

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 26, 2020
6:30 p.m.
TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Terry Flynn, Chuck Cardillo, Roxanne McCaffrey and Mark Webber

Call to Order:

Terry called the meeting to order.

Agenda:

Terry made a motion to accept the minutes for March 12, 2020. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Next was a National Grid - Verizon Joint Pole Hearing. Mark explained that this was a pole relocation permit for a utility pole approximate to the Larrywaug Brook Bridge, which will be necessary to move for bridge construction. There have been not abutter objections. Terry made a motion to grant the special permit for a utility pole relocation approximate to the Interlaken Road Bridge project; granting to National Grid. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

Next on the agenda was a special permit hearing for Brian and Chelsea Bordonaro for the property located at 36 East Street. Mark explained that this is a special permit required according to the bylaw for trailers/mobile homes within site of the general way. The applicants are seeking the permit to park the vehicle for an extended period. One abutter responded in favor of the permit and no others responded with objections. It was discussed and agreed to limit the extension to 90 days and if there are not any issues, it may be extended. Chuck made the motion to approve the special permit for Brian and Chelsea Bordonaro to park their recreational vehicle for 90 days. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Next was to take action on seasonal alcohol license renewals. Terry made a motion to approve the seasonal alcohol licenses for the following: the Berkshire Theatre Festival, Trustees of Reservations, Tanglewood Grill, Tanglewood Café, Tanglewood Meals to Go, Tanglewood Hawthorne Tent, Tanglewood Bernstein Tent, and Tanglewood Highwood building. Roxanne seconded; all were in approval.

Terry stated that in terms of the response to the open meeting law complaints for the Rest of River, the Board has authorized Town Counsel to write a response and the responses represent what was stated at the last meeting; therefore the Board needed to indicated their approval of the provided draft documents; two letters, one in response to each person's complaint . Roxanne

made a motion that the Board accept the draft copies that they have all seen written by Miyares and Harrington to address two open meeting law complaints, one dated March 9, 2020 and one dated March 10, 2020 and that the Board approves them to be remitted to the complainants. Terry seconded; all were in favor.

The next item was the Town Administrator search updates. Mark noted that the chair of the search committee, Bronly Boyd today issued a report of the committee. Terry read the report:

I would like to thank the members of the search committee for their assistance on this committee. They are; Terri Iemolini, Marion Gardner-Saxe, Terry Shea, Charles Gillett and Doug Goudey.

The committee received 14 applications to review. As a result of our committee meetings and subsequent applicant interviews, we wish to present the names of 2 finalists to the Select Board for the purpose of public interviews and consideration. Those finalists are: Michael Canales of North Adams, MA and Thomas Banisch of Madison, CT.”

Both candidates have received positive recommendations from their references. The committee is available at your convenience if you have further questions regarding our process or conclusions.

With regard,

Town Administrative Search Committee Members:
Bronly Boyd, Chair
Terri Iemoline
Marion Gardner-Saxe
Doug Goudey
Charles Gillett
Terry Shea

Terry thanked the committee for their work, dedication and time. Mark said that he would reach out to both candidates and formulate a time and method for interviews.

Next it was announced that the Annual Town Meeting was pushed out to June 15th and elections to June 16th. Mark noted that as items are continually coming in with changes in response to the corona virus, these dates are subject to change.

Roxanne provide announcements. Roxanne said that Town government is now focused on the COVID-19 pandemic and on keeping the employees and residents safe and healthy. At this point any questions or concerns by residents not related directly to COVID-19 and its detrimental effects should expect a delay in response. Focus is on slowing the curve of transmission.

Secondly, Roxanne read the following:

PRESS RELEASE – STOCKBRIDGE, MA Issued March 26, 2020 A MESSAGE FROM STOCKBRIDGE, MA TO OUR VISITORS, WEEKENDERS AND SECOND HOME OWNERS

The Stockbridge Board of Selectmen is issuing the following statement to its visitors, weekenders, second home owners and short term rental owners.

We have recently seen an increased influx of travelers from outside of Berkshire County who are staying at second homes and short term rentals, like those listed on websites like Airbnb and VRBO. While travelers may be seeking refuge from the larger amount of cases in their home location, everyone must be aware that this is a global pandemic. All incoming people have a critical role to play in halting the rapid spread of this virus, which can be dangerous and even fatal to the elderly and people with underlying health conditions.

The novel coronavirus pandemic has impacted Massachusetts, which is responding with all available resources to contain a growing number of cases, which includes more than 1,800 confirmed cases and fifteen (15) deaths. The number of cases in Berkshire County has climbed from 20 on March 20th to 71 on March 25th and even more significantly jumped from 37 confirmed cases on March 24 to 71 on March 25th. The number of exposures will undoubtedly increase with the movement of non-residents and part time residents into our area from other parts of the state and country, resulting in a strain upon the resources of public health, first responders, health care providers, our hospitals and government personnel.

Stockbridge is a rural community with approximately 2,000 residents and an aging population. Sixty-three percent (63%) of our residents are 50 or older; almost half (45.1%) are 60 and over therefore having increased vulnerability during this outbreak.

We have few hospitals in Berkshire County and those that we do have, along with our emergency responders, are currently at risk of having inadequate personal protective equipment. The additional needs created by incoming travelers and second home owners may tax our medical care and emergency response systems beyond capacity. Currently, by Executive Order of Governor Baker non-essential businesses are closed and grocery stores, while still open to the public, are experiencing difficulty keeping shelves stocked with food and basic supplies.

We are asking that you respect the safety of our residents and the integrity of our hospitals, emergency services and infrastructure and not travel to Stockbridge at this time. This is in keeping with federal and state mandates that people stay at home and stay put. It is far better for you to stay home and limit your movements. Any expectation that resources will be available to you here that are not available to you in your current location are simply unrealistic.

In addition, Tri-Town Health which serves Stockbridge, Lenox and Lee issued a letter today as follows:

Dear Hotel, Rental, and STR Owners,

As you know COVID-19 is HERE in the Berkshires. As all sectors are working in unison to combat this pandemic, we are issuing this important message to all of you. On March 24, 2020, the Federal Corona Virus Task Force issued a recommendation that anyone traveling from the New York City Metropolitan area should self-quarantine for at least 14 days. We are asking that if you receive any bookings or inquiries from any person from this area (or any other area deemed as a COVID-19 hotspot) we are requesting that you postpone any bookings until COVID-19 is defeated. If people are coming into our

towns that are travelling from certain areas, we will require a 14-day quarantine of those people.

In addition, if a resident is found to test positive for COVID-19 who is residing at one of your properties, there will be a mandatory Isolation order issued by the local board of health and occupants will be unable to leave until they are medically cleared (which could be longer than 14 days) regardless of their commitment on your booking. More importantly, people traveling into the Berkshires from out of the area may be unaware and could further aid in the spread of the virus. In certain cases, the local board of health may require additional actions to prevent further spread that may include a comprehensive sanitizing and disinfection of the property at your expense.

We thank you for your cooperation during this trying time. We WILL defeat COVID-19 if we work in collaboration. Please visit the following link <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-theoutbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19> to access up to date information on COVID-19 as well as resources needed. PRACTICE social distancing, WASH hands with soap and water, FOLLOW all Commonwealth of Massachusetts Emergency orders, ISOLATE at home as much as possible, and STAY at home if you are sick.

Thank you for your timely and important cooperation on this matter.

If you have recently arrived in Stockbridge you should comply with the recommendations of the Federal government and Tri-Town Health and self-quarantine for 14 days to limit possible exposures.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Next was a one-day alcohol license for the Norman Rockwell for a graduation party to be held on Friday, June 19, 2020 from 6-10 p.m. This will be contingent on whether there is still a limitation on gatherings. Chuck made a motion that they accept the one-day alcohol license. Terry seconded; all were in favor.

The remaining licenses were for the eventually opening of the Elm Street Market. Terry read that Green-Land Market LLC is applying for the following licenses: Retail Sales, a Restaurant Sales license, and an annual live entertainment license; all to expire on December 31, 2020. The entertainment application was reviewed and the Board preferred to check on it before approval. Terry made a motion to approve a Retail Sales license and a Restaurant Sales license for Green-Land Market LLC at Elm Street Market with both licenses expiring December 31, 2020. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Terry adjourned the meeting.