

**STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, June 18, 2020**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET**

**Present:**

Chuck Cardillo, Roxanne McCaffrey, Patrick White and Mark Webber

**Call to Order:**

Chuck called the meeting to order.

**Agenda:**

First on the agenda was to take action on minutes. Roxanne made a motion to approve the minutes of May 21, 2020. Chuck seconded; all were in favor: I Roxanne, I Chuck.

Chuck opened the hearing for continuation of new All Alcoholic Beverages Package Store License Application for Green-Land Market, LLC DBA Elm Street Market.

Chris Greendale spoke on his plans for the market/ grocery store. Being a resident and having become dissatisfied with what the market had become he purchased the business with the intention to restore it to a market and café. After five months of renovations, Chris noted that they would open on Monday. Patrick asked if they met the ABCC criteria to hold a liquor license and the response was yes. Making a point, Patrick added that they are qualified to have a license, were vetted by the ABCC, therefore he was ok with it. Co-owner Tiffany Schnauber gave an overview of her vision for the alcohol license use. Tiffany noted that they had a very small space for alcohol, planned to carry local distributors, and wanted to offer it as an option for people picking up groceries; provide a convenience while you are shopping. While pending ABCC approval, Roxanne said they met all the criteria and felt that she had no reason to deny a license. Chuck asked for public comment. Michael Abdalla said that he was concerned about the parking and handicap bathrooms. He said that when he renovated, they had to put handicap bathrooms in. Chris said that they did not meet the standards laid down by law to need handicap bathrooms; they had not spent the money necessary to require this. They do have a renovated restroom. Roxanne stated that this was not the agenda item.

Patrick again stated that they cannot deny the application as the applicants meet the criteria to have a license.

Joe Nejaime stated that he wanted to wish Chris and Tiffany the best of luck with their store but added that he was ok with a beer and wine license there but did not feel it was suited for an all alcohol license. He felt that in the future it could change in to a full liquor store and that the Selectmen would have no authority over it, other than to revoke the licenses for cause. He said that he would like the Selectmen to ensure it operates as a grocery store with food service and to grant a beer and wine license. Patrick stated that the Town had two liquor licenses available and the applicant was qualified. Roxanne again stated the license is not automatically transferable and if a new business were to go in there, the Select Board is the one who grants a license. Tiffany stated that they bought the business to provide a service to the community and have put their heart and souls into it. She said that they are only putting in a small section for alcohol in the store. The intent is not to turn it into a liquor store or

to sell the business. They are looking to restore something that had been an institution in the Town. They are not trying to take business away from anyone. She plans to stock the store with groceries but also have the added convenience of alcohol for their customers. The market is their number one and the café. Tiffany noted that with her years of experience in the food and beverage industry that she did understand, that liquor licenses do not transfer, and that she is not going to turn it into a package store.

Kelly Abdalla agreed with having a market but disagreed with the need to have a full alcohol license. Her concern was that there is not adequate parking and felt that a beer and wine license would be sufficient. Tiffany stated that they have public parking in front of their store and people who park there also visit stores other than theirs. Chuck closed the open comment portion of the hearing and he said that he did not feel that the Board had any reason to deny the license.

Chuck made a motion that the Board approve the all alcohol license application for Green-Land Market, LLC DBA Elm Street Market. Roxanne seconded; I Roxanne, I Patrick, I Chuck; all were in favor.

Next was a status update on the Transfer Station hours of operation and staffing. Mark stated that the attendant Ralph is working 5 to 6 days a week currently and is looking for some days off in July and August. Being that it is open 6 days a week, Nancy Rinsma has offered to fill in so the issue no longer exists. Mark said that they could discuss hours; adding Sunday hours or cutting back hours such as closing on a Wednesday. He said they are currently staffed appropriately with no other concerns. Chuck said he would like to table discussion to an upcoming meeting in a few weeks.

Next was discussion on Room Occupancy Tax. Patrick wanted to start a discussion on the current room tax of 4% and possibly to increase to 6% as many surrounding towns have. He stated that he also wanted to investigate and look into seeing that Air B&Bs are registered.

Roxanne said that she would like to hear from the public. Chuck agreed and thought that this was worth looking into and a great starting point. Diane Ruess owner of the Stockbridge Country Inn and an innkeeper for 31 years said that she just received an email from the Mass Department of Revenue stating that collecting and filing of room tax is being put off until the end of September 2020 this year. She did not feel that this was the best time to be raising room tax but is not opposed to it. Chuck said that this was a long-term process and not happening overnight. Diane thanked the Town for temporarily waiving the outside seating bylaw. Diane added that her inn will not be open until possibly fall foliage. Patrick stated that the room occupancy tax does not raise taxes on anyone in Town; it is a tax collected by patrons and passed through. Barb Zanetti asked for more of a heads up in the future.

Next Mark discussed reopening of Town Offices. After a staff meeting and looking at what surrounding towns are doing, items discussed and underway were the ordering of plexi-glass shields for offices, wall hand sanitizer dispensers, the public restrooms tentatively opening on July 1<sup>st</sup>, with the Town offices remaining closed with tentative opening of August 3<sup>rd</sup>; all dependent on supplies received to support the reopening. Thought is to have the gymnasium and community room set up as meeting spaces to better allow social distancing when again open to the public for Town board and committee meetings. Certain areas in the building will be secured to limit access as appropriate. Signage will be added instructing visitors to use the rear main lobby. The

lobby will be closed at 4 pm daily with no extracurricular activities/programs in the building for the foreseeable future. Printed versions of various applications will be available for pick up in the main lobby. A phone has been ordered and will be installed with instructions for calling Town offices. An additional drop box will be added to the front of the building. Mark noted that the drop box near the Police Station entrance has been working well and that there has not been public clamor on opening the offices. Signage will be added throughout the building and masks and cleaning supplies will be provided for the employees. Supplies will dictate the reopening. Under phase 2 of the governor's order we are still limited to meetings of 10 in the building.

Chuck noted that the school merger committee recently held another meeting and they are still looking for another resident to join. Contact Mark if interested. Patrick gave an update on Town businesses which have reopened.

Laura Dubester added that a Household Hazardous Waste collection was coming up in Lee on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 1. It will be posted on the website.

Next Chuck asked for a vote to enter **Executive Session**: Pursuant to *M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3)*, the Select Board will enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to the following litigation matters, discussion of which in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's litigating position:

- *Stockbridge Bowl Association v. Stockbridge Conservation Commission*, Berkshire County Superior Court C.A. No. 1976CV00032
- *In the Matter of Stockbridge Bowl Association*, DEP OADR No. WET-2019-011

And that the Board will not return to open meeting after executive session. Patrick recused himself from the meeting. Roxanne seconded; vote: I Roxanne, I Chuck.