



TOWN HALL | 39 SOUTH STREET | HINSDALE, MA | 01235 | 413-655-2300

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 27, 2020 at 7pm

Community Room – Downstairs

posted 10:45am on 6/12/2020

Teleconference: Public called in to meeting by phone: 413-449-5095; code 706954

7:00 PM, Vivian opened meeting, welcomed everyone back, asked everyone to turn off their phones, asked if anyone was recording. All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ray made a motion to accept the May 13, 2020 minutes as presented, Rich seconded, all said Aye.

Esther Balardini appeared before the Board representing Eversource, She had a map to show where the new proposed Pole Locations will be. Old Dalton Road, Hinsdale: 1) Install one (1) new jointly owned pole (P#47/39) to be located approximately sixty (60) feet northwest of existing jointly owned pole (P#42/32).

Maple Street, Hinsdale: 1) Relocate one (1) existing jointly-owned pole (P#42/31) to be located approximately forty-seven (47) feet east of the existing pole (P#42/31). 2) Relocate one (1) existing jointly-owned pole (P#42/B30) to be located approximately twenty-five (25) feet east of the existing pole (P#42/B30). Reason for relocation is for people to have visibility at that intersection at the completion of the Old Dalton Road construction. Rich questioned about the one pole that is facing the cemetery gate: is there going to be enough room on the easement to go across the front of the cemetery on the Conroy property? Esther presented the design, Bob explained it has been blessed by many engineers. Rich made a motion to accept Eversource and Verizon's proposed pole locations. Ray seconded, all in favor, said Aye.

Sabrina Zeitler did not come to the meeting or call in to tonight's meeting to ask for Business Certificate.

TA Bob Graves announced Lake Management and Solitude should have scheduled their survey by now. He asked Caleb in Conservation to track them down. We opened Town Hall according to State guidelines. Masks are required in building. Hand sanitizers are at both entries in lobbies; we are working on office reconfigurations. Berkshire Plate Glass is working on retrofit to have small openings in the doors (glass being replaced by plastic) to pass through payments, bag tags, vehicle permits. We appreciate all the extra work Fred Sears from the Board of Health has been putting in.

Rich Peters spoke about hiring a new superintendent, Leslie Blake-Davis. Said in this environment there is no road map, for what we are all doing right now. We are not only in the middle of building a new school, but now the existing school is closed, and how do you teach by distant learning? We had a good internal candidate, so we did not post outside. The School Board went through all the correct protocols to hire someone qualified from within. Budget is going

forward as presented originally. No increases in the budget, so hopefully it passes within the towns. June 24 is Hinsdale's Annual Town Meeting. District had to apply before June 1 and be prepared for 1/12 budget. He wants to bring new superintendent to introduce her to the Select Board and residents who attend the next meeting. The Dalton Finance committee is not recommending the budget. Cummington will probably vote to accept because it went down 12%.

Town Warrant will be posted on June 11 after legal review.

Peg McDonough discussed plans for a small grant Age Friendly Berkshires received from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation's Central Berkshire Fund for Peg to speak to community leaders. She made a date with Council on Aging. Asking for residents to complete a survey regarding a need for transportation services. She suggests using a Town Newsletter or Town Website to survey the group. The Select Board hopes that it goes well and it can work.

Rich makes a motion to vote to rescind July 18, 2018 vote taken by the Select Board setting a mandatory retirement age of 70 for firefighters and police officers; Viv seconds, all in favor, said Aye.

Rich made a motion to reinstate the use of transfer station bag tags. The tags are to encourage people to recycle. The Covid crisis cost the town over \$1600 in revenue for temporarily suspending the mandatory bag tags. Ray seconded, all in favor, said Aye.

Today is last date for citizen petitions for warrant articles to be submitted; last day to register to vote in June 27 Town Election is June 17th. The last day to register to vote for the June 24 Annual Town Meeting is June 4th.

Viv recused herself before Ipswich discussion begins. Bob clarifies the issues; he informs the board that Ipswich Pharmaceuticals needs Select Board support to take to the Cannabis Commission acknowledging that it doesn't change anything for us other than they are changing the company leadership. Basically we are just confirming that. Hinsdale does recognize this reorganization. They presented a letter that the town doesn't argue about what they are doing. Ray made a motion to go forward with Bob signing off on this letter, Rich seconded.

Bob sent SB members a copy of an email from IPA's attorney for a check for the outstanding legal fees, and another \$5,000 as a legal retainer for upcoming bills.

Green Patriot requests a letter of support or non-opposition to cultivate adult/and or medical cultivation located at 00 Bullard's Crossing. Green Patriot activities are currently permitted under the host agreement with the town titled Ipswich Pharmaceuticals Associates. The name change is currently happening. The host community agreement covers two properties. Jodie and Elizabeth set this up with us in 2017; and we amended agreement last fall to include Peru Road. IPA's is still covering both sites. The McCarthys received the Cannabis Commission permission to grow. IPA got final approval for the facility on Bullard's Crossing. As they split, the IPA agreement and recognition is going to IPA. So the Bullard's Crossing site, which is becoming Green Patriot, doesn't have a Host Agreement. Bob asked our attorneys to begin drafting one.

First they have to appear before the Planning Board. Expedited license was applied in Elizabeth McCarthy's name for the Green Patriot, Bullard's Crossing Road site.

Susan asked if the local parks could be open. Suggestion was made to contact Fred, Board of Health. Plunkett Lake beach was also mentioned. Camp Emerson and Taconic are not opening this summer. Camp Romaca still has plans to eventually open up.

Ray made a motion to adjourn at 7:54; Rich seconded. Meeting concluded.

Respectfully submitted, Lynne Baumgartner