

October 16, 2017 7:00PM Selectmen's Meeting

Present: Don Chabon, Chuck Cardillo, Terry Flynn, Danielle Fillio

Don welcomed everyone.

Don mentioned the upcoming Stockbridge Chamber of Commerce annual Halloween Parade and Trick or Treat.

Don stated concern about the construction on Church Street with Trick or Treat and Chuck said that the sidewalks are kept clear but would also mention to the Police and Water Departments.

Don mentioned the million dollar STRAP grant that the Town received and gave appreciation. He read an email from Jay Bikofsky thanking Len Tisdale. Don also read his thank you letters that he sent to the State Officials.

As a quick note on the Stockbridge Bowl, Don thanked Gary Klinerman, Special Employee, for all his hard work. He is in charge of the lake draw downs and is looking to add more buoys for next year.

Don noted his being impressed with the number of Stockbridge Volunteers in Town. He thanked the over 150 volunteers in Town allowing enough to fill the Boards.

Don said that at the last meeting there was a question regarding assessed valuations and the school vote. The answer of the scope of assessed valuation, from Town Counsel is that the proposed equalization value is the fair tax value of all property subject to local taxation which exempts all non-profits from the taxation amount.

Don relayed some questions that came to him. One was asking if there can be any ligations on the school vote and Don said that there is not much that can be done other than seeking to amend the agreement to restore previous funding formula or to withdraw completely from the district, if the other towns do not agree to a change.

There was dissatisfaction with the Town vote itself and Don said that they must have careful consideration and preparation for any project proposals. He added that the current School Committee members for Stockbridge are Sean Steven, Dan Weston and Jason St. Peter. Don is going to ask them to come to a meeting and get some updates.

The Town Visioning report stated that the Town needs to look into the economic situation in the Town and develop a task force. The Chamber is considering joining the committee and Stu Hirsfield also agreed to be on the committee.

Don made a motion to award the bid for Route 183 South Culvert Replacement and Related Work to David G. Roach and Sons of Ware, MA in the amount of \$749,765.00. Chuck seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Danielle said that this was the low bid and recommendation of Len and Steve Mack. Chuck said that this work will limit the road to one lane traffic through the winter.

Next on the agenda were Special Permits.

Don made the motion to open the special permit hearing for 1 Grove Street and to waive the reading of the notice as published in the Berkshire Eagle and to incorporate them in to the minutes. Chuck seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Selectmen, acting as a Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a public hearing at the Stockbridge Town Offices, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday October 16, 2017 to consider the application of Monte Levin and Gary Lazarus for property located at 1 Grove Road. The applicant is requesting authorization, pursuant to Section 6.1.2. of the Zoning Bylaws to allow the extension, alteration reconstruction or change of use of a nonconforming single-family dwelling. The property is in an R-2 zone.

David Potter from Green River Design and Robert Hoogs from Foresight Land Services presented. The project is for a pre-existing, non-conforming lot. The new addition meets all of the setback requirements and they had received permission from the Conservation Commission and the Lake and Pond Overlays District with the Planning Board.

Pam Sandler asked when the house was built and the response was in the 1940s. She also asked how large the addition was and the response was 178 square feet.

Don made a motion to close the hearing for the Board's deliberation. Chuck seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Don moved to approve the application as presented base on the finding that the proposed alterations are not substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood. Chuck seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Next was the Special Permit was for 4 Grove Street.

Don made the motion to open the special permit hearing for 4 Grove Street and to waive the reading of the notice as published in the Berkshire Eagle and to incorporate them in to the minutes. Chuck seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Selectmen, acting as a Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a public hearing at the Stockbridge Town Offices, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 16, 2017 to consider the application for the property of Rebecca J. Benson located at 4 Grove Road. The applicant is requesting to modify the existing Special Permit which was granted on March 20, 2017. The property is in an R-2 zone.

Pam Sandler presented the permit and stated that her clients want to add a dormer and the house is non-conforming. The dormer is for 672 square feet interest; increasing 10.2% for the second floor only. This is an amendment to an existing Special Permit; it will exceed it by 4.03%, it will not be any more detrimental to the neighborhood.

No one spoke in favor or opposed.

Don made a motion to close the hearing for the Board's deliberation. Chuck seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Don moved to approve the application as presented base on the finding that the proposed alterations are not substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood. Chuck seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Don asked Pam for a property update as owner of "Hall's Garage." Pam said that it is currently filled with antique fire trucks and some storage. As for plans Pam said that they had a request of the Planning Board by a seasoned developer, with plans to convert it into 15 condominiums. The buyer backed out. The Waldorf High School is also looking at the building. Don thanked Pam and mentioned the business development plan for downtown and offered her to be a part of it. Pam said that bringing business to Stockbridge is a tough act as rents are expensive. She said that adding businesses to downtown would be positive, as well as bringing people to Town at night.

The next Special Permit on the agenda was for 3A Hawthorne Road.

Don made the motion to open the special permit hearing for 3A Hawthorne Road and to waive the reading of the notice as published in the Berkshire Eagle and to incorporate it in to the minutes. Chuck seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Selectmen, acting as a Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a public hearing at the Stockbridge Town Offices, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday October 16, 2017 to consider the application of the Boston Symphony Orchestra for property located at 3A Hawthorne Road. The applicant is requesting authorization, pursuant to Section 4.10.B.20. of the Zoning Bylaws to allow temporary construction trailers to be used by workers on large projects. The property is in an R-4 zone.

Phil Brault representing Consigli Construction spoke in behalf of temporary construction trailers for the Tanglewood project. There will be two trailers to house staff for approximately twelve months.

Kate Fletcher as a neighbor went on a site visit and in terms of the trailers on the site, she had no issues. She did comment on how the project was introduced at a Select Board meeting and that no one was informed about this very large project. She feels that there should be more meaningful involvement with neighbors for projects such as this. Kate stated that 88% of the tax base is residential so it is important to reach out to residents and keep them informed.

Chuck said that the site visit was for the curb cut and the only jurisdiction the Select Board has is the ten or fifteen feet from the road. Kate said that that was a narrow way of looking at it.

Terry said that given the scope of the project it would make sense for the Town Boards to be informed if necessary to get specific expertise.

Patrick White thanked the Selectmen for getting the certified letters to the neighbors about the special permit for the trailers. He would also like to receive notices.

Charles Kenny was sensitive to those issues but it pleases to see that there are better communications in Town.

Kim Noltemy from the BSO stated that this is a 32 million dollar project and they did follow proper procedure and protocol but is happy to work with neighbors. She said that she is the person to call or email her with any concerns.

Kate Fletcher asked if the fence and screening that was cut on the corner of the site would be replaced. It was said that it would be replaced.

Josh Peyron, 62 Interlaken Road, asked if there were any traffic studies done concerning the impacts of the project.

Kim Noltemy said that there would not be an increase of the people going to Tanglewood for those events; 250 people at the most. There is a café, concert hall which holds only 250 and project rooms.

Don added that the conversation needed to be on topic of the special permit.

Don made a motion to close the hearing for the Board's deliberation. Chuck seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Don moved to approve the application as presented. Chuck seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Next on the agenda was discussion of the Town Collector position. It is amongst the Board. Nancy Socha will be retiring as of November 17th. As it is an elected position, Don asked for thoughts.

Terry asked if they may want to move the position to an appointed position and not elected, appoint a temporary replacement and go back to elected, or combine the Treasurer and Collector position.

Danielle said that the Treasurer could be appointed temporary Collector.

Don said that there are hoops to jump through to do this. Chuck thought that it would be a good time to look at having the Collector, Clerk and Treasurer positions to become appointed.

Don offered to put a scenario together and talk to Danielle, Ray and Karen before moving forward.

Danielle stated that the Board can appoint Karen but to make any position from elected to appointed, it has to be passed at a Town meeting; special or annual. It also has to pass at an annual Town election.

Don was reluctant to make an elected position appointed but agrees that it is worth looking at. He wanted to investigate the options.

Next on the agenda was discussion on Human resources. Danielle said that Ray said that Chuck can be a part of the discussion and employee evaluation plans as long as it does not include the fire department and Don makes that motion.

Discussion continued about looking over the Town government structure, evaluation plans, have a lawyer in the wing for discussions providing guidance on where to move forward. Don made a motion to discuss HR and exclude the Fire Department.

Terry was concerned that everything be run by Ray. Danielle stated that Ray is looking for a labor lawyer for the Town and would not act in that position.

Chuck agreed that there needed have someone in place to be more of an advisor; not to take over. Everyone was on the same page and Terry was going to look into this.

Next on the agenda was discussion on employee evaluation plans and Don said that as he understood they could agree to continue to do what had been done before, agree to a new procedure, or do nothing, but without agreement there can be no change. The Town meeting only specified that the Board can hire, fire, and negotiate on contracts. Don asked if that was agreed upon and Terry was not completely sure. Danielle said that there have been evaluations but just not done as frequently. Don's experience was that there is always an evaluation process and it was good management. Chuck agreed that it is necessary and can be helpful. He believes in merit raises as opposed to across the board raises.

Don stated that we have many different types of employees; union, appointed, and elected.

Terry said that merit raises work in some instances and not in others. He felt that it make sense to reenergize the concept that we are going to evaluate but to focus on more important issues right now.

Chuck agreed that fine tuning it is a good idea.

Don asked Danielle what the timing is. She said six months after hire, a year after and then yearly thereafter. Currently they will reenergize the evaluations but not to go to merit raises at this time.

Terry asked what the real goal is and it is to make the employees more responsive.

Kate Fletcher asked if the job descriptions are available. Don said that they do and they are available.

Kate also stated that the fountain committee: herself, Carl Sprague, Gigi Kingston, Mark Wilson, met and is looking at separate fountain projects and the possibilities to improve them. Danielle will check on the timing for covering the Cat and Dog fountain and let Kate know.

Kim Noltemy said that Tanglewood will announce the new season on November 17th and it is a Leonard Bernstein 100 celebration year and there will be a 100th birthday concert for him on October 25th. It will be on National and International television. They will also replicate one of the Young Peoples Concert, Fancy Free with the Boston Ballet, Candide and West Side Story.

The popular artist schedule usually books later but they are planned to be on will be on June 22nd, 23rd, 29th and 30th and on July 1st, 3rd and 4th; and Labor Day weekend as well.

In January they will send out information to the Town and community about booking the new space even though it will not open until May 2019.

With no further business Don made a motion to adjourn. Chuck seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.