

SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom
April 12, 2021

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz, Michael Nelson (7:02 PM) and Chris Boutwell, Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, Board of Health Chair, Al Cummings

Zoom Video link: <https://vimeo.com/536278291>

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

Al Cummings, Board of Health Chair opens the meeting at 6:31 PM, roll call taken

Approve Minutes: Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting: March 29, and April 5, 2021

March 29 Minutes not available at this time

Boutwell makes the motion for the Selectboard to approve the minutes of April 5, 2021. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Boutwell makes the motion for the Board of Health to approve the minutes of April 5, 2021. Seconded by Cummings, approved. Boutwell – 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

COVID-19 Updates and Action Items

Update on Montague COVID case counts

- Active cases 3/28/21 – 4/10/21 = 19 cases; Cumulative cases 10/1/20 – 4/10/21 = 243 cases; Total positive since beginning of pandemic: 3/1/20 – 4/10/21 = 272.

Update on Vaccine Eligibility & County Clinics

- Jon Zon Senior Center will be holding clinics on April 13, 14 and 16, 2021, currently open for registration which began at 5:00 PM
- There will be a 1st dose clinic at Berkshire East on April 16 and 17, 2021
- Home bound individuals has grown to 20 people looking for this service in Montague.
- Pressuring immunization program to give us 20 doses, but a challenge as to when we will receive a shipment
- Eligibility opens to everyone on April 19th
- We will be receiving more doses from the Federal Government once it opens to everyone
- We believe Greenfield Community College will become the new central site as the county shifts its strategy from present hub and spoke to a single site. This is what is inferred from the FRCOG's recent communication

Review of Updated State Guidance or Orders

None

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 6:40 PM. Seconded by Cummings, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Cummings - Aye

David Brule, The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.

Use of Peskeompskut Park, May 15, 2021, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM, (Event 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM), 50 – 65 people

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by The Nolumbeka Project, Inc. for Use of Peskeompskut Park, May 15, 2021, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM, (Event 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM), 50 – 65 people. Seconded by Boutwell, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Jan Doody, The United Arc

Use of Peskeompskut Park, April 22, 2021 (Raindate: 4/29/21), 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve Use of Peskeompskut Park for a gathering of the group Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group of the United Arc on April 22, 2021 (Raindate: 4/29/21), 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

FY22 Cannabis Impact Fund Requests for Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Police Training (All officers - Cannabis Intoxication/Enforcement) \$7,000

Cannabis Impact Mitigation – Prevention Programming/Substance Abuse and Prevention Counseling

Communities that Care Coalition (Program development / TA / monitoring / evaluation)

\$8,500, Gill-Montague Regional School District (prevention/counseling) \$46,200, Franklin

County Technical School (prevention/counseling) cost TBD

- The Town has a balance of approximately \$199,000 in Cannabis funds as part of the Host Community Agreements.
- Proposing Town Meeting articles to refund the Town for expenses the Town and Fire Department have incurred.
- Nothing on the docket for infrastructure at this time
- There is a need for Police training identifying people driving while on cannabis, the estimate is a little over \$6,000
- The remainder is for related robust intervention programs
- Discussed preferred approach both schools to use a drug and substance abuse counselor
- Strong preference to make a contracted position due to two schools, 2 different unions utilizing the position
- Strong agreement by Selectboard that there is a need for the resource as the compelling part in light of impact of pandemic on youth and families
- The school districts will return with consolidated proposal on April 26, 2021

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Steve to continue working on details and flush more information out for inclusion in the town meeting warrant. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Brian McHugh, Director of Community Development FCRHRA

Update on Spinner Park Restoration Schedule

- Granite benches being delivered by Friday, 4/15/21
- Plumbing going to new control boxes will be set, the electrical will be finalized by end of next week
- Conduit going under park is now encased
- Footings to be poured 4/14 or 4/15 and hopefully benches will be set next week. By end of April all the benches should be set.
- First week in May the concrete pad will be set, all brick work should be done by middle of May then will work on the plantings
- The base for statute had to be redesigned
- Statute ready for installation towards end of May before plantings are put in in the back of the park
- Schedule has them demobilized by June 17
- Park should be usable by beginning of June

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- Would like park completely done before rededication perhaps the end of June
- Kuklewicz would like plaque for Frank Abbondanzio be hung within the park. It will be hung on the corner of the Power Town building
- Kuklewicz wants to make sure the lights get permanently reconnected and are working along the Avenue before final completion

Authorization to disburse \$47,120 to Sciaba Construction for the Spinner Park Restoration Project

Boutwell makes the motion to approve Authorization to Disburse No. 2, Spinner Park Restoration Project in the amount of \$47,120 to Sciaba Construction for the Spinner Park Restoration Project. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Meeting

Review Annual Town Meeting Survey results to date

Consider implications for Town Meeting logistics and date(s)

- Town Meeting members were prompt in their response to our survey, 75%, we reached 3 members of the 5 who we do not have emails for
- Wanted to keep survey simple
- These are the results of whether one would attend a meeting if held at the following venues: 83% Remote Meeting (Zoom), 74% Outside: Open Air (no tent); 76% Outside: Under open-sided tent; Inside: Gymnasium: 44%; Inside: Auditorium 46%
- Aggregated view of Data:1st Choice: Remote Meeting (Zoom) 44%, Outside: Combined Options 46%; Inside: Combined Options 21%, Last Choice: Remote Meeting (Zoom) 27%, Outside: Combined Options 8%; Inside: Combined Options 52%
- Hopefully by the time of the meeting more people will be vaccinated.
- Chris Collins expresses his concern that we do not know COVID conditions at time of the meeting
- Ellis concerned with technology and if a portion of members get disenfranchised from voting
- If we have a remote meeting, Ellis would like to see a Thursday night meeting and a Saturday meeting
- Discussion about use of a tent

Boutwell makes the motion to hold the Annual Town Meeting outside on May 22, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Boutwell makes the motion to hold town meeting outside under a tent. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Review scope of draft warrant

- There is a petitioned article that must be on the agenda.
- The Board also heard discussions about the Montague Public tree bylaw.
- There will be three articles related to the 5th Street Pedestrian Bridge. We will need to change the easement exchange we have with FirstLight, not the terms of the exchange but the location of it. There are also eminent domain articles that would allow us to have temporary construction easements allowing vehicles to access 42 Canal Road property so we can be assured the bridge can be installed there.

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- There are a couple consent agenda articles where more than one item is wrapped into the article.
 - Article 13 includes 3 different capital repairs to our elementary schools
 - Article 17 includes 17 administrative resource articles to help us conduct capital improvement projects more expeditiously
 - Article 20 Apportionment of cannabis impact fees revenue
 - Article 21 Town policies dictates we make certain stabilization account and OPEB trust deposits each year
- Discussion about pushing the public tree bylaw article to the Fall Special Town Meeting. Steve to ask Town Counsel best way to handle this article
- Audley would like the article regarding Highland Cemetery to be moved before voting on the budget
- J. Singleton feels the Tree Committee should reach out to Town Meeting members
- Tree committee should put together a short bullet point synopsis of the bylaw
- Kuklewicz discussed possibility of having a pre town meeting on Thursday, May 20th

Town Administrator's Report

Execute agreement with AJ Virgilio Construction, Inc. for Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge Replacement, \$365,788

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the agreement with AJ Virgilio Construction, Inc. for the Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge Replacement, \$365,788. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting

None

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye