap2 Overlays



### Main Street Town Hall

- Pros**
- Town property
  - Expansion rather than new development
  - Close to downtown
  - Well lit
  - Pedestrian friendly
  - Established and known to visitors
  - Available for peak hours and weekends
  - Full sidewalks
  - May encourage park visitors
  - Near public restrooms
  - 60 total existing spaces
    - 5 handicap
    - 63 non-handicap (excluding future assigned EV charging station spaces)

### Park Street Stockbridge Town Park

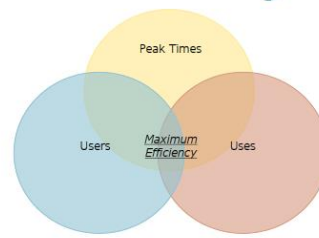
- Pros**
- Town property
  - Close to downtown
  - May encourage park visitors
- Cons**
- Dealing with a floodplain
  - Currently used as overflow parking
  - Currently used for recreation/games during peak hours/days
  - Residential way
  - Dead end/forced turn-around
  - Tough to turn left from Park St. onto South St.
  - Lack of sidewalk until 9 South St.
  - Not well-established or known to visitors



**Town Hall**

+7 spaces

## Shared Parking



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## Shared Parking As a Management Strategy

1. Why?
  1. On-street parking is limited.
  2. Pre-existing lot with expansion as a possibility.
  3. Provides off-site parking (potentially for establishment workers, opening spaces for patrons.)
  4. Improve accessibility to Bidwell Park and its various attractions.
2. How?
  1. Highlight the non-competing uses.
  2. Peak-use differs amongst users.

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## Shared Parking

### Geographic Considerations

Shared Parking is limited by the proximity of destinations that share a parking facility. Exactly how close they must be depends on the type of land use and the type of user. Table 2 summarizes acceptable walking distances for various types of activities. Acceptable walking distance is also affected by the quality of the pedestrian environment, climate, line of site (longer distances are acceptable if people can see their destination), and "friction" (barriers along the way, such as crossing busy traffic).

**Table 2 Acceptable Walking Distances (Parking Evaluation)**

Adjacent (Less than 100 ft)	Short (Less than 300 ft)	Medium (Less than 1,000 ft)	Long (Less than 1,600 ft)
People with disabilities Deliveries and loading Emergency services Convenience store	Grocery stores Professional services Medical clinics Residents	General retail Restaurants Employers Entertainment center Religious institutions	Airport parking Major sport or cultural event Overflow parking

*This table indicates maximum acceptable walking distances from parking to destinations for various activities and users. It assumes good pedestrian conditions (sidewalks, crosswalks, level terrain) that are outdoors and uncovered, with a mild climate.*

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## Signage

- Village of Fairport, NY
- Town of Pittsford, NY →

Cara R. Farrell, Community Planner

[www.berkshireplanning.org](http://www.berkshireplanning.org)

Mike said that encouraging the use of Town Hall for parking to help with the congestion downtown would be the first step and simple signage would maximize the use. Ron Brouker suggested a time limit as many business owners park all day on the street. Limited parking time was also discussed. Patrick said he would like to see a specific recommended proposal with the cost and bring it back for a vote. Mike said that this is the first attempt.

**Take action on meeting minutes for July 14<sup>th</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup>.** Patrick asked to bring this back to the next meeting.

## Conservation Commission: requested appointment to SBSC

Jamie made a motion to appoint Sally Underwood-Miller to the SBSC. Patrick seconded; all were in approval.

## Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Patrick said that they have a number of candidates who have requested appointment to this board of seven. Chuck said that he has not seen the letters. Patrick said that there are 9 candidates and he would get them to Chuck and Jamie. Patrick said that Liz Wheeler asked to be the Planning Board Representative and Jamie was interested in being the Select Board rep. For time for Chuck and Jamie to review the applicants, Patrick made a motion to continue the question about the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

**Select Board Internship:** Discussion will be continued.

**Project updates:**

Mike said that the Tuckerman Bridge initial assessment on the abutments was done and the footings do not need to be completely replaced. They will seek the 1-million-dollar Mass Works grant (a 2-million-dollar project). The Averic Road Bridge is completed and closed out. All money reimbursements were in for the Averic and Interlaken Bridges.

**Upcoming Elections**

- Sign Warrant for September 6, 2022 State Primaries

Patrick made a motion to delegate Kim Shaw to request the details for the following election dates: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 and Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business, Patrick adjourned the meeting.

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