

**TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD  
MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, February 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

**This meeting was held via Zoom and recorded: <https://vimeo.com/677525537>**

**PRESENT:** Rich Kuklewicz, Chair; Chris Boutwell and Matt Lord, members; Wendy Bogusz, Executive Assistant; Steve Ellis, Town Administrator.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Walter Ramsey, Town Planner; Andrea Donlon, CT River Conservancy; Jeff Singleton, Montague Reporter; Janel Nockleby, public; Deb Bourbeau, Town Clerk; Michael Nelson, Board of Health; Tammy Tolzdorf, Crystal Springs Investments; Suzanne LoManto, Lizbeth Irving and Ron Sicard, Planning Board members; Jon Dobosz, Parks and Recreation Director; Chris Williams, Chief of Police.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair, Rich Kuklewicz. All members were present. The meeting is being held remotely and recorded by MCTV.

**FERC First Light Recreation Agreement in Principle (AIP)**

**Vote to enter into Recreation AIP with FirstLight MA Hydro LLC and Northfield Mountain LLC (collectively, FirstLight)**

Steve introduced Andrea Donlon of the CT River Conservancy who was among the audience during Steve's PowerPoint presentation. He gave a quick summary of the key elements of the proposed recreational agreement in principle. The context of this plan includes the Northfield Mountain pump storage hydroelectric project, the opportunity to improve conditions relative to the river health and access and that there were many stakeholders including the State, regional, local and tribal. The Recreational Settlement is a large part of a 50-year agreement for the Town of Montague. Five years ago, the recreational opportunities were defined in the towns of Gill, Erving and Northfield as well as in Montague. The goal is to have a comprehensive settlement agreement by June 2022.

Steve showed a map that displayed the entire area this agreement covers such as Unity Park, Gate House Fish Viewing Facility and Viewing Platform behind the Discovery Center. He described "put-ins" for white water rafting, improved access for fishing and boating and stairs to a recreation area.

Steve also described the area of Cabot Camp on East Mineral Road and the hope to have someone preserve this area as FirstLight does not want to use any of the existing buildings.

The Town was given a calendar of Whitewater Flow Releases including Stream flows of the Dam releases which will happen every week. These releases can be in conjunction with opportunities to connect with the river.

Two other locations Steve discussed were below the dam and Station 1 where there will be a viewing platform and picnic areas.

Steve opened his presentation for any questions or comments. Rich stated there was a lot to consider in this agreement. Janel Nockleby asked about the parking lot, paving in the winter which would provide accessibility for winter birding.

Since there were no other questions, Steve asked the Board if they wish to proceed to sign the principle as presented. **On a motion by Chris Boutwell and seconded by Matt Lord, the Board moved to approve the agreement in principle and authorized the Chair, Rich Kuklewicz to sign. Chris Boutwell, aye; Matt Lord, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Deb Bourbeau, Town Clerk, spoke with the Board this evening about the passing of Chris Collins who had been Town Moderator since 2018 and was in his second 3-year term. She asks the Board to vote to place the opening of the Town Moderator on the ballot for the upcoming election to complete the 3-year term. **On a motion by Chris Boutwell and seconded by Matt Lord, the Board agreed to place the remainder of the 3-year term opening on the upcoming election ballot. Chris Boutwell, aye; Matt Lord, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye.**

Deb also read the other openings for elected positions which are also on the Town's website. She encourages residents who are interested to take out nomination papers, receive the required number of signatures and run during the May 17, 2022 election. There are two precincts that are particularly low in participation; Precinct 3 and Precinct 5. Deb and the Board encourage any resident to get involved.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

The Board received the draft minutes of the February 7, 2022 Selectboard meeting. **On a motion by Chris Boutwell and seconded by Matt Lord, the Board approved the minutes as presented. Chris Boutwell, aye; Matt Lord, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye.**

### **COVID-19 UPDATES**

Michael Nelson attended the meeting. There were no other board members present therefore, there was no quorum. Steve shared the information that was released by the Board of Health regarding the COVID-19 updates. The Town continues to see a downward trend and quite a dramatic drop in cases in the area. The Selectboard scheduled February 28, 2022 to continue the discussion and revisit the mask mandate. Michael stated neighboring Greenfield will be meeting on February 27 to discuss the mask mandate as well so the connecting towns will have substantial information on how both towns are doing for the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Rich mentioned the schools with the DESE mask requirement and that the School Committee will be meeting the first week in March to discuss the mask mandate. Steve also mentioned the test kits are still available at the Town Hall, Library, COA and Parks and Recreation.

### **LIQUOR LICENSE HEARING**

**Crystal Spring Investments, LLC dba Pub General, Annual Off Premises Wine and Malt Beverage License, 27 East Main Street, Millers Falls, MA.**

Tammy Tolzdorf, Manager has applied for an annual Off Premises Wine and Malt Beverage License for a general store to have craft beers, wines and local products. She will have gift baskets, cheeses and Diamond Egg Farm products. There were no questions or discussion. **On a motion by Matt Lord and seconded by Rich Kuklewicz, the Board approves the application for an annual off premises wine and malt beverage license for Crystal Spring Investments, LLC dba Pub General located at 27**

**East Main Street in Millers Falls, MA. Chris Boutwell recused himself from this discussion and vote. Matt Lord, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye.** Rich also mentioned for Tammy to contact the Board of Health if any sort of food items will be offered at this location.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Proposed 40R Smart Growth Overlay District – Walter Ramsey, Town Planner**

Walter requested this public hearing with the Selectboard as it is required for the Town to pursue the Growth Overlay Project. Walter showed a Power Point presentation which explained what MGL Ch. 40R is as it creates dense residential concentrated for affordable housing units. This Zoning Overlay District does not change the underlying zoning where a developer can choose to build a project under either the Smart Growth or underlying zoning of the town. This design encourages mixed use in strict designated areas. Walter explained what is classified as "affordable" and that the Town will be receiving \$75,000 if the bylaw is adopted. Walter showed the locations of parcels of the old Griswold Mill site (old Railroad Salvage) and the SubDistrict B of 1st Street.

Walter stated if the town wants to be behind these housing plans, the actions needed would be as follows:

- 1st Street location would be authorized at Town Meeting for the purpose of housing and surplus. There would be a solicitation for development and as it is a small project, it can be complete in 1-3 years.
- The Old Griswold Mill Site is a larger site and more complex. The Town needs to obtain tax title, have a Town Meeting, involve Mass DOT for the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge to be replaced, have an environmental study and then a solicitation for development would take approximately 4-6 years.

The next steps would be to move forward should the Board accept the presentation, submit a request for determination of eligibility from DHCD in early March. The Planning Board will hold an informational session on March 22 and the Town Meeting will be held in May.

Suzanne LoManto, Lizbeth Irving and Ron Sicard, Planning Board members, were also present during this presentation. The Selectboard stated they do not need to make any decisions regarding this presentation but express their opinions. Rich felt it was a good start as well as the areas of parcels seemed very reasonable. Jerry Lund asked about the CA (Community Preservation Act), Jeff Singleton made mention of the classification of "affordable" and Lisbeth Irving explained how Buckland had gone through similar negotiations regarding what is classified as "affordable" housing. Lizbeth is excited about this option to bring back worker housing similar to the 1800s. No other discussion.

## **SUZANNE LoMANTO – ASSISTANT PLANNER**

### **Execute Mass Cultural Council Grant for The Turners Falls Cultural District - \$7,500**

Suzanne stated the Town had been awarded \$7,500 for the Downtown Turners Falls Mass Cultural Council. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> where the survey results will be discussed as well as all of the things to do downtown. She is asking the Board to approve the award for \$7,500 and have the Chair sign the standard contract with Mass Cultural Council. **A motion was made by Chris Boutwell to have the Chair, Rich Kuklewicz sign the standard agreement to accept the Mass Cultural Council Grant for the Turners Falls Cultural District in the amount of \$7,500. Seconded by Matt Lord. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye.**

### **Review and Approval of Lighting Installation at Rock Paper Scissors Sculpture on the corner of Avenue A and Third Street.**

Suzanne also spoke to the Board about the lighting at Rock, Paper Scissors sculpture on the corner of Avenue A and Third Street. She explains a few challenges with the work and finances to have the lighting installed. The cost would be \$2,500-\$3,000 for the hard scaping, electrical and positioning of the lighting. She stated that Will Stafford from the DPW is willing to help which would save on finances. The River Culture will pay for supplies as well as hire an electrician to tie everything together. The DPW will start by lifting some of the bricks as well as provide materials to start the project. The Board is agreeable and there were no other comments.

### **PERSONNEL BOARD**

#### **Appoint Chris Sawyer-Laucanno to the Historical Commission (vacant seat) until June 30, 2025.**

A document and letter of interest from Chris Sawyer-Laucanno was presented to the Board. **A motion was made by Chris Boutwell to appoint Chris Sawyer-Laucanno to the Historical Commission starting today (February 14, 2022) and ending June 2025. Seconded by Matt Lord. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye.**

### **FARREN CARE CENTER**

#### **Consider draft letter from the Town to Trinity Health New England regarding the Farren Care Center and Related Property.**

The Board received and reviewed a letter drafted by Steve Ellis to Trinity Health New England after the public meeting that was held a few weeks ago. The letter contained specific requests from the Selectboard as well as feedback obtained from the Assessors and Planning Board in Town. The letter contained matters for clarification as well as request for assurances to the Town. The Board suggested that Steve sign the letter on the Board's behalf and send to Trinity Health New England in the hopes they would be responsive. Chris Boutwell felt the letter was very straightforward and Matt Lord stated it contained exactly what was discussed at the last Board meeting. There were no further comments or questions. There were a few public members with raised hands however Chair, Rich Kuklewicz was not accepting any comments at this time. The time for discussion regarding the Farren Care Center was during the public hearing a few weeks ago. One caller, Janel Nockleby, was given 60 seconds to speak about the letter and she asks to have a letter regarding preservation of the old building placed with this letter for the records as she does not want to have Trinity demolish the building. Rich Kuklewicz stated it will be put in the records.

### **JON DOBOSZ – PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR**

#### **Discussion of Special Town Meeting Request for Surveillance System Upgrades for Unity Park**

Jon was asked to come back before the Board to answer any other specific questions or to provide any other information regarding the request for surveillance upgrades for Unity Park. Jon explained that there is currently one camera that shows a small area of the playground. He is requesting funds for an additional 3-4 cameras that expand surveillance capability including the playground, ballfield and parking lot area. There is concern of vandalism and poor behavior by patrons and this is the best way, he felt, to address these concerns more effectively. Chris Williams, Police Chief, stated that he spoke with Jon and understands the need to maintain safety and suggests possibly upgrading the outdated camera system would help. Matt Lord is not for increasing surveillance and feels the proposal does not mitigate the need and would like to find other ways to fix it.

### **MARCH 3, 2022 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

**The Board reviewed the Motions and Background for the March 3, 2022 Special Town Meeting. The Board is to reach each article, discuss and vote.**

Steve Ellis stated for Article I, legislation was passed so therefore the language is precise.

**ARTICLE 1** – The Board made a motion to approve and place on the warrant that the Town vote to conduct this Special Town Meeting remotely with the aid of Zoom Webinar. Motion by Rich Kuklewicz, seconded by Chris Boutwell. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye. Recommended 3-0

**ARTICLE 2** – The Board made a motion to approve and place on the warrant that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of making emergency repairs to town cemeteries, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Sale of Highland Cemetery Lots. Motion by Rich Kuklewicz and seconded by Chris Boutwell. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye. Recommended 3-0

**ARTICLE 3** – The Board made a motion to approve and place on the warrant to vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of repairing a retaining wall and for other related maintenance, renovations, and improvements at the Burnham Cemetery, including but not limited to the grading and clearing of trees to prevent future problems, and anything else incidental or related thereto, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. Motion by Rich Kuklewicz and seconded by Chris Boutwell. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye. Recommended 3-0.

**ARTICLE 4** – The Board made a motion to approve and place on the warrant to vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease purchase agreement in accordance with the provisions of G. L. c. 44 section 21C for a period of excess of three years for the purchase of a new combination vacuum and sewer cleaner truck, also known as a vactor truck, and any equipment related thereto and to appropriate the sum of \$125,000 for the first-year payment of such agreement, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund. Rich Kuklewicz made the motion and seconded by Chris Boutwell. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye. Recommended 3-0.

**ARTICLE 5** – The Board made a motion to approve and place on the warrant to vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,377 for the purpose of increasing the FY22 Airport Budget, with \$3,000 to be transferred from Airport Benefits and \$17,377 to be raised from Airport Retained Earnings. Rich Kuklewicz made the motion and seconded by Chris Boutwell. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye. Recommended 3-0.

**ARTICLE 6** – The Board made the motion to approve and place on the warrant to vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a riding mower for the Parks and Recreation Department said sum to be raised from Free Cash. Rich Kuklewicz made the motion and seconded by Chris Boutwell. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye; Recommended 3-0.

**ARTICLE 7** – The Board made the motion to approve and place on the warrant to vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,500 for the purpose of purchasing and installing additional security cameras and updating the surveillance system at Unity Park 56 1st Street, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. Rich Kuklewicz made the motion and seconded by Chris Boutwell. Matt Lord, nay; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye. Recommended 2-1.

**ARTICLE 8** – The Board made the motion to approve and place on the warrant to vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,616 for the purpose of increasing the Fiscal Year 2022 Libraries budget, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. Rich Kuklewicz made the motion and seconded by Chris Boutwell. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye. Recommended 3-1.

**ARTICLE 9** – The Board made the motion to approve and place on the warrant to vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,270 for the purpose of obtaining an engineered plan for the Carnegie Library's driveway project, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. Rich Kuklewicz made the motion and seconded by Chris Boutwell. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye. Recommended 3-0.

**ARTICLE 10** – The Board made the motion to approve and place on the warrant to vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,100 for the purpose of upgrading the Board of Assessors' software and purchasing related computer equipment, including any and all incidental and related costs, said appropriation to be funded with the remaining \$4,750 in Article #13 of the May 3, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated funds for this same purpose, and \$20,350 from Free Cash. Rich Kuklewicz made the motion and seconded by Chris Boutwell. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye. Recommended 3-0.

**ARTICLE 11** – The Board made the motion to approve and place on the warrant to vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of providing tuition and transportation for a Montague resident attending Smith Vocational School, said sum to be raised from Free Cash. Rich Kuklewicz made the motion and seconded by Chris Boutwell. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye. Recommended 3-0.

**ARTICLE 12** – The Board made the motion to approve and place on the warrant to vote to appropriate the sum of \$315,000 for the purpose of abating, replacing and/or covering existing tile flooring in the Hillcrest Elementary School, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund. Rich Kuklewicz made the motion and seconded by Chris Boutwell. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye. Recommended 3-0.

**ARTICLE 13** – The Board made the motion to approve and place on the warrant to vote to appropriate the sum of \$66,481 for the purpose of making improvements to reduce flooding and related issues on and along Montague City Road, including any and all incidental and related costs, said sum to be raised from the Town Capital Stabilization Fund. Rich Kuklewicz made the motion and seconded by Chris Boutwell. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye. Recommended 3-0.

**ARTICLE 14** – The Board made the motion to approve and place on the warrant to vote to amend Montague Zoning Bylaws sections 2, 5.2.8, 5.2.9, 8.9 and 9.1.2 to adopt a Zoning Bylaw Amendment relating to the regulation of Battery Energy Storage Facilities as shown below. Rich Kuklewicz made the motion and seconded by Chris Boutwell. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye. Recommended 3-0.

**ARTICLE 15** – removed due to the passage of legislation for the Town to receive authority to hold the meeting remotely.

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S BUSINESS**

Steve spoke with the Board about their February 28, 2022 meeting with Legislators. There was a document that listed issues that were relevant last year which actually appear to remain relevant this year as well. The Board reviewed this document and Rich asked the members if there were other issues they'd like to add. Matt Lord would like to place bridge prioritization on the list. Some of the items, they requested to bundle together according to funding topics. Steve will send the list of items for discussion to the legislators for their review. Wendy clarified that next week's meeting will be starting at 5:30 p.m. with the Franklin County Tech School budget presentation for the first hour. The discussion with the legislators will be for 1/2 hour from 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Steve will send final document to Rich as Steve will not be attending next week's meeting.

Topics not anticipated in the 48-hour posting period – Steve stated those items have already been discussed (moderator and passage of 4430).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – M.G.L. c.31A, Sec21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (NAGE), Votes may be taken.

**The Board voted to adjourn the regular session at 8:18 p.m. to enter into executive session for the purpose of M.G. L., c.31A, Sec21 reason (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (NAGE), votes may be taken. On a motion by Chris Boutwell and seconded by Matt Lord, the Board adjourned the regular meeting. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye.**

**OTHER** – Anticipated Next Meeting – Monday, February 28, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via ZOOM

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 8:18 p.m. Matt Lord, aye; Chris Boutwell, aye; Rich Kuklewicz, aye.**

Respectfully submitted,

BettyLou Mallet  
Scribe