

**STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, May 20, 2021**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**ZOOM MEETING - TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET**

**Present:**

Roxanne McCaffrey, Chuck Cardillo, Patrick White and Mike Canales

**Call to Order:**

Chuck called the meeting to order. He thanked everyone for voting at the Town elections and thanked Terri Iemolini and her staff for doing a great job.

First item on the agenda was the reorganization of the Board. Chuck made a motion to nominate Roxanne to be the chairperson. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

Roxanne introduced Mike to report on project updates. Mike said that the Larrywaug Bridge pre-construction meeting was held and everything is moving ahead. Construction will begin next week with a substantial completion date of October 31<sup>st</sup>.

The MVP is finishing up. Patrick felt that the Board should review the housing survey together. Roxanne said that it could be an upcoming agenda item. Mike added that the Street Light Committee recommended a vendor and they will discuss and authorize them at their next meeting with the summary posted on the website.

Around COVID, the updated Governors' orders are lifting Covid restrictions as of May 29<sup>th</sup> and Mike recommended opening Town Hall and resuming normal operations at Town Offices on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Next on the agenda was Hugh Page, Highway Foreman, with highway updates. Hugh said that the highway garage would be finished with the roof next week. Personnel is being moved around to complete line painting and having the cemetery ready for Memorial Day. Roxanne mentioned that there is damage to the curb on Elm Street near the post office and the Elm Street Market and the curb is dropping. Hugh Page said that as at this location there are sewer lines, electric lines, and various pipes, they will need to investigate and make a plan as it could become a substantial project. Hugh suggested both American Underground and Dig Safe be called in to get a plan together. Mike Buffoni, Water Superintendent, said that he would visit the site with Tony Campetti and Hugh to come up with a plan.

Mike Buffoni stated that the Curtisville Bridge utilities work is complete. Mike added that the chain-link fence and cement block at the bridge must remain to dissuade all traffic, including walkers, from crossing; it was closed to all traffic 10 to 11 years ago. A plan for the Curtisville Bridge itself will be addressed. Roxanne thanked Mike, Highway and Water & Sewer Departments. Roxanne was concerned with the possibility of people trying to walk over the beams of the utility bridge and Mike said that they would add signage to keep people off of it. Mike stated that next week a "Code Red" would go out to announce water system flushing.

Patrick asked for an update on weed harvesting. Mike said that the NOI is going before Conservation at their first meeting in June and with approval there, the Town will proceed with harvesting.

Next on the agenda was to discuss renting Town Hall office space on the ground floor to the Berkshire Hills Regional School District. Kate Burdsall, the Director of Student Services proposed renting the two office spaces, previously rented by Dr. Cooney. Burdsall said the spaces will be used for 5-10 students with disabilities, the bridging the gap program and the spaces are especially well located for the purpose. They would like to add those two spaces to their current lease. Roxanne questioned the need for both spaces and Kate said that the smaller space would be beneficial for individual services and therapies. Currently the smaller space is being used as storage of protective equipment and it was suggested to keep this space for at least 6 more months. Mike said he would work with Chris on finding alternate storage space. Roxanne made a motion that Chris Marsden and Mike Canales work with the school district in terms of renting the Dr. Cooney previously occupied space. Chuck seconded; all were in approval.

Next on the agenda was to take action on the Annual Entertainment License application of Hand Crafted catering for events located at 2 Depot Street owned by the Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum Inc. Justin Carafortes was present from Handcrafted Caterers to discuss entertainment license. He said that working closely with the Berkshire Scenic Railway, the vision is to establish 2 Depot Street as a venue to host weddings, galas, private events and opening it to the community. The larger long-term vision would be to restore train cars for patrons to arrive on. He said that weddings would typically be on Saturdays with an end time of 11:00 p.m. This summer he did not anticipate many

events as they are just starting with marketing. Patrick questioned if he has a lease and Carafotes said he had a three-year lease. Patrick questioned if it would be better to go with one-day licenses for both entertainment and alcohol for this summer. The application notes 50 to 125 patrons per event, events ending between 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. and events under tents and indoors. Carafortes said they would be using shuttle service to the event. Chuck questioned that with 125 patrons, where would he have off premise parking. Carafortes said that there is some parking to the right of the station and there was some discussion on speaking with Laurel Hill about using their adjacent lot for parking. Doug Goudey said that a part of the proposed tent area is owned by Laurel Hill and he questioned if Laurel Hill was on board with this project. Carafortes said that he needed to follow up on it but the conversation has been started with Jim Schantz. He said that he is hoping to host an open reception on July 1<sup>st</sup> for the community. Patrick said that he would like to defer the decision until they have a chance to speak with Laurel Hill all other impacted groups, Roxanne said that they will continue this until their next meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Next on the agenda was to sign the Warrant for Town meeting. Chuck said that he met with the Agricultural and Forestry Commission and that they would like to treat the hemlock trees in Ice Glen this fall. To do this right they would like to increase the approved \$30,000 to \$70,000. Roxanne questioned if there was discussion on the inventory and the actual trees that would be treated. Patrick said that there is Federal money available but the deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup> allowing it to be used to address future plans/treatments but they would like to begin using Town resources to treat 150 to 200 hemlocks in this calendar year; with the treatment of the remaining hemlocks and ash next year. Roxanne said she would like there to be more public input and develop a longer-range forest management plan. Patrick said that they have the summer to come up with the plan and have public hearings but the Commission would like to have the funds available. Chuck made a motion to increase the amount of \$30,000 to \$70,000 for Warrant article 27. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

Roxanne made a motion that the Board close the Warrant. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

The Board thanked Mike and everyone who worked on preparing the Warrant.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business, Roxanne adjourned the meeting.