

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 21, 2021
8:00 a.m.
ZOOM MEETING - TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Roxanne McCaffrey, Patrick White and Mike Canales

Call to Order:

Roxanne called the meeting to order.

First on the agenda Mike gave project updates. Mike began by stating that they have received their temporary certificate of occupancy and are now in and working out of the highway garage. They are still working to meet substantial completion; the building has been moved onto the Town's insurance policy and a few things need to be addressed; one being a roof leak and the contractor has agreed to replace the roofing. This is not preventing the use of the building. As far as the Larrywaug Bridge; Mike said that we are still working with the State and our engineers in regards to this project. All of the grants have been secured and are moving forward. We are working with the engineers to go out to bid on the project; anticipating it to be bid out in late February with construction in the spring. Hitting all of the time lines we are looking to have end of construction by late August to early September.

The Averic Road Bridge is out to bid with construction in the spring. Patrick questioned having a clerk of the works and Mike said that they will have a clerk of the works for all of the bridges so to have someone on site.

The Curtisville Bridge utilities bid went out and the contract was awarded with construction beginning in the spring.

The Municipal Vulnerability Planning (MVP) is up and started. The first part is on climate change and then a resilient community section focused on senior issues. Mike thanked Laura Dubester and Patrick who have been working on the project from the start. The anticipation with this project is to get lined up so that by the end of the year we can be a Municipal Vulnerability Community and open us to State Action grants to address concerns raised.

With harvesting, we are working with Natural Heritage, exploring both a limited harvesting plan and a whole lake. The process is underway with the hope to have some type of harvesting this summer.

The road opening permit at the DPW application was submitted, has moved on, is still in the draft phase and the steps should be completed on or before February 1st.

The water treatment plant is getting a lighting upgrade through the Green Communities program. Laura Dubester again worked on this, applied and received a grant for the work with it being completed by Guardian; should be completed this week or next.

The main roof is up on Proctor Hall. The metal edging will be installed in the next week or two and close out this project on the roof replacement. Patrick questioned the ownership of Proctor Hall; does it belong to the Town or the church as they own the land with the Town continuing to maintain the building. Christine Rasmussen mentioned that there had been previous talks with the Norman Rockwell Museum on taking over the building. Roxanne made a motion to follow up with the Norman Rockwell to see where things stand. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

Interlaken, Vine and Indian Road paving will go out to bid for spring paving. Two projects in the engineering phase: 1. VHB, Main Street and Route 7 intersection. VHB has completed their pavement design and will be providing cost estimates by February 5th on three choices of mountable pavements. The Select Board will review the cost estimates and select which will advance to Town Meeting for consideration. This design will also address crosswalks and ADA compliance. Roxanne asked to receive an artist rendering of the proposed intersection. 2. The Chime Tower estimates and engineering has been completed. Total repairs would cost approximately \$550,000 and budget options for funding will be discussed and then brought to Town Meeting. The Soldier's Monument has \$35,000 remaining of CPC funds. They are going to request \$60,000 from CPC and will request \$25,000 from the Town at Town Meeting as was indicated to happen last year.

The next item was that the Town received notice that the Glendale Post office is slated to close on February 20th with all boxes being moved to the downtown Post Office on February 22nd. Mike continued that he has been in touch with Congressman Neal's assistant and previously with Curtis Bullard. An option to leaving the boxes in Glendale is to place boxes on a pad on the Town property at the Glendale Fire Station or neighboring Town parcel. This would eliminate residents from coming to town to pick up their mail. Patrick said that he felt it would be reasonable to have conversation on going back to mail delivery. He said that mail delivery was not in Stockbridge because of a Select Board decision years ago, not the USPS. Roxanne suggested contacting the USPS to see what their position is on this. Roxanne noted that currently this discussion for Glendale is based on public safety around COVID and in the future other options can be suggested. This is to deal with the immediate closing issue. Addressing public comment, Buck Smith stated that some residents concerned with the intersection wanted to raise the issue of review, which was promised by the Select Board, to see what results were with the experiment of the painting before spending more money on the intersection. Secondly, the group wanted to make sure that the Police Chief is fully engaged in the decision-making process. Roxanne said that the Police Chief has shared the statistics from the intersection and they would present it all to the public. Mike said with the estimates being submitted by February 5th, this would be possibly discussed at the February 11th Select Board meeting. Buck questioned if the engineer would be present and felt that things have been haphazard with previous decisions being reversed. Buck sent Patrick two previous reviews from Club Harbour and VHB which both had come to totally different conclusions

and questioned how things were reversed. Patrick said that he would share the reports with the Board. Miles Moffatt asked if the past studies and traffic counts would be available on the website for public review. Roxanne said that the VHB presentation is on the website and the statistics will be on the website before the meeting. Patrick stated that this current plan is a relatively low-cost option to see if it will work, without ruling out other decisions in the future. Roxanne said that in response to many indicating that this is a dangerous intersection; on a walk about with VHB and MassDOT when commented that this is a dangerous intersection, the DOT representative noted that this intersection is not even on their radar. They are trying to modify traffic behavior and slow people down.

Miles Moffatt questioned the way bridges were bid and the problems with the bid process. Mike responded that it was discovered in October that the Town had failed to put the items on the Commbuys system, required for the State for procurement of certain projects over certain dollar amounts. In some of the cases it also had not been posted in the paper within the proper 14 days; including 2 million dollars in projects tied up in State grants which also have reporting requirements. When this was found out Mike notified the Select Board and different programs; MassDOT for the Mass Works Program and also up to the Attorney General's Office, letting them know that some errors were made and asked to correct these. Now everything is posted properly in Commbuys, the Central Registry and in the papers and have made internal adjustments to correct those issues going forward.

Next was discussion on trash receptacle options. Mike said that he had thrown out some stone options. With so many options out there, he recommended the Select Board go out and take a look and come back with ideas; recycling and trash side-by-side and in the future possibly some solar compactor ones. They can also check with MassCor to see what they provide.

Next was to appoint to the CPC to replace an inactive representative. Roxanne made a motion to appoint Patrick White as the second Select Board Representative on the CPC. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Roxanne adjourned the meeting.