

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM

Monday, May 1, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Library Director Caitlin Kelley; Six Town Regionalization Planning Board Representative Mike Naughton; Assistant Planner Suzanne LoManto; Town Clerk Qualifications Review Panel Representative Ray Godin; and Town Clerk candidate Kathern "Beanie" Pierce.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting at 6:30 PM, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken

Approve Selectboard Minutes from April 24, 2023

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Minutes from April 24, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - 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

Mark Wisnewski, Rocket Science dba The Rendezvous

Execute License to use Real Property for the use of Town parking lot adjacent to the Rendezvous, 78 Third Street from 4/1/23 to 12/1/23

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the License to use Real Property for the use of Town parking lot adjacent to the Rendezvous, 78 Third Street from 4/1/23 to 12/1/23. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Mike Naughton, Six Town Regionalization Planning Board Committee Updates and impending vacancies

- Naughton shares that he will not be continuing as the Representative of the STRPD once his term ends.
- The STRPD is still in the process of collecting and arranging information for further presentations down the road.
- At some point, the STRPD needs to make a decision as to whether to recommend that the two districts merge. If so, it will need to draft a regional agreement. There may be more than one draft agreement.
- The STRPD has decided that it wants to get some feedback from the six towns.
- The timeline is that next fall sometime, the STRPD will be looking for an opinion as to whether to proceed and bring back a recommendation to the Town. If so, it will be passed along to Town Meeting.
- Naughton states he would be willing to continue to talk with people if they want to bounce ideas.
- The STRPD does not have a member from the Gill-Montague School Committee.
- Kuklewicz asks Ellis to draft a letter to send to the school committee regarding the open position.

Library Director, Caitlin Kelley

- **Use of Steps in front of the Montague Center Library on 5/24/23, 6/7/23, and 6/14/23 for a free, three-part concert series**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Library Director's request for the Use of the Steps in front of the Montague Center Library on 5/24/23, 6/7/23, and 6/14/23 for a free, three-part concert series. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Request to close Center Street in Montague Center directly in front of the library for the duration of the concerts**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Library Director's request to close Center Street in Montague Center directly in front of the library for the duration of the concerts. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Kathy Lynch, Montague Village Store, 60 Main Street, Montague Center Entertainment License 5/19/23, 6/15/23, 7/20/23, 8/18/23, 9/15/23

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Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Entertainment License for 5/19/23, 6/15/23, 7/20/23, 8/18/23, 9/15/23 as requested by Kathy Lynch, Montague Village Store, 60 Main Street, Montague Center and the Shea Theater. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Linda Tardiff, The Shea Theater

One Day Beer and Wine License for Suds and Song at 60 Main Street, Montague on: 5/19/23, 6/15/23, 7/20/23, 8/18/23, 9/15/23

Lord makes the motion to approve the One Day Beer and Wine License for Suds and Song at 60 Main Street, Montague on: 5/19/23, 6/15/23, 7/20/23, 8/18/23, 9/15/23 as requested by Linda Tardiff from The Shea Theater. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Maureen Pollock

Reserve Fund Transfer Request: \$1,500 to be transferred from the Reserve Fund to account #001-5-480-5211-000, Charging Station Electricity

Boutwell makes the motion to approve Maureen Pollock's request for the Reserve Fund Transfer: \$1,500 to be transferred from the Reserve Fund to account #001-5-480-5211-000, Charging Station Electricity. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Suzanne LoManto, Assistant Planner

- **Use of Peskeompskut Park: Free Summer Events co-sponsored by RiverCulture on August 12, 2023 (rain date: August 13, 2023); schedule of events provided**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Peskeompskut Park: Free Summer Events co-sponsored by RiverCulture on August 12, 2023 (rain date: August 13, 2023); schedule of events provided. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Pocumtuck Homeland Festival, August 5 and 6, 2023**

- **Request to close First Street from top of hill (by Maple St.) and at the corner of L Street as well as Unity Park Hill; please see map attached in meeting material**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request to close First Street from top of hill (by Maple St.) and at the corner of L Street as well as Unity Park Hill. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Entertainment Permit**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Entertainment Permit as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Execute Agreement with Northfield Mountain LLC/FirstLight MA Hydro for use of property along the river for Pocumtuck Homeland Festival**

Boutwell makes the motion to Execute the Agreement with Northfield Mountain LLC/FirstLight MA Hydro for use of property along the river for Pocumtuck Homeland Festival. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

- **Request for cell phone stipend for Ryan Paxton, \$5.77/week, effective May 8, 2023**

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for a Request for cell phone stipend for Ryan Paxton, \$5.77/week, effective May 8, 2023. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Appoint Tess Poe to the RiverCulture Steering Committee through 6/30/24**

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Tess Poe to the RiverCulture Steering Committee through 6/30/24. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Appoint Lisa Davol to the RiverCulture Steering Committee through 6/30/24**

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Lisa Davol to the RiverCulture Steering Committee through 6/30/24. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Consider Kathern "Beanie" Pierce Candidacy for Town Clerk Position**

- **Hear recommendation of the Town Clerk Qualifications Review Panel**

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1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM

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Boutwell makes the motion to accept the report from the Town Clerk Qualifications Review Panel recommending Kathern "Beanie" Pierce Candidacy for Town Clerk Position. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Appoint Kathern "Beanie" Pierce as Transitional Town Clerk at Grade G, Step 5, effective May 2, 2023 through June 30th, 2023; effective May 2, 2023 through June 30th 2023**

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Kathern "Beanie" Pierce as Transitional Town Clerk at Grade G, Step 5; effective May 2, 2023 through June 30th, 2023, effective May 2, 2023 through June 30th 2023. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Acknowledge and Decommission Temporary Hiring Committees**
 - **Town Clerk Qualifications Review Panel**
 - **Health Director Hiring Committee**
 - **Town Planner and Conservation Agent Hiring Committee**
 - **Assistant Town Administrator Hiring Committee**
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to decommission the Town Clerk Qualifications Review Panel, the Health Director Hiring Committee, the Town Planner and Conservation Agent Hiring Committee, and the Assistant Town Administrator Hiring Committee. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Consider use of ARPA to fund the following wastewater infrastructure category projects

- **Clean Water Facility Septage Receiving Station Upgrade (\$264,000)**
- **Clean Water Facility Operations Building Boiler Replacement (\$113,500)**
- **Clean Water Facility Rough Terrain Vehicle (\$25,000)**
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the use of ARPA to fund the following wastewater infrastructure category projects: Clean Water Facility Septage Receiving Station Upgrade (\$264,000), Clean Water Facility Operations Building Boiler Replacement (\$113,500), and Clean Water Facility Rough Terrain Vehicle (\$25,000). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Provide update on ARPA Social Service Agency Gap Funding Requests**

Ramsey states that to date he has received two written proposals for the ARPA Social Service Agency Gap Funding. He expects to come back to the Board next week with written proposals from all of the Social Service agencies.

Assistant Town Administrator, Walter Ramsey

- **Authorize Green Communities Grant Application: \$40,000 to fund the conversion of Montague Center Streetlights to LED and \$15,000 toward the purchase of plug-in hybrid SUV for Town inspectional services**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Green Communities Grant Application: \$40,000 to fund the conversion of Montague Center Streetlights to LED and \$15,000 toward the purchase of plug-in hybrid SUV for Town inspectional services. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize expenditure of up to \$14,000 from unexpected engineering to fund 11th Street Bridge Engineering Study. Said funds to be backfilled by anticipated Annual Town Meeting appropriation**

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$14,000 from unexpected engineering to fund 11th Street Bridge Engineering Study; said funds to be backfilled by anticipated Annual Town Meeting appropriation. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

FirstLight Federal Energy Regulatory Commission License Renewal (Steve)

- **Review of Proposed FirstLight Recreational Settlement Agreement, if available**

We have a FirstLight Recreational Settlement Agreement that the Selectboard and community can consider endorsing. It is also being pushed out to a variety of State and Federal stakeholders. This will probably be finished in mid-May.
- **Discuss Recreational Settlement Agreement Terms relative to Fish & Flows Agreement**

There was some concern that the settlement may be jeopardized because there is an interrelationship between the Recreational Agreement and the Fish & Flows Agreement.

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1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM

Monday, May 1, 2023 at 6:30 PM

- Kuklewicz suggests allocating an hour to this topic next week, then taking a week to consider any public comments and feedback before deciding whether to sign the agreement.
- Ellis will post this presentation as well as last year's presentation that he did for the AIP.

Town Administrator Business

- **Update relative to New EPA NPDES Permit and potential cost implications**
 - Ellis and CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little met with members of EPA staff.
 - There are studies that would be required that could cost upwards of \$200,000.
 - We are going to try to lobby to make sure that if there are costs that are unavoidable, that they present themselves on a schedule that would allow us to apply for grant resources.
- **Update on Colle/Shea Roof Replacement of Bid Award Process**

Ellis will be meeting with the low-bidder firm tomorrow. He hopes to be able to bring a contract next week.
- **Plan for FY24 Board and Committee Appointments**
 - Ellis and Bogusz began the process last week of looking at systems and processes that can be improved now that we have additional staffing in the office.
 - Ellis hopes to bring a list of known vacancies to the Annual Town Meeting.
- **Communication Plan for Annual Town Meeting**
 - Ellis states that we have an active Communication Plan for Annual Town Meeting.
 - We will be sending out another round of email reminders and invitations to Town Meeting Members.
 - Representative Blais and Senator Comerford may be present at the ATM.
- **Trash and Recycling Collection Bids due May 9, 2023**

Ellis states that hope to have some results relative to what comes in for the Trash and Recycling Collection proposals that have come in by the middle of May.
- **Topics not anticipated within the 48-hour posting**
 - **Parade Invitation**

Deerfield has invited the Board to march in their 350th Anniversary Parade on June 17 from 2:00 - 4:30 PM.
 - **FRTA Event**

There is an FRTA Bus Maintenance Facility Grand Opening Event on Wednesday, June 7 at 11:00 AM.

OTHER:

Announcements:

"Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day, May 13, 2023, 9:00 AM to Noon, Shelburne Falls, Whately and Northfield

Next Meetings:

- **Pre-Town Meeting, Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 8:00 AM in the cafeteria at Turners Falls High School, 222 Turnpike Rd., Turners Falls**
- **Annual Town Meeting, Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 9:00 AM in the theater at Turners Falls High School, 222 Turnpike Rd., Turners Falls**
- **Selectboard Meeting, Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM via ZOOM**

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye