

**SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom**  
**March 29, 2021**

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz, Michael Nelson, and Chris Boutwell, Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, Town Planner Walter Ramsey, Parks & Recreation Director Jon Dobosz,

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken

Michael Nelson, Board of Health member opens the meeting at 6:31 PM, roll call taken

**Approve Minutes: Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting: March 22, 2021**

- *Boutwell makes the motion that the Selectboard approve the Minutes for the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting: March 22, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- *Nelson makes the motion that the Board of Health approve the Minutes for the Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meetings: March 22, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Aye*

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

None

**Pole Location Hearing: Joe McCarthy, Eversource Rep**

- **Eversource is requesting one new pole near the north east corner of Avenue A and Second Street, to support the overhead wire junction. The wires are to be upgraded for a voltage conversion project. The new pole will be located underneath the existing wires where they intersect.**

McCarthy: Should have been requested with previous requests. This will hold 2 separate lines that cross each other. Lines that run on Second Street and Avenue A

Pole is not to interfere with the trees in that area and concrete will be returned to condition it currently is.

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the pole location request on the north east corner of Avenue A and Second Street to support the overhead wire junction. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**COVID-19 Updates and Action Items**

- **Update on Montague COVID case counts (D. Wasiuk)**  
For 3/14/21 to 3/27/21 active cases is 14 cases, cumulative cases 10/1/20 to 3/27/21 223 and 3/1/2020 to 3/27/21 total positive cases is 253. This will take us from Gray (not on States radar screen) level into the green level next week.
- **Update on Vaccine Eligibility & County Clinics**  
BOH is taking names to provide vaccinations for home bound individuals that meet the criteria. These will be given by the BOH or through the State Home Bound vaccination program. Our challenge is obtaining more vaccines. Currently have 4 – 5 individuals who are eligible. County vaccines still fall through the FRCOG; more doses are coming and the J & J vaccine will be included. CVS continues to have the vaccine available
- **Review of Updated State Guidance or Orders**

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Additional information will be provided to BOH which focuses guidelines for Farmers Markets, Food Service Establishments, Recreation camps for kids, and summer events. Information will be released in the next two weeks.

**Topics not anticipated in the next 48 hours**

Nelson: In light of the Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday I'd like to be sure the BOH is on board with the list Daniel put together for the nurses position post COVID and wanted to see if there are issues with the plan or if we are ready to move forward.

Boutwell would like to see more but the budget can only handle so much.

Ellis: This reflects Daniel's best estimates of specifically the hours and programming we want to have the nurse available for aside from any COVID related items which will be covered by CARES & FEMA money. This would expand the hours from 4 to 10 hours a week.

Nelson will let Jen Audley, Finance Committee Chair know the Board of Health has given their nod of approval to Daniel's plan

**Robert Potter, Gill Montague Council on Aging Director**  
**COA Updates and Requests for Approval of Limited Re-Opening Plan**

Ellis: Roberta sends her regards that she is unable to attend tonight's meeting

**Ongoing Services will continue**

- Monthly Brown Bag food distribution in partnership with Western Mass Food Bank (outdoors)
- Monthly Parking Lot Pantry in partnership with Western Mass Food Bank (outdoors)
- Tax preparation service provided by AARP volunteers (remote contact with clients)
- Periodic "meat box" distribution in partnership with Lifepath (outdoors)
- Volunteer grocery shoppers
- Monthly foot clinic (one client at a time, masks, social distance) with contracted registered nurse
- Information and referral will remain by telephone and e-mail
- Office hours (telephone and e-mail) 10 AM through 2:00 PM, Monday through Thursday
- Vaccination scheduling and vaccination waiting list services by telephone
- Assistance with residential heating through Community Action LIHAP program (fuel assistance) and Montague Wood Bank

**Classes Resuming**

- Chair Yoga classes will begin on April 1, one class per week, seven participants per group, masks and social distance required
- Chair Exercise (low impact, mostly seated aerobics) will resume on April 6, two sessions per week, seven participants per group, masks and social distance required

**Social Groups Resuming**

- Knitting and craft group will resume indoors on April 5, by reservation, masks and social distance required
- Card group will resume indoors on April 22, 6 participants, masks required if any members are not two weeks past second vaccination. Updated: Masks must be worn at all times
- Outdoor knitting group will resume on April 20 at 11:00 AM in the picnic area adjacent to the Montague Town Hall weather permitting, reservations not required

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**Drop in Hours** for computer & copier use, book exchange, and durable medical equipment loan will remain by appointment, masks and social distance required.

The execution of these plans is dependent upon Gill and Montague remaining in the low risk zone for community COVID transmission and is subject to change. Masks and social distancing will remain required and the Senior Center's air handling system will be in use. Temperatures will be taken upon entrance and participants will sign in with contact information in the event that contact tracing becomes necessary. No food or beverages will be served.

Boutwell would like to see the blood pressure clinics start back up as soon as safe to do so. Daniel to speak with the Town Nurse about the.

*Boutwell makes the motion that the Board of Health accepts the scope of service as presented by Roberta Potter, Council on Aging Director. Seconded by Nelson approved. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye*

*Boutwell makes the motion that the Selectboard accepts the scope of service as presented by Roberta Potter, Council on Aging Director. Seconded by Nelson approved. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye*

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 7:05 PM. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye*

### **Montague Council on Aging Roof Replacement Project**

#### **Award bid to LaRoche Construction Inc., total bid price \$23,590 (amended to \$21,050)**

- Bid was managed by FRCOG.
- LaRoche Construction submitted a bid in a timely fashion but it was not received due to a typographical error on behalf of the bidding agency.
- Received bid late, and Andrea Wood, FRCOG checked with Attorney General's office and they determined it was appropriate to award to LaRoche.
- They did not understand one of the instructions and they bid the third alternate. Base bid – Main roof, Alternate 1 – Front Porch Roof, Alternate 2 – Large ADA ramp egress Roof, Alternate 3 – small basement door roof.
- While it was their intention to bid each of these alternates, bid requirements were that they be cumulative.
- Bidding rules state either they honor alternate 3, 2 and 1 at the combined cost of \$650 or they withdraw their bid.
- They chose to honor their bid so we are amending the figure to reflect the \$20,400 base price plus only \$650 alternate 3 for a bid award of \$21,050

*Boutwell makes the motion to award the bid to LaRoche Construction Inc., total bid price \$21,050. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye*

### **Suzanne LoManto, Assistant Town Planner**

#### **Mass Cultural Council Grant to the Turners Falls Cultural District in the amount of \$7500. Funds to be administered through RiverCulture for downtown entertainment, signage incentive program and website overhaul.**

- Turners Falls is one of 3 cultural districts in Franklin County and joins about 40 others in the state

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- Mass Cultural Council set up this program to support the creative economy.
- \$7500 was received
- Sent out a survey to stake holders downtown and asked them how they would like the money spent.
- Overwhelmingly outdoor entertainment was first, they were in support of funding the signage incentive program and revamping the RiverCulture website.
- Event planning world is getting very active
- Steve needs to sign the paperwork

**Request Selectboards authority to permit Millers Falls Village Improvement Association to develop a +/- 500 ft. public recreational trail extension off Newton Street (Map 31 Lot 03) owned by Inhabitants of Montague. MFCIA to liaison with the Department of Planning and Conservation to ensure proper permits, insurance and procurement practices are followed. MFCIA to maintain trail.**

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Millers Falls Village Improvement Association to develop a +/- 500 ft. public recreational trail extension off Newton Street (Map 31 Lot 03) owned by Inhabitants of Montague. MFCIA to liaison with the Department of Planning and Conservation to ensure proper permits, insurance and procurement practices are followed. MFCIA to maintain trail. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Montague Tree Committee, Michael Marcotrigiano, Review and consider draft Public Tree Protection Bylaw**

**Request to place two articles on Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Adopt Public Tree Protection Bylaw**

- Intent of bylaw is to have control over population of trees the town plants, owns and removes
- Some of it has to do with replacement schedule, letting the public know what is and is not acceptable
- Guideline for the town for future plantings, removal, plantings and future maintenance, public behavior, construction behavior
- This is to protect the resource that is valuable to the Town
- If this is adopted we will have guidance and the capability of getting more grants
- We are in the midst of a 600 tree planting, plan to get in 150 trees this year

Kuklewicz asks if this can wait until Fall to be placed on the warrant. Ellis is trying to avoid items that require extensive discussion.

- Tree Warden can request payment for the tree from homeowners when planting with 20' of the roadway; goes into a special revenue account as well as money received for fines
- Rules regarding responsibility of the property owner listed
- These agreements will not lead to any ongoing responsibility on the Town's part for the care or maintenance of the new trees as per the bylaw.
- Fund would allow tree warden to access to plant and maintain public shade trees in town.

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### **Walter Ramsey, Town Planner**

#### **Authorize Town Hall Green Infrastructure Project through a grant with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in the amount of \$10,642 to be leveraged by a local in-kin match of \$5,899**

The Town Hall Green Infrastructure Project will develop a +/-5,000 square foot rain garden in the town hall parking lot that will filter storm water from the parcel. The raingarden will be similar to the one installed at Unity Park. The area where the basin is proposed is already frequently inundated with storm water. The project will treat storm water prior to entering the adjacent CT River and will serve as beatification along the Canalside Rail Trail and the rear of town hall. The DPW has approved the work and is willing to do the pavement removal and grading. The Planning Dept will handle the permitting and grant administration. Local landscape architect Peter Wackernagel will coordinate the installation of the plantings with the support of local youths from the Brick House summer program.

*Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Hall Green Infrastructure Project through a grant with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in the amount of \$10,642 to be leveraged by a local in-kin match of \$5,899 and allow the Chairman to sign the documents. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

### **Personnel Board**

#### **Christopher Rice, Retirement from the position of Building Commissioner for the Town of Montague effective May 27, 2021**

- Rice informs the Board he will help out anyway he can during the transition.
- Ellis will pull together a screening committee and will bring a list back to the Selectboard next week
- Kuklewicz thanks Rice for his service

*Boutwell makes the motion to accept the notice of Retirement for Christopher Rice, from the position of Building Commissioner for the Town of Montague effective May 27, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

### **Hydro Flower, LLC**

#### **Consider entering into a cannabis establishment Host Community Agreement with Hydro Flower, LLC**

- Host Community Agreement is extremely similar to Flower Power's agreement with difference being this business not being a greenhouse a business that will be built within the structure of the Southworth Mill has different odor control approaches so that section is described differently
- The impact fees, volunteer hours and other community donations are fundamentally the same exact terms as Flower Power's HCA.
- One significant difference to note amongst the impact fees structure is Hydro Flower hopes to be focused specifically on social justice. One would envision that funding would require a structure for expenditure and decision making but might engage local social service agencies as well as the Selectboard or another town board in terms of decision making for expenditure.
- Core impact fee and Social Justice Impact fees of this finds that over 5 year term there is a 2% annual average rate of assessment for mitigating impacts.

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- Progressive rate that gives the companies an advantage of lower fees in the initial years. The Town benefits by seeing higher impact fee rates when they are hopefully having significant revenues
- Nick Adamopoulos, Atty for Hydro Flower: If HCA approved tonight will be sending in paperwork to state and hope to have provisional license by May early June of this year so we can start building that facility out and move towards the final license.
- Kuklewicz sat in on many discussions around odor control. The advantage is both Nick and Ryan have experience in this industry and Ryan has a facility in Maine that is doing quite well and have a good reputation.

*Boutwell makes the motion to approve the community host agreement between Hydro Flower, LLC and the Town of Montague. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

### **Authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the Cannabis Control Commission Host Community Agreement Certification Form**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the Cannabis Control Commission Host Community Agreement Certification Form. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

### **Jeff Singleton, FRTA Representative**

#### **FRTA Update**

- We recently passed two motions 1) Engaging the State on why we're the only Regional Transit Authority without weekend service, make it an equity issue front and center in our discussions 2) Review and exercise some oversight over this 5 year plan that's supposedly our 5 year plan, but the Board wasn't going to discuss or provide any input.
- Met with Michael Perrault and Greenfield Rep on Friday and we discussed where to move forward from here. Made amendments to the proposal to make it clear we were in favor of the micro transit proposal because concern was expressed by FRCOG that it might come across that we didn't like the micro transit proposal. We talked about trying to get a meeting with some of our State reps and board members to meet with them and have a conversation with them. That's our goal. Trying to get a letter response back.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> motion was the Board reading the 5 year plan that was produced by a company hired to by the Dept. of Transportation. This will be a challenge as it is a long plan to get into. I'm going to try and prioritize points so it won't be so long to read
- Public comment period pushed out until after May 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. Will carve out time at the mid may annual meeting to gather all the input, prioritize it and exercise some oversight on it.
- Kuklewicz appreciates Jeff's hard work on this.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

#### **Review Proposed Cares Act Requests**

- Had discussions with the State Federal Funds Office and received approves on some relatively small projects that would fit within our existing cares act appropriation budgets.
- We intend to continue with Town Hall entry screeners until such time as they are widely deemed unnecessary.
- We're also going to be using CARES money to support additional election worker staff to assist with elements of the mail in voting and aspects of spring voting. As Deb Bourbeau

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shared previously, there is a lot of new additional logistical tasks and things to manage and take care of.

- We are budgeting for use of incurring technology or other costs for our ATM and possible STM next fall
- We are adding an outdoor drop box to the back of Town Hall, which is a long overdue addition
- We want to have daily cleaning rather than the standard weekly cleanings of the ADA porta potty at Unity Park
- Small additional expenditures to add depth to our capacity for all employees to conduct meetings via zoom from home or the office

**General Pierce Bridge Update**

- Still completing work at the Route 2 intersection
- Paving work is tentatively scheduled to begin on April 19<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting)
- Will not close General Pierce Bridge until Route 2 intersection is completed
- Expected completion date of bridge is Spring 2023
- They were first going to be accessing any proposal relative to the closure of the pedestrian way and accelerated schedule
- No specific proposal or consideration of the other elements of the project

**Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**

**Bryan Camden, Airport Manager**

- Reached purchase and sale agreement with current owners and have a closing date of April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Fair Market Assessed Appraised Value of the property is \$1,430,000
- Thanks you to Brian Camden and Eileen Seymour for their diligence in the process.

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye*