

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 12, 2019
6:30 p.m.
TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Terry Flynn, Chuck Cardillo, and Roxanne McCaffrey

Call to Order:

Terry called the meeting to order.

Agenda:

First item on the agenda was to take action on the minutes for August 15, 2019 and August 22, 2019. Chuck made a motion that the Board accept the minutes for August 15th and August 22nd. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Next was discussion on the chime tower. Terry read an excerpt on the history of the Chime tower. A letter dated June 4, 1878 written by David Dudley Field Jr. was sent to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, John B. Hull, Esq. It read:

Dear Sir,

Will you do me the favor to lay the following offer before the next town meeting: I will build a stone tower, on the site of the first mission church, and put into it a chime of four bells, if the town will keep the tower and bells in preservation ever afterwards, and employ a person to ring the chimes at morning, noon and evening of every week-day between the first of May and the first of November. The tower must be named the Mission Tower, and the chimes, the children's chimes, in memory of my little grandchildren.

Terry continued that the offer was accepted and the tower was completed in December of 1878, with nine bells instead of the four proposed.

Terry next introduced Claire Williams who spoke on the tower and the bell ringers. She noted that the bells are rung from April blossom time until frost on the pumpkin. Claire gave a description of the tower and read the inscription that is on a stone above the doorway. She spoke on bell ringers, the restoration, and visitors. Claire herself has played the chimes for over 35 years. The chimes are still played by hand and Claire listed the names of the bell ringers. Claire said that she has hopes of a committee being formed to assist the upkeep to the chime tower. Claire recalled the first time she went to the chime tower when five years old and how she learned to play the chimes.

Terry read a letter to Claire from the Select Board as follows:

Dear Claire,

On behalf of the people of Stockbridge, we want to officially express our sincere gratitude for the service you have given to the Stockbridge community throughout your life, and most especially throughout the 35 years you have spent since 1984, making sure that the Children's Chimes have continued to bring peace and joy to all.

During those 35 years, you have spent countless hours recruiting, training, supporting and scheduling the Tower's bell ringers, keeping a watchful eye on the maintenance of the Tower, and introducing residents and visitors alike to one of our most wonderful treasures. The energy, enthusiasm and love you so often express, not only for the chimes, but for the beauty and simplicity of life in Stockbridge, has inspired many of us in Town for many years. We are indeed lucky to have you helping us keep our Town alive and well.

*With Deep Appreciation,
The Stockbridge Select Board*

Terry noted that he went to a meeting with the Historical Commission where it was discussed that all historic properties are identified, listed and that they then work together on assessments of properties and restoration plans. Gregory Farmer is the consultant who the Historical Commission has been working with and he will touch base on his work with Mark Webber. He would like the VHB consultants for the traffic study to also touch base with him. The Norman Rockwell Museum will be having consultants going through the Old Town Hall and give Chris Marsden advise on what may need to have done to maintain the building while the museum project is going on. The Historical Commission asked that Gregg also be allowed in as this occurs. Terry asked that the Historical Commission come to meetings every two to three months with updates. They will also be looking at the restoration of the Soldier's Monument and an assessment of the chime tower and bells. The Board agreed on the suggested process.

At Roxanne's suggestion, Chuck made a motion that quarterly, heads of all the committees, at staggered times, report to the Board; so that the Board and tax payers are informed what is going on. Terry suggested that they should move forward and vote on this motion with Mark Webber' involvement.

The next item which Terry spoke on was that there was an issue with some of the excess supplies at the Fire Station which resulted in hazardous material causing some damage at the central station. He said that they already had a company who took care of the spillage in the building and contained the fluids onsite. The supplies cannot be transported and disposed of until the chemical components in the materials are identified; testing is in the process. Terry also noted that due to State policies, the foam stored at the Interlaken station cannot be sold and will be disposed of at a hazmat site.

Terry spoke on the necessity to designate people special municipal employees which allows them to have paid positions in Town and to operate on boards and committees at the same time. A disclosure is also necessary. This has happened for some positions and committees but they need to take this action for the Fire Department. Roxanne questioned if there were any other groups/departments that should be designated and it was decided to hold off until this was determined.

Announcements:

Terry noted that the Town was not chosen to receive the Complete Streets grant which was going to cover the cost of the sidewalk to Pinewoods. They will reapply for the next grant.

Chuck said that he attended the first meeting for the school consolidation but noted that they need an alternate to attend meetings. The next meeting is on September 25th at 4:30 p.m. It was agreed to appoint someone at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Terry adjourned the meeting.