

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 12, 2021
6:30 p.m.
ZOOM MEETING - TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Roxanne McCaffrey, Chuck Cardillo and Patrick White

Call to Order:

Roxane called the meeting to order.

Roxanne first addressed lake updates. She said that the weed harvester is at the lake and harvesting will begin on Friday morning. The GPS navigation device, a requirement of NHESP, will be uploaded for tracking of harvesting and they are in the process of developing routes for cutting. With discussion on the water chestnut, hand pulling requires an RDA which is being processed. In the meantime, seed pods can be removed without an RDA. Roxanne said that she would prefer to discuss dredging at a future meeting when both Greg Wellencamp and Michael Nathan can attend. Roxanne gave an update on a meeting at the boat ramp with a State representative, where drainage and compaction issues were discussed. She said that this is an engineering project; to create a good design for drainage. There is funding available for reimbursement. Patrick questioned the health of trees on the water's edge and the erosion. Mark Faber, Town Tree Warden, said that the trees are in good health and suggested filling in around the roots. Adding a kayak launch dock to the left of the boat ramp was also discussed.

Housing Trust fund discussion was up next. Patrick said that they have a draft from Town Counsel. \$100,000 was appropriated at Town Meeting and they are now setting up a committee to develop perimeters. Jay Bikofsky, Mark Mills, Nancy Socha and Patrick have expressed interest in being on the committee. Any others interested please contact the Town Administrator.

Next, Patrick gave a report on the Regional School District Planning Board. Patrick said that between Berkshire Hills and South Berkshire, enrollment between 2010 and 2030 is dropping by half. All eight towns have three members each on the board and they are putting together a comprehensive plan with three different options for merging the districts: administration, K-12 or just high school mergers. For details visit: 8towns.org. There will be a presentation of options in early 2022.

Next was funding for Conservation Commission performance standards. Patrick said that Michael suggested to table this for a week.

Roxanne said that it has come up recently that there is illegal trash dumping at the Transfer Station. There have been individuals entering after hours and leaving their trash. There remains the need to install the second gate on the access road to keep people from driving in. There are now security cameras at the facility and they will be updating current signage with hours and rules. Hugh explained that they spray down the area at closing to deter the bears and close the compactors. With people dumping after hours on top; the bears are returning and opening the garbage left. This is creating a public health hazard and illegal dumping will be enforced if it does not stop.

Roxanne said that in reference to Patrick's request to review Town bylaws, she named two that have come up recently. General bylaw, Article 3 (Selectmen) Sec. 3 states that the board shall meet once a week to pay bills; not necessarily that they are to meet once a week. This pertains to the responsibility they have for the weekly warrant, however the Board voted to delegate the task to the Town Administrator. It was agreed that wording is old and can be changed for better understanding at Town meeting. The next bylaw was the Zoning Bylaw Sec 6.18a pertaining to chain link fences. It was discussed that circumstances have changed and possibly it needs to be updated; this again can be discussed and go to Town meeting.

Patrick opined that perhaps a footnote would not constitute a bylaw change and could be readily accomplished. It was noted that Town Counsel could be consulted.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Roxanne adjourned the meeting.