

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom
Monday, April 25, 2022

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Town Clerk Deb Bourbeau; Director of Public Health Dan Wasiuk; DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron; and FCRHC Community Development Director Brian McHugh.

VIMEO Meeting link: <https://vimeo.com/703098437>

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

Approve minutes of April 11, 2022

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of April 11, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Lord, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Abstain

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 Updates

Review of COVID case counts and trends

Wasiuk summarizes the updated case counts and percentage of vaccinated individuals.

Discussion:

- In response to a question by Jeff Singleton, Wasiuk states that he feels the recent increases are minimal.
- Wasiuk reports that the Board of Health did not proceed to enact any interventions for gatherings or indoor capacity limits.
- Lilith Wolinsky states that according to the New York Times, Massachusetts numbers have gone up 45% in the last two weeks.
- In response to Wolinsky's concerns, Wasiuk responds that at this point the State has lifted all of the restrictions. Decisions will be made when there is a significant increase in confirmed COVID hospitalizations.
- In response to a question by Ariel Elan, Wasiuk states that home tests are not identified on the case count report.
- In response to a question by Elan, Wasiuk states that it is hard to get a concrete number of hospitalizations as that is protected information. Getting a number for the past month can be done.
- In response to question by Jan Nockleby, Ellis states that the remote Town Meeting authorization that the State provided never allowed for hybrid meetings.
- Lord believes masks should be worn at Town Meeting. He would like us to look into providing high-quality US-made N95s for everybody.
- Ellis wants everyone to know that we have looked into the ventilation data (which meets requirements for a healthy environment), and we have talked about the possibility of having a section designated for people who want to wear masks.
- Kuklewicz suggests allocating more space to Town Meeting members.
- Bourbeau states that most towns are having their ATMs indoors. Some are getting creative (i.e., sectioning their venues, having check-in tables for residents wearing or not wearing masks).

Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent and Dan Wasiuk, Health Director

Sanitary Sewer Overflow Public Notification Plan

- Wasiuk reports that Mass DEP is asking the Town of Montague to develop an SSO Notification Plan.
- Mass DEP is asking the BOH be in charge of public notification when there is an overflow situation.
- Bergeron states that the company, ADS, has ways and means of being able to notify all of us of overflows.
- Ellis states that we need to focus on making sure the public notification process is automated.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Public Notification Plan and authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Personnel Board

- **Appoint Michael Lovett, DPW Truck Driver/Laborer, UE Grade C, Step 3, Effective 5/2/22**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Michael Lovett, DPW Truck Driver/Laborer, UE Grade C, Step 3, Effective 5/2/22. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint Thomas Chabot, WPCF Laborer/Operator, UE Grade B, Step 2, Effective 5/16/22**
Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Thomas Chabot, WPCF Laborer/Operator, UE Grade B, Step 2, Effective 5/16/22. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom
Monday, April 25, 2022

Melissa Stetson, Watershed Restaurant, 440 Greenfield Road, Montague

Request to extend use of Private Property for Outdoor Dining (COVID-19 Emergency Measures)

Boutwell makes the motion to approve Melissa Stetson's request to extend the Use of Private Property for Outdoor Dining (COVID-19 Emergency Measures) at Watershed Restaurant, 440 Greenfield Road, Montague; and authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Nova Motorcycles/Parks & Rec/Santo Taco/Pioneer Valley Brewery

Use of Public Property: Close 2nd Street, end in front of 141-147 2nd Street to Unity Park Parking Lot, June 11, 2022, 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by Nova Motorcycles/Parks & Rec/Santo Taco/Pioneer Valley Brewery for the Use of Public Property: Close 2nd Street, end in front of 141-147 2nd Street to Unity Park Parking Lot, June 11, 2022, 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM (rain date: June 12); and to authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Annie Levine, Great Falls Farmers Market

Request Use of Peskeompskut Park: Great Falls Farmers Market, Wednesdays, May 4th to October 26th, 2022, 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve Annie Levine's request for the Use of Peskeompskut Park: Great Falls Farmers Market, Wednesdays, May 4th to October 26th, 2022, 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Suzanne LoManto, RiverCulture Director

Execute Town of Montague Turners Falls Cultural District, Festivals Program Grant, \$1,500 from the Mass Cultural Council

Boutwell makes the motion to execute Town of Montague Turners Falls Cultural District, Festivals Program Grant, \$1,500 from the Mass Cultural Council. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Brian McHugh, FCRHRA

Execute Change Order: H.M. Nunes & Sons Construction, Inc. for the Avenue A Streetscape Improvements Project, \$5,890, funded by FY20 Community Development Block Grant

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Change Order: H.M. Nunes & Sons Construction, Inc. for the Avenue A Streetscape Improvements Project, \$5,890, funded by FY20 Community Development Block Grant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute May 17, 2022 Town Election Warrant, attached hereto

- Lord reads aloud the May 17, 2022 Town Election Warrant for the Town of Montague
- *Boutwell makes the motion to execute the May 17, 2022 Town Election Warrant as was read. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Farren Care Center Property

Trinity Health New England Response to the Selectboard's letter of February 15, 2022 and Senator Comerford's letter of February 16, 2022

- Kuklewicz reads aloud Trinity Health New England's response to the letters from the Selectboard and Senator Comerford earlier this year.
- Ellis highlights that Trinity's letter did not address attending to underground utilities, structure, parking lots, etc.; nor did they comment on their timeline; nor did they address conveying the property to the Town of Montague.
- Ellis will follow-up on the questions that were unanswered.
- In response to a request by Wolinsky, Ellis states that there continues to be advocacy around potential redevelopment of the building, but no interested developer has contacted him directly.
- Gina Govoni (from FCRHRA) shares that Stevenson Associates, a developer of affordable housing, thinks there might be some interest in pursuing a study for the space that might potentially include saving the building if that were in the interest of the Town.
- Wolinsky states that the Montague Historical Commission would like to work with Ellis and the Selectboard regarding a tour. In addition, they are wondering if Trinity would be willing to contribute to the expense of preserving remaining artifacts.
- Elan wonders if our letters to Trinity should come from our attorney.
- Elan would like to add architectural features to the question about remaining artifacts.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom
Monday, April 25, 2022

Town Administrator's Business

- **Notification of installation of KENO To Go Monitor at Carroll's Market, 33 E. Main Street, Millers Falls**
The State is notifying the Selectboard that there is an intention to install a new KENO monitor at Carroll's Market. The Selectboard expresses no objections.
- **Results of Federal Street Property auction (48-0-014)**
The winner of the auction for the Federal Street Property (48-0-014) bid \$113,000 for the 2.9-acre property.
- **Summary of Federal Earmark Submissions**
We did get in separate Earmark Submissions to each of our three Federal Congressional Legislators. The final application was for \$975,000 to build out the entirety of the North End Avenue A Streetscape.
- **FirstLight FERC Relicensing Updates**
We have looked at the recreational management plan, which is one component of the comprehensive settlement that we are engaged with. Overall, Ellis believes that our requests regarding our concern over a long timeline are being heard and we are continuing to make progress.
- **Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting/Worm invasion**
Kuklewicz reports that he has received an email regarding an invasive species of worms in the area, which may be of concern. He would like to put this in a future agenda.

Executive Sessions

- **Executive Session under G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, GMTA Garage, 382 Deerfield Street, Greenfield**
- **Executive Session under G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (NAGE, UE and NEPBA) Votes may be taken**
- The Chair deems that holding such discussions in open meeting would be detrimental to the Town's position.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Other

- Montague Center Park Improvement Project Informational Meeting, Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 6:00 PM, Montague Center Volunteer Fire Department, 28 Old Sunderland Road, Montague
- Next Selectboard Meeting: Monday, May 2, 2022 at 6:30, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, and via ZOOM