

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
MONDAY, April 10, 2017**

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Chris Boutwell and Michael Nelson, Town Administrator Steven Ellis, and Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz. Nelson makes introduction and announces meeting is being taped.

**Approve Selectmen minutes of April 3, 2017**

*Boutwell makes a motion to approve the minutes of April 3, 2017. Nelson seconded, unanimously approved.  
Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Board of Selectmen will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment**

Singleton: The Franklin Regional Transit Authority is consolidating the Montague routes. We may be eliminating Route 22, reconfiguring the routes that goes to Sunderland and to Orange to fill in the gaps, and reducing the number of routes that go from Montague to Greenfield. The reasons we're doing this is because, in my opinion, we don't need all the ones we have, and we're involved in a heavy lobbying campaign to get some limited weekend service, at least a half-day Saturday. We're having public input sessions on the proposal on Tuesday, April 18th, at the Discovery Center between 2:00 and 4:00; on April 19th at the Olver Transit Center in Greenfield from 12:30 to 2:30; and on April 25th from 3:00 to 5:00. You can access these route changes on-line at the FRTA website, and if you have any comments you would like to give to me, my email is singleton.jeff47@gmail.com.

**Jon Dobosz, Parks and Recreation Director, Skatepark Updates regarding programming ideas and facility improvements**

Dobosz gave an update of some facility plans as well as some programmatic plans for the skatepark:

- The skatepark seems to be holding up really well. There are some "dings" here and there, but we are still under warranty.
- We are on the second year for the two-year warranty for the bowl, but Grindline will be back hopefully in the next two weeks to take care of the items that were outside of the bowl that were part of the one-year warranty.
- A concrete pad will be installed underneath the bench on the right side of the entrance to accommodate any accessibility issues.
- A solution will be explored to shore up the main façade facing the parking lot of Unity Park, possibly using creeping juniper.
- Clinics may be coordinated with the local skate shop on Third Street.
- There will potentially be a music or jam event this summer to work as a fundraiser and possibly a night skate.

**Discussion**

- Chief Dodge would need to sign off on the night skate event. Temporary lights would need to be brought in. Nelson suggested that Dobosz talk to Chief Dodge regarding some lights stored in the jail that are available for community use.
- Ellis asked about the expected ongoing operational and maintenance costs. Potential issues mentioned by the Skatepark Committee included the corners where the skateboards hit, some spider-cracking, and pool coping. As the skatepark was built by one of the best construction companies in the United States, minor repairs are expected to be very manageable.
- A new committee will be formed called Friends of the Skatepark, with anybody who uses the skatepark or whose children use it, to move forward with fundraising and volunteering, litter clean-up, etc.

**Wendy Iseman, Application for use of Peskeompskut Park for a Franklin County Climate Change Rally on April 29, 2017**

*Boutwell makes a motion to allow Wendy Iseman as the Event Organizer to hold the Pint Huddle on Saturday, April 29, 2017, the location is Peskeompskut Park in Turners Falls, hours of operation are 10:30 a.m. until noon, set-up will be from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., and clean-up will from 12:00 to 2:00 or when finished, estimated amount of people is listed as 300, and they will take care of picking up all the trash and disposing of it. This event is subject to being signed by the Police Chief and insurance. The fee is \$25. Nelson seconded, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye*

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Discussion

- Iseman agreed to let the Town know by the Thursday, the 27th, at 10:00 a.m. whether or not they need electricity.
- The event will have a professional soundperson so noise should not be an issue.

**Chief Procurement Officer**

**Review and Adopt Written Designer Selection Criteria pursuant to the Designer Selection Law, M.G.L., c. 7C, §§ 44-47**

*Boutwell makes a motion that the Board adopt the Town of Montague Policy on Designer Selection Procedures effective April 10, 2017 as presented. Nelson seconded, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye*

**Town Administrator's Report**

**Application to create the Turners Falls Cultural District - state site visit April 12**

Ellis: Cultural District is a specific geographical area in a city or town that has a concentration of cultural facilities, activities, and assets. It's a walkable compact area that is easily identifiable to visitors and residents and serves as a center of cultural, artistic, and economic activity. I've given you a map that describes the boundaries of the proposed Turners Falls Cultural District. I understand that we applied for cultural district designation previously, and that the area that we sought to encompass was too broad and not focused enough, so we've addressed that concern in the present plan. We do view cultural district designation as really critical to ensuring future funding for a variety of projects, in particular RiverCulture in the wake of the ending of the Adams Grant Program. Mass Cultural Council staff are going to be visiting on Wednesday, April 12th, and we have a program from noon to 4:00 o'clock. It will begin with a working lunch with some of the municipal officials, then there will be a walking tour of the District from 1:00 o'clock until 3:00 o'clock, which will hit all of the main highlight points. Then there will be a round table from 3:15 to 4:00, with partners, participants, and stakeholders. That will be at the Great Falls Discovery Center at 2 Avenue A.

Ellis and Nelson thanked and applauded the DPW, the grounds maintenance crew, and a group of volunteers for the focus and attention they put into the streets downtown in preparation for this visit.

**Update regarding the Strathmore boarding and clean-out process**

Ellis: We had our initial bidders walk through two Wednesdays ago and the walkthrough was really focused on two elements of the work, the boarding specifications which were fairly carefully detailed and the debris removal specifications. We expect that we will seek to split them into two distinct bids because they are very different pieces of work and we now view them as sequential, first debris removal and then boarding. The initial estimate that we got, which was a written estimate from a company that had done a tour of the facility for debris removal, was lower than many people were indicating. Apparently the disposal costs relative to different pieces and types of debris to be removed were of concern in their ability to generate quotes. The upshot of this is a continued very good collaboration with the Fire Department in working through exactly what debris needs to go, a plan where the Building Inspector is collaborating with the DPW to actually do some pre-consolidating of the material, all of which is intended to give a better basis for quoting for the debris removal piece of the work. We anticipate that we will be ready to rebid in the beginning of May.

**Vacation notice**

Steve Ellis will be out of the office beginning next Monday through the following Tuesday, April 17-25.

**OTHER**

- The 12th Annual Peter Cottontail Extravaganza is this weekend, Saturday, at 1:00 o'clock at Unity Park.
- Ellis: There are positive indications that we will be receiving monies from The Clean Energy Center, the grant awarder for the resources that we're trying to get to support the Montague pilot at the Water Pollution Control Facility. We are confident enough at this point that we're actually taking that item off the Town Meeting Warrant because the indications are very positive. That would be a \$124,000 grant that the Water Pollution Control Facility's Superintendent, Bob Macdonald, wrote and has been working very closely to obtain.
- Republic Services, which manages the waste disposal contract for the Town, is going to be here on Thursday to do a check delivering ceremony specifically for a total of \$5,000 worth of gifts that they're making to the

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community, \$3500 of which is funding general RiverCulture operations and activities, and another \$1500 that will be directed to the Millers Falls Mural Project that was begun last summer when they cleaned out the bridge right by the river. The mural will be a testament to an individual who was a ball player in the Red Sox organization who was from Millers Falls shortly after the turn of the century. The ceremony will be at 1:45 on Thursday.

- On Friday, April 14th, from 4:30 to 5:30, the Easter Bunny will be at Greenfield Savings Bank at 282 Avenue A in Turners. With the help of the Easter Bunny, the bank will be taking colored photos of children completely free as a gift, and registration is required and walk-ins will only be accommodated as time permits. Call Hillary, Carrie, or Linda at the bank at 863-4316 to register.
- The Board of Selectmen will not be meeting next Monday, April 17 due to the holiday.
- The next regularly scheduled Selectmen's Meeting will be held on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA.

*Boutwell makes a motion to adjourn. Nelson seconded, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye*

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**List of documents and exhibits:**

- Minutes of April 3, 2017
- Application for use of Peskeompskut park for Franklin County Climate Change Rally on April 29, 2017
- Designer Selection Criteria
- Application to create the Turners Falls Cultural District