

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
VIA ZOOM
Monday, March 18, 2024**

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, Matt Lord; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; and Montague Assistant Planner Suzanne LoManto.

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

Approve Minutes of March 11, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Minutes of March 11, 2024 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - 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

Suzanne LoManto, Montague Assistant Planner

Event Application for Use of Montague Center Town Common:

- **May Day Event, Sunday, May 5, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Street Closure: North Street from Main to Center**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for the Use of Montague Center Town Common for the May Day Event, Sunday, May 5, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; Street Closure: North Street from Main to Center; and to waive the fee. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Music Makes Good Neighbors, Saturday, June 8, 2024, 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Street Closure: North Street from Main to Center**
Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Music Makes Good Neighbors event, Saturday, June 8, 2024, 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Street Closure: North Street from Main to Center as discussed; and to waive the fee. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

Receipt of Letter of Resignation from Karen Casey-Chretien, effective April 1, 2024

Boutwell makes the motion to accept with regret the Letter of Resignation from Karen Casey-Chretien, effective April 1, 2024. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Resignations from the RiverCulture Steering Committee: Tess Poe, Kathleen Lynch

Boutwell makes the motion to accept with regret the Resignations of Tess Poe and Kathleen Lynch from the RiverCulture Steering Committee. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Appointments to the RiverCulture Steering Committee: Caitlin Kelley, Jon Dobosz, and Susan Blauner

Lord makes the motion to appoint Caitlin Kelley, Jon Dobosz, and Susan Blauner to the RiverCulture Steering Committee, effective 3/18/2024, 3-year term expiring 3/18/2027. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain

Brian McHugh, Director of Community of Development - HRA

- **Authorize Payment #5 to Berkshire Design Group for Hillcrest Playground in the amount of \$2,830.50**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Payment #5 to Berkshire Design Group for Hillcrest Playground in the amount of \$2,830.50. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Authorize Payment #1 to Berkshire Design Group in the amount of \$4,990.00 for partial Topographic Survey and GPR/Utility Investigation for the FY24 Avenue A Streetscape Phase IV Design Project**
Boutwell makes the motion to authorize Payment #1 to Berkshire Design Group in the amount of \$4,990.00 for partial Topographic Survey and GPR/Utility Investigation for the FY24 Avenue A Streetscape Phase IV Design Project. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Caitlin Kelley, Montague Library Director

The Montague Public Libraries request for \$3,505.00 from Community Development Discretionary Unallocated Account to lease a tent for the Carnegie Library lawn between 5/1/24 and 9/30/24

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Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Montague Public Libraries request for \$3,505.00 from Community Development Discretionary Unallocated Account to lease a tent for the Carnegie Library lawn between 5/1/24 and 9/30/24; and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Linda Hickman, President of the Friends of the GFDC

Notification of a boulder containing armored mudballs being moved from the start of the bike path to the Great Falls Discovery Center

- Hickman informs the Board that a boulder containing armored mudballs is being moved from the start of the bike path to the Great Falls Discovery Center.
- Armored mudballs are approximately 200 million years old and were discovered by geology professor Richard Little.
- The boulder will be highlighted and used for interpretive programs.
- DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron will arrange for moving the boulder.
- FirstLight has approved moving the boulder as long as there is a replacement boulder.
- The GFDC is applying for an up-to-\$5,000 grant from FirstLight that would help pay for the project, including having a quarry to deliver a replacement boulder.

Wendy Bogusz, Executive Assistant

Use of Peskeompskut Park, Montague Community Band, 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Open Rehearsals: Mondays 5/16 through 6/3/2024; Concerts: 6/10/24 through 7/22/2024 (rain date 7/9/24)

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Peskeompskut Park, Montague Community Band, 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.; Open Rehearsals: Mondays 5/16 through 6/3/2024; Concerts: 6/10/24 through 7/22/2024 (rain date 7/9/24); and waive the fee. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

EV Charging Stations - Reserve Fund Transfer Request and new rate notice

- Ramsey reviews the new rates for the EV Charging Stations.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request for the Reserve Fund Transfer as requested. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Authorize US Environmental Protection Agency access for preliminary assessment and site investigation to municipally held property at 8 and 20 Canal Road, Turners Falls, MA

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the US Environmental Protection Agency access for preliminary assessment and site investigation to municipally held property at 8 and 20 Canal Road, Turners Falls, MA. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator's Business

Review of Special Town Meeting Outcomes and Follow Up

- There were approximately 70 members in attendance.
- Ellis asks if the Board feels any need to formalize the process for the communication with the BOH relative to approval of the use of opioid settlement monies. Following a suggestion by Lord, Ellis agrees to keep the BOH apprised.

Endorse Letter of Acknowledgement Relative to Second Amendment to Kearsarge Montague LLC Phase 1 Solar Lease Agreement, as dated August 21, 2017, for Additional Burn Dump Capping Costs

Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Letter of Acknowledgement Relative to Second Amendment to Kearsarge Montague LLC Phase 1 Solar Lease Agreement, as dated August 21, 2017, for Additional Burn Dump Capping Costs. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute Second Amendment to Kearsarge Montague LLC Phase 1 Solar Lease Agreement, as dated August 21, 2017, for Burn Dump Cap Costs

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Second Amendment to Kearsarge Montague LLC Phase 1 Solar Lease Agreement, as dated August 21, 2017, for Burn Dump Cap Costs as discussed. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Review Cannabis Control Commission Host Community Agreement Template

- Ellis reviews the Cannabis Control Commission Host Community Agreement Template which he, Lord, and Ramsey worked on from the Town's standpoint. If we were to use the template, it would not include some provisions that the

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Town may find desirable (i.e., some of the odor provisions in the 253 contract). We are not required to use the template.

- Lord feels that if we were to do anything close to what 253 would be requesting, it would be using portions of the template. There are some things in the template which other communities feel are troublesome. Lord would like to do a closer analysis of the prior agreements that we've had with them and compare what is in there with what is in the current template. He would also like to make sure the Planning Board provisions are being addressed
- Kuklewicz expresses concern regarding odor control of either of the facilities.

Discuss Town Legislative Priorities in Preparation for April Meeting with Rep Natalie Blais

- Ellis notifies the Board that we are going to have the opportunity to speak with Representative Blais.
- Kuklewicz expresses his concern regarding the changes in funding for the school districts.
- Kuklewicz would prefer an in-person meeting if Rep Blais is able to attend.
- Ellis states that there are a lot of things that we have to be thankful to our legislators for that we should recognize.
- Lord would like to possibly add to the list a clarified and/or solidified process for unlocking funds from bond bills.

Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting

None

Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, related to a Land Development Agreement with Power Street LLC for 15 Power Street, Turners Falls, MA

- The Chair deems holding this discussion in open meeting would be detrimental to the Town's position.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, related to a Land Development Agreement with Power Street LLC for 15 Power Street, Turners Falls, MA. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*