

**STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, April 27, 2023**  
**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 and led with the Pledge of Allegiance

LICENSES AND PERMITS - Take action on one-day alcohol applications for:

- the Berkshire Botanical Garden
  - May 23, 2023; Clarke Museum Membership Reception; 3 – 7PM
  - May 26, 2023; Annual Board Meeting; 2-5PM

Jamie made a motion that they grant them. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

- Chesterwood
  - May 27, 2023, exhibit opening; 5-6PM
  - June 15, 2023; wine tasting; 5-8PM
  - June 21, 2023; reception; 6-7:30PM

Jamie motioned it. Chuck seconded; all were in approval.

Boat ramp improvements – possible funding sources (ARPA, Free Cash)

Patrick explained that the project would involve improving drainage, base stabilization and boulder resetting, kayak launches and a new dock and pad at the Stockbridge Bowl boat ramp.

Patrick said that there are dangerous trees where the harvester is stored and kayakers launch. There is tremendous erosion and loss of bank with exposed roots, slippery concrete and Patrick's opinion was that compared to other boat launches, it is a bit of an embarrassment. The boat ramp is State owned. There have been letters of support from the Berkshire County League of Sportsmen and the Stockbridge Sportsmen Club. DCR estimated the project budget to be \$125,000 and the State does not have the money to fund it. Jim Balfanz from the Stockbridge Sportsmen's Club said that with using ARPA funds the board members all voted yes but now understands that ARPA funds cannot be used for State property. On behalf of the Sportsmen's Club, they are in favor of anything they can do to renovate but the vast majority of people using the boat ramp are not residents. Jim felt that to use tax payers' funds to fund it is wrong and that the Town should start pressing the State/DCR to move it ahead. Mike reviewed why ARPA funds would not work. It was noted that the State also has their own ARPA funds. Chuck said that the use of ARPA funds was agreed on to be used for things that help the Town and help the tax payers and being that this is not a tax payer benefit, it should not have even been suggested. He is not at all in favor of using tax payers' money for this and

would not support it. Jim added that the Sportsmen's Club does not want to disapprove the project but would like the Town Administrator and Select Board present to the State the emergency needs. Jamie and Chuck agreed on the need but not with using ARPA or Town money. Dan M., delegate of the Berkshire County Sportsmen urged the Town to support the project and not stall it further. Mike suggested the option of funding for the engineering and permitting, \$25,000 with State match of \$25,000, to move the project forward. Jim Balfanz reminded them that free cash is tax payers' dollars and to get the State to move on it and have them fund it. He is opposed to using any free cash and Chuck agreed. Discussion continued on the need for repair and the suggestion to consider using CPC funds. Patrick stated that he would like to bring it to the voters. Chuck stated that he was opposed to this but would allow it to go to Town vote. Patrick made a motion that they put on the Warrant \$25,000 in free cash with the stipulation that there be a \$25,000 match from DCR from public access for the design, engineering and permitting for the boat ramp project. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

#### Justice40 designation – potential funding opportunities

Patrick said that Stockbridge was designated a Justice40 community; for underserved and overburdened communities. Patrick said it could give priority for grants for Water & Sewer, Affordable Housing and others. Mike said the grants are not out yet. Chuck asked that they wait until it is known what is available. Patrick asked to begin discussing the types of things we might want to do. Mike said there will be options but there is more to come.

#### Lee - Rest of the River letter requesting a meeting

A letter was received from Lee Board of Selectmen who have asked for a meeting. Chuck and Jamie said to take no action. Patrick said he would consider a discussion among all the towns but not a one-on-one meeting. Chuck made a motion to not take action, Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

#### Operating and Capital Budget final discussion

Michael said in the operating budget, the pump station payment was not in there and was added. He will also now add the \$25,000 worded as discussed to number 8.

#### Sign warrant for annual town meeting

Patrick made a motion with the updates to approve the Warrant. Chuck seconded. Chuck Aye, Jamie Aye, Patrick Aye.

#### Public Comment

Harold French brought up Memorial Day and expressed the difficulty arranging a parade. They are proposing a rotating parade between towns, Great Barrington, Housatonic and West Stockbridge in the future; once every four years. Harold said they are still in need of a bugler and three speakers. Mike said there are funds for an electronic bugle.

Rich Bradway spoke as the President of the Stockbridge Land Trust who had been trying to secure the acquisition and conservation of Fenn Farm, the northern tip of Monument Mountain. He said that the Stockbridge Munsee Community is planning to make an offer on that land and are applying for an MVP grant to assist them with the purchase and conservation of the land. The Land Trust and the Berkshire Natural Resources Council have been working with the Stockbridge Munsee Community to help them with the logistics of what needs to be done here while they are working remotely from Wisconsin. The Community is looking for letters of support for their work to acquire the land using the MVP grant. Rich asked if the Select Board would write a letter on behalf of the Town. Patrick said that he would submit a letter. Patrick made a motion to support the Stockbridge Land Trust in their efforts to work with the Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohicans in the acquisition of Fenn Farm a.k.a. the northern tip of Monument Mountain. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business, Jamie adjourned the meeting.

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