

SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom
April 26, 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, Board of Health Chair, Al Cummings (absent)

Zoom Video link: <https://vimeo.com/541939041>

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

Michael Nelson, Board of Health Vice Chair opens the meeting at 6:33 PM, roll call taken

Approve Minutes: Joint Selectboard and Board of Health Meeting: March 29, and April 12, 2021

Boutwell makes the motion for the Selectboard to approve the minutes of March 29, 2021. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Boutwell makes the motion for the Selectboard to approve the minutes of April 12, 2021. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Boutwell makes the motion for the Board of Health to approve the minutes of March 29, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, approved. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye

Boutwell makes the motion for the Board of Health to approve the minutes of April 12, 2021. Seconded by Nelson, approved. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson - 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 4/11/21 – 4/24/21 = 20 cases; Cumulative cases 10/1/20 – 4/24/21 = 264 cases; Total positive since beginning of pandemic: 3/1/20 – 4/24/21 = 293.

Update on Vaccine Eligibility & County Clinics

- Effective 4/19/21 anyone 16 and over who work, live or study in Massachusetts are now eligible
- Still having trouble accessing the vaccination
- We should be getting 10 doses from the FRCOG to administer to home bound individuals. Still need 10 more
- John Zon Center making new 1st dose appointments today
- GCC drive through registration went live at 6:00 PM today

Review of Updated State Guidance or Orders

Remain the same

BOH Other:

J. Singleton asks if a new message can be set up on the phones so not so long to get to a person. Perhaps adding a number that can be pushed for assistance. Wasiuk will be looking into this later this week.

Consideration of opting out from State Aerial Spraying

- Board of Health (BOH) met last week and voted to opt out from State aerial spraying and requests the Selectboard does too
- The BOH recommended Wasiuk come up with an alternate plan pending Selectboard approval tonight

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- Wasiuk will present plan to Boards on May 3 and then come back on May 10th with any requested changes
- There is an article on the warrant about possibly joining the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District
- If we were to stay with the State, they would deduct cost of spraying from the Cherry Sheet. We would be receiving service without the ability to mitigate what we are receiving for service.
- Wasiuk will be meeting with Bergeron regarding water and ditch management later this week.
- Wasiuk will be seeking input from the Conservation Commission
- There will be a public hearing on the plan
- Opt out option is important to local pollinators

Boutwell makes the motion to proceed with the Board of Health's recommendation to opt out of all spray activities conducted by the SRMCG under M.G.L. c 252, Section 2A; and the vote will only be honored if an alternate mosquito management plan is submitted and approved by EEA. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Sarah Burstein, Principal at Hillcrest Elementary

Use of Public Property: Story Walk

Montague Center Town Common, May 8, 2021, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by Sarah Burstein, Principal at Hillcrest Elementary for Use of Public Property for a Story Walk at the Montague Center Town Common on May 8, 2021 from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Rutter's Park, Lake Pleasant, May 15, 2021, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Highland Park, Millers Falls, May 22, 2021, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request (pending final approval by Parks and Recreation Commission) by Sarah Burstein, Principal at Hillcrest Elementary for Use of Public Property for a Story Walk at Rutter's Park, Lake Pleasant on May 15, 2021 from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM and at Highland Park, Millers Falls on May 22, 2021 from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Emma Ayres, Program Coordinator/Shea Presents and Arin Andrews (Musical Team)

Use of Public Property: School for Contemporary Dance and Thought/Musical: The Musical Peskeompskut Park, May 8, 2021, 10:30 AM – 6:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by Emma Ayres, Program Coordinator/Shea Presents and Arin Andrews (Musical Team) for Use of Public Property: School for Contemporary Dance and Thought/Musical: The Musical at Peskeompskut Park on May 8, 2021 from 10:30 AM – 6:00 PM. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye
They will be working in conjunction with RiverCulture for this event.

Angela Rovatti-Leonard, Youth Services Librarian, Montague Public Libraries

Use of Public Property: Puppet Show, Peskeompskut Park, July 30, 2021, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM (raindate: 8/6/21)

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by Angela Rovatti-Leonard, Youth Services Librarian, Montague Public Libraries for Use of Public Property: Puppet Show at Peskeompskut Park, on July 30, 2021, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM (raindate: 8/6/21). Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye (Nelson did not vote due to technical difficulties)

Personnel Board

Retirement of Herb Hohengasser as Plumbing and Gas Inspector

Boutwell makes the motion to accept the resignation of Herb Hohengasser as Plumbing and Gas Inspector with regret. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye Steve to send letter of recognition to Herb

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Appoint John Letourneau as Plumbing and Gas Inspector until June 30, 2021

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint John Letourneau as Plumbing and Gas Inspector until June 30, 2021. Seconded by Nelson approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Execute Memorandum of Agreement between the Town and N.A.G.E to reactivate the position on Assistant Treasurer/Collector

Boutwell makes the motion to execute Memorandum of Agreement between the Town and N.A.G.E to reactivate the position on Assistant Treasurer/Collector. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Chelsey Little, WPCF Superintendent

Execute Agreement with Wright-Pierce Engineering Assistance for High-Flow Management and Effluent Limit Compliance Plans for Administrative Order CWA-AO-R01-FY21-14, not to exceed \$26,500

- Funding will come from the general operating budget

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the agreement with Wright-Pierce Engineering Assistance for High-Flow Management and Effluent Limit Compliance Plans for Administrative Order CWA-AO-R01-FY21-14, not to exceed \$26,500. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Everett W. Tatelbaum, Kearsarge Energy LP, Solar and Burn Dump

Execute First Amendment to Solar Lease between Town and Kearsarge Montague LLC; Execute Amended Notice of Solar Lease with Kearsarge Montague LLC; Execute First Amendment to Solar and Energy Storage Lease between Town and Kearsarge Montague BD LLC; Execute Notice of Ground Lease with Kearsarge Montague BD LLC; Execute Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company Affidavit/Indemnity

S. Ellis:

- Kearsarge has been waiting on their survey firm to make progress on a particular right-of-way that allows them to maintain and access elements of their existing 2 solar arrays that are part of Phase 1 as well as the burn dump solar array which we refer to as Phase II.
- Essentially the burn dump encompasses part of the area that was formally the transit area used by our DPW to move between their facilities through the back roads to the transfer station
- What is presented to us are two modest amendments to our lease agreements for Phase I and II, as well as public notices Kearsarge is required to file and a survey plan.
- The documents are currently being reviewed by our Counsel and are considered as administrative and procedural and not consequential to the fundamentals of the leases. They simply have to be brought into alignment so the company a) has the access it needs to do the work and b) provide a complete set of documents to its funders for the newest project

E. Tatelbaum:

- Last fall additional waste was identified which slowed down the project. The solar proceeded to the point it could.
- With GZA the Town's consultant we went back to DEP to get updated design approved to cover additional waste identified during construction.
- Design was submitted end of last year and was approved early March.
- Once approved Bates, contractor for capping got back in the field about 2 weeks ago as they waited for thaw as they needed conditions for the soil because they needed conditions ready for grading
- Bates is in the field finishing the Northern cap so the solar can finish first, we expect to be done in July, pending Eversource
- Final cap work to the South will be finished in the Summer
- Ramsey states he review the survey plan and it is consistent with the Planning Board approvals and all the local approvals.

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Boutwell makes the motion to execute the First Amendment to Solar Lease between the Town of Montague and Kearsarge Montague LLC as presented in the Selectboards packet exhibit 14A authorizing the Chair to sign as the landlord. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Amended Notice of Solar Lease with Kearsarge Montague LLC as presented in the Selectboards packet exhibit 14B authorizing the Chair to sign as the landlord. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Boutwell makes the motion to execute First Amendment to Solar and Energy Storage Lease between the Town of Montague and Kearsarge Montague BD LLC as presented in the Selectboards packet exhibit 14C authorizing the Chair to sign as the landlord. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Notice of Ground Lease with Kearsarge Montague BD LLC as presented in the Selectboards packet exhibit 14D authorizing the Chair to sign as the lessor. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to execute the Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company Affidavit/Indemnity as presented in the Selectboards packet exhibit 14E. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Meeting Warrant – To review draft May 22, 2021 warrant, attached hereto; and make recommendations on all items in warrant; votes may be taken

- Kuklewicz gives an overview of the articles on the draft town meeting warrant
- Article 22: J. Audley thinks it would be best to separate the WPCF items as they are separate enterprise funds
- Will be discussed further at the Finance Committee Meeting on Wednesday night

David Detmold, Tree Committee, 2021 Arbor Day Proclamation

Kuklewicz reads proclamation into the record

Arbor Day Proclamation 2021 Town of Montague

Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, reduce heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products, and

Whereas, trees in our community increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and physical and spiritual renewal.

Now, Therefore, we, the Selectboard of the Town of Montague, do hereby proclaim

Friday, April 30th, 2021 As ARBOR DAY in the town of Montague

And urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect and promote our trees and woodlands, and FURTHER, we urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations

Dated this day of April, 2021

Richard Kuklewicz, Chair, Christopher Boutwell, Michael Nelson

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**Brian McHugh, Director of Community Development FCRHRA
Authorization to Disburse No. 12, Invoice #2019-135-14, Spinner Park Restoration Project,
Berkshire Design Group, Inc. \$220.00**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Disbursement No. 12, Invoice #2019-135-14, Spinner Park Restoration Project, Berkshire Design Group, Inc. \$220.00. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator's Report

Execute Agreement with Harold L. Eaton & Associates for Surveying of Montague Center Park, School & Station St's, Montague MA, \$3,000

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Agreement with Harold L. Eaton & Associates for Surveying of the Montague Center Park, School & Station St's, Montague MA, \$3,000 and authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Building Inspector Position Hiring Update

- There have been two productive meetings so far, position has been advertised, we have received numerous resumes which will be reviewed at the next meeting on Wednesday, 4/28/21
- Hope to schedule interviews within the next two weeks.
- We will make accommodations to meet candidates in person

General Pierce Bridge Closure Update

- Bridge is closed and will remain closed through late fall 2023
- Kuklewicz has been approached by residents about considering a right turn only off of the canal bridge as this might help the flow of traffic
- Steve asked to reach out to the DPW Superintendent and Police Chief for their thoughts on this and report back to the board.
- Brief discussion if a stop sign can be put on the bridge deck
- Walter to reach out to the town's engineer working on the 5th Street gateway project to see if he has any suggestions on the intersection

Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner

Two Friday's ago, Senator Comerford's office submitted a letter to Gov. Baker that lists projects within her district that are to be included in the FY2022 Capital Plan and this includes a request from Montague. Specifically for the demolition and rehabilitation of the Strathmore Mill site. She went through and found existing bonds that had already been approved. In this case the Strathmore Mill complex rehab was put into Chapter 209, of the Acts of 2018 which earmarked \$5 million for this project. We are now at the point where the Senator and others are advocating for fund to be released as part of the FY22 plan. Senator Comerford requested Towns put in a letter of support to release these funds. I feel delaying this a week would be detrimental but I ask the Board make a simple request to the Governor as these funds are already part of legislation.

- This is for partial demolition and rehabilitation of the mill complex
- The time is right for state investment because of other state and federal investments that are ongoing up and down the canal district.
- This is an opportunity for the state to show its investment in the vision they helped support through that previous abatement grant.

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the letter requesting the Governor and Office of Administration and Finance release \$5 million for the demolition and restoration of the Strathmore property on the Connecticut River in the Town of Montague from the Commonwealth Capital Plan. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM. Seconded by Nelson, approved unanimously. Boutwell – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Kuklewicz: Reports are coming in this week from both the Police Advisory Equity and Use of Force and Community Engagement Groups and they will be posted on the websites later this week.