

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, November 18, 2013**

*Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons, Mark Fairbrother, Chris Boutwell, Mike Nelson; Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio; Administrative Secretary, Wendy Bogusz;*

Meeting being Taped

**Approve minutes of August 26, October 15, 21, 28 and November 4, 2013,**

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of August 26, 2013. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Liquor License Hearing, Purple Meadow Ventures, Inc. dba Jay K's, Change of location from 59 Avenue A, to 123 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Change the Corporate Name/dba from Jay K's Liquors to Connecticut River Liquor and Wine**

Boutwell recuses himself from the meeting

Fairbrother reads hearing notice into the record

*Nelson makes the motion to approve the change of corporate name from Jay K's Liquors to Connecticut River Liquor and Wine. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved. Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Boutwell – recused from meeting*

*Nelson makes the motion to approve Jay K's liquors, aka now Connecticut River Liquor and Wine to approve the change of location from 59 Avenue A to 123 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved. Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Boutwell – recused from meeting*

**Jon Dobosz, Parks & Recreation Director  
Rutter's Park Public Hearing Announcement**

Public hearing is planned for November 20, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Spiritualist hall in Lake Pleasant to discuss improvements to Rutters Park.

**Registration for Assembly, Public Demonstration or Use of Public Property: Annual Saw Mill River 10K Run, January 1, 2014**

*Nelson makes the motion to approve the Parks and Recreation annual Saw Mill River 10K run beginning on January 1, 2014 from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This will be covered under town insurance and Chief Dodge has signed off on the event. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Streetscape Planter Guidelines Public Meeting  
Meeting opened at 7:15 PM**

Abbondanzio: We are talking about developing policies for the adopt a planter program for the maintenance and care of the planters. There has been an informal process in place for 15 years; back in 1993 the town did streetscape improvements that included about \$150,000 of landscaping work. When the landscaping maintenance agreement ran out and the Highway Dept. took over, a lot of those planters went into disrepair and weren't taken care of very well. In the late 90's a lot of residents, store owners and others stepped up to the plate and adopted planters and have done a wonderful job. We decided we need to formalize our guidelines for the care of those planters and that is what tonight is about. There is a bylaw in effect that governs the planters as it does the sidewalks. The Streetscape Committee is looking for guidance and feedback from the Board and the Community in terms of the current policies as we have them before us tonight. Abbondanzio reads through the guidelines and discussion held.

- Town owns planters and depending on what is in them, Town may want to require insurance taken out for potential liability
- Planter Committee has first jurisdiction if someone wants to put an object, then if not followed through with committees advise would have to meet with Selectmen for exception or choose to enforce Planter Committees decision
- Ms. Golrick thinks the Tech School students should be in charge of the planters avoiding all these regulations and would like to pursue this. Nelson suggests maybe they take on a couple of planters on a trial basis. L. Hickman feels it is a big responsibility for someone to take on watering if they are not down town. Fairbrother doesn't feel

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it would work and told she can write to them requesting this as a private citizen but to make it clear she is not writing on behalf of the Towns.

- Abbondanzio states we are encouraging volunteerism
- Discussion about signage and advertising, what is appropriate signage recognizing individuals.
- There are 35 planters, have large mature trees in them, soil is hard on west side. There is a lot of work involved in taking care of them
- Joe Landry encourages working with one of the schools to take over a planter so the children can be involved. People travel the country to see public art, you need more than horticultural planters to bring people here. Thinks these are the wrong rules
- Sawyer-Loucanno would like to see stipulation what constitutes too much
- Someone: Thinks planters should be more than just planters, there should be other things in there, would like to see sculptures in there, a lot more than just flowers could be in there
- Need to figure out who decides on taste
- Suggestions have been made for a competition of public art in the planters.
- Abbondanzio does not feel the public art displays should be handled the same way and does not feel the Planter Committee should be involved with it
- Mr. Madison inquires if everyone is being treated the same way? Was told to pull everything up out of his planter. It was mentioned I did not live up to our gentlemen's agreement to scale down. I put in a dozen new plants, and I took out 15 non plant items. Feels letter was vague and would appreciate some specific guidelines.
- P. Pruitt states she doesn't know why we would want to be so limiting in terms of making just flower spaces along the Avenue. We diminish our ability to represent ourselves in the full character of our town in a certain way by doing that.

Fairbrother would rather not vote on this tonight, there are revisions that could be made in what was presented and more thought before spring planting. Will revisit this at some point

**A New Leaf, Inc., Request for support or non-opposition to locate a Registered Marijuana Dispensary in the Town of Montague**

Terrance Noonan: Asking the Board take a vote to authorize a letter of support on A New Leaf, Inc. (ANL) a registered non profit with the state of Massachusetts. We have entered 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of permitting and we are asking for letter of support. Noonan gives history of A New Leaf, Inc. given.

*Nelson makes the motion to lend support to a New Leaf, Inc to locate a Registered Marijuana Dispensary in the Town of Montague not withstanding the possibility that another group may come forward requesting the Boards support as well. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Linda Hickman, Interim Library Director, Community Innovation Challenge Grant Application**

Hickman: I'm going to be requesting approximately \$75,000 from the State to help bridge the digital divide in Montague. The idea is to get laptops for the Senior Center, Carnegie Library and the Montague Catholic Social Ministries and have a consultant come in, train the trainers and offer training for the public at some of the sites in terms of basic computer literacy, and a lesson on how to download e-books at the Senior Center and the Library. The challenge grants are for improved efficiencies of government services. We will also share equipment among places. Application deadline is Friday, winners notified by February. We are requesting money for 8 laptops at the Carnegie Library and at Montague Catholic Social Ministries then 6 laptops at the Senior Center. The Senior Center is also requesting 4 I pads and 4 Kindle Fires. Also at the Carnie 4 I pads, digital projectors at all 3 buildings for teaching classes. We will be providing trainings for librarians across the county.

*Boutwell makes the motion to that the Board authorize Linda Hickman from the Montague Public Libraries to apply for the Community Innovation Challenge Grant for bridging the digital divide in Montague. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Chip Dodge, Chief of Police,  
Assignment of John Dempsey as Detective**

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*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the personnel status change notice for John D. Dempsey to position of Detective effective date of change, November 17, 2013 at the grade/step D3 at \$24.72, plus \$9.59/week for K-9 Stipend. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Resignation of Christopher LaPointe**

*Boutwell makes the motion to accept the resignation of Christopher LaPointe effective 7:00 AM on November 27, 2013 with regret. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Other**

*Boutwell makes the motion to accept the resignation of Sergei Skorupa effective Friday, November 29, 2013 with regret. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Begin Hiring process to replace Officer LaPointe**

Would like support to begin hiring process of replacing Officer Lapointe as well as hiring reserve officers. Would like to hire up to 4 reserve officers

*Boutwell make the motion to begin the hiring process for the full time police officer and part time reserve officer vacancies within the Police Department, seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Personnel Board, Appointment of Daniel Poirier, DPW Groundskeeper, UE Grade 3, Step 3, \$15.01/hr, effective 1/6/14**

*Nelson makes the motion to appoint Daniel Poirier as the DPW Groundskeeper at UE Grade 3, Step 3 at the rate of \$15.01/hr, effective 1/6/14. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Nelson – Aye, Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother - Aye*

**Walter Ramsey, Town Planner**

**Award River Culture Contract to Suzanne LoManto, \$25/hour, 25 hours/week, 1 year contract**

*Nelson makes the motion to award the River Culture Contract to Suzanne LoManto at \$25/hour, 25 hours/week, effective immediately and continuing until June 30, 2014. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Authorize Adams Grant Award Agreement for FY14 and FY15**

*Boutwell makes the motion that the Board sign the Adams Grant Award Agreement for FY14 and FY15. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Review and Authorize Selectboard comments to FRTA Advisory Board regarding proposed FY14 FRTA route changes**

*Nelson makes the motion to authorize Chair of the Selectboard to sign the letter to the FRTA Advisory Board regarding the proposed FY14 FRTA route changes. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Award contract for Downtown Streetscape Enhancement Project Design to Berkshire Design Group (\$9,000 from CDBG Program Income Funds)**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign a contract for the Downtown Streetscape Enhancement Project Design to Berkshire Design Group for \$8,999 from the CDBG Program Income funds. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Establish four member Citizen Advisory Committee for FY2013 Community Development Block Grant and appoint Ryan Wallace, 4 South High St.; Maureen Pollock, 112 L Street; Robert Obear, 47 West Chestnut Hill; Christine Speeks, 55 L Street. Term: 11/18/13 to 6/30/14**

*Nelson makes the motion to establish a four member Citizen Advisory Committee for FY2013 Community Development Block Grant and appoint Ryan Wallace, 4 South High St.; Maureen Pollock, 112 L Street; Robert Obear, 47 West Chestnut Hill; Christine Speeks, 55 L Street. Term: 11/18/13 to 6/30/14. As well as these people*

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*an additional person from Millers Falls shall be appointed. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

There is a draft 2014 Community Development Strategy that is available for public review on the Towns website. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 26 at 6:30 PM.

**Authorize Access Agreements for South Street Bridge area streambed restoration project and authorize revised s.319 grant to allow for project design**

*Nelson makes the motion to authorize Access Agreements for South Street Bridge area streambed restoration and authorize revised s.319 grant to allow for project design. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Town Administrators Report, Votes may be taken  
Discussion of Bridge Re-Opening Events**

State would like to have a re-opening event in the Spring. This event to be referred to RiverCulture

**Appointment of Janel Nockleby as Chairman to Montague Historical Commission**

*Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Janel Nockleby as Chairman to the Montague Historical Commission until June 30, 2014. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson – Aye*

**Addendum #2 with Berkshire Design Group, Unity Park Site Improvements Phase II: Additional Services, increase by \$6,400, total new contract price: \$33,350.00**

*Nelson makes the motion to approve addendum #2 with Berkshire Design Group, Unity Park Site Improvements Phase II: Additional Services, which is an increase of \$6,400, total new contract price: \$33,350.00, contract states project will be done by June 15, 2014. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Request by the Rendezvous to stay open until 2:00 AM on New Year's Eve**

Boutwell abstain

*Nelson makes the motion to allow all bars in the town of Montague to stay open until 2:00 am on January 1, 2014 if they notify the Board of Selectmen in writing by the close of business on December 19, 2013. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Topics not anticipated covered in the 48 hour posting requirement  
MEDIC Update**

Abbondanzio: They had until noon today to come up with financing plan and a proposal came in just before noon requesting an extension until the end of the calendar year, because they had a banking institution that was interested in helping them out.

Inquiry about whether executive session minutes could be released regarding Millers Falls property. The Town has not heard from the attorney as of this date saying the case is closed.

**Executive Session under G.L. c 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining involving town unions (TOMEA and UE) Votes may be taken**

Fairbrother declares it will be detrimental to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining involving town unions (TOMEA and UE) in open session.

*Nelson makes the motion to go into Executive Session at 9:23 PM under G.L. c 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining involving town unions (TOMEA and UE) Votes may be taken. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson - Aye*

*Nelson makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:37PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Nelson – Aye.*