

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 18, 2021
8:00 a.m.
ZOOM MEETING - TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Chuck Cardillo, Roxanne McCaffrey, Patrick White and Mike Canales

Call to Order:

Chuck called the meeting to order.

Mike began with project updates: Averic Road was bid out and the low bid came in within the monies available; but with a challenge to the low bidder, the engineers are reviewing to determine if it can be awarded. If the low bid gets thrown out, we may need to ask for some additional funds. Mobilization began last Friday for the Curtisville Utility Bridge and construction is beginning and will go for the next two months. The Highway Garage is nearing completion. The new roof is on and there is good progress overall. The Proctor Hall Roof has been repaired and one piece, the hatch is being looked at to be replaced or repaired and the project will be complete. Lighting Upgrades: Last spring the Green Committee upgraded the lighting to LED in the WWTP. The upgrade has been completed, the close out documents have been submitted to the State and they will be out to inspect; completing the project. They have been working with the engineers on the Larrywaug Bridge and developing a readvertisement for bids. The hope is to have the bid out in the next week or so, followed by a bid date two weeks following that and the awarding of the bids. Keeping this time frame the plan is to have it completed by fall. Patrick asked if there was a way to have a construction reserve fund to pay for over-bids. Mike explained that with projects bid out two years ago, the estimates were driven up. Contingencies are built in to cover the cost for standard projects.

Patrick gave a report on the Regional School Department Planning Board. He said that they are reducing the ask of \$15,000 to \$8,000 as they received a \$125,000 State grant.

Next the Board reviewed and acted upon Proposed Planning Board Bylaws

Driveways and Common Driveways:

Roxanne asked that they refer to Ned's request of wording to be specific to all NEW driveways. **6.16.1:**

The Building Inspector shall not issue a building permit for the principal structure on the lot served by a **NEW** driveway unless all of the conditions in Section 6.16.1 have been met. Striking: ~~All driveways shall be constructed in a manner ensuring reasonable and safe access from the right of way serving the premises, for all vehicles, including but not limited to, emergency, fire, and~~

~~police vehicles.~~ A building permit shall only be issued if a **NEW** driveway shows due consideration of traffic hazards and drainage problems which might result. The minimum area and configuration of a driveway shall be such to provide a minimum of two (2) off-street parking spaces as defined by Section 6.2.4 for each lot served by the driveway.

Roxanne stated that Ned feels that this is a lot clearer by stating 'new' driveways.

Patrick commented on substance and process; having this type of feedback before it is referred to the Select Board and with a lot of small lots in Town, he questioned if all were in agreement with the two-car requirement as opposed to one. Chuck and Roxanne agreed that it needed to be two cars.

Mike noted process being that these were referred to the Select Board and what is referred back is on these; we can send with our comments and consider striking those two sections. They will hold their hearings and make any changes. Mike added that the safe access from the right-of-way is addressed in the curb cut where the Police Chief has to sign off that it is done in a safe manner.

Christine Rasmussen stated that the intention of this change is for health and safety.

Chuck made a motion that they send this driveway with the comments read into the record to the Planning Board. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Off-Street Parking Requirements:

Roxanne noted that there were a number of changes and the goal was to address that no one downtown can comply with the bylaws. Roxanne questioned if this was changed from the one, they previously received. Roxanne noted changes and was concerned that what they saw at their last meeting indicated that there were no parking restrictions for hotels. Looking at:

6.2.1 General Regulations

Off-street parking spaces shall be provided for every new structure, the enlargement of an existing structure, the development of a new use, or any change in an existing use in accordance with the following schedule **adding: with the exception of retail and eating establishments within the downtown Stockbridge Village business zoning district as shown on the zoning map insert.** Then, nothing else changes with the exception of striking C. which was specific to the business district.; thereby exempting eateries and retail establishments in the downtown zoning district from having off street parking. Everything else would still apply.

Christine acknowledged that what Roxanne read was the last thing the Planning Board received from Phil also.

Patrick stated that it would be helpful if the drafts had the date on them as there are many versions out there; adding that the comments sent out by Jennifer on March 12th are different from the comments the Board just received; there are too many versions and changes. Mike stated that the version they have before them is the one that they can comment on. They can submit the one Roxanne has at the same time. The two versions would need to

be heard; with the Planning Board's version having comments attached. Patrick suggested joint meetings to eliminate the confusion around the process. Chuck made a motion that they refer the Planning Board's recommendation back without the Select Board's approval, and submitting Roxanne's version for consideration. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

Sign Regulations:

Roxanne said that one of her concerns is that they are removing the Select Board from any kind of sign permits and questioned how practicable it is for the Planning Board to receive all of the Temporary sign permits. Patrick added that if there is a proposed change of permitting authority, it should be agreed upon at a joint meeting before they start working on the bylaw. Chuck recommended keeping the Select Board there until next year as the details are not worked out enough. Roxanne questioned Christine on what the idea behind this change was. Christine said that they were not as concerned about temporary signs but more the Select Board's control on larger signs. Roxanne noted that as they are in the state of emergency, the Select Board was able to lift the sign regulations. This would remove the ability to do this in the future. Chuck made a motion that they pass along the sign regulations with the Board's recommendations to be read into the record, that the Select Board permitting authority stay the same. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Next was discussion on the Annual Town Meeting. Mike stated that MGL Ch 39 sec. 9 allows the Selectmen to delay an Annual Town Meeting provided that the business is completed by June 30th. One consideration is that many restrictions may be lifted while still maintaining the 6-foot distancing requirement. The thinking is to again hold it out doors in June. Holding it on a Saturday with an established rain date, will eliminate the need for lighting if it were to be held in the evening. Patrick felt that the tradition of having the Town Meeting before the elections should be maintained. Mike said that the elections cannot be changed at this time. Mike said that they could hold many of the items off until a fall Town meeting to address bylaws. Looking at dates in June with Saturday the 19th being a holiday; Mike suggested June 12th with June 13th as a rain date as a tentative schedule to vote on at the next meeting

Possible warrant articles were next discussed.

Patrick asked if the paperwork was prepared for the Housing Repair Trust Fund. In the next two weeks Patrick would like to finalize the Short Term Rental by law. Mike explained that this may fall under Zoning bylaws and again suggested moving many of these items to a Special Town Meeting in July or August. Roxanne and Chuck felt that this may be able to be finalized by a June Annual Town Meeting.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Chuck adjourned the meeting.