

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
February 20, 2018**

Present: Mary Dowling, Clerk (Acting Chair)
Michael Suprenant
Craig Moran
Leon Gaumond, Jr., Town Administrator
Colleen King, Administrative Assistant

Absent : Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimmas, Vice-Chair

The Acting Chairman M. Dowling called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board members stood for the pledge.

Public Service Announcements

- **Signs in Sturbridge: A Detailed Explanation of the Sign Bylaws**
- **The 2018 "Adopt A Tree" Street Tree Planting Program**
- **Grand Re-Opening Celebration – Norcom Mortgage, 135 Main St (Rt 131)**
- **MMA Legislative Breakfast Meeting Dates**

Town Administrator, Leon Gaumond, Jr. read the Public Hearing Notice for Spencer Solar LLC, Fiske Hill Road:

6:30 p.m. Forest Harvesting Permit – T Jepson & Son, LLC on behalf of Spencer Solar, LLC – Fiske Hill Road, Sturbridge

John Clarke, of Jepson & Son, LLC appeared before the Board on behalf of Spencer Solar, LLC to present the State approved plan for tree harvesting on Fiske Hill Road. Mr. Clarke gave the published newspaper hearing notices done for both the State and the Town of Sturbridge, along with the certified return receipt mail cards. Acting Chair, M. Dowling gave Mr. Clarke copies of memos from Greg Morse, DPW Director and the Conservation Commission so that he could respond to any questions the Board or residents might have.

Mr. Clarke stated that the proposed work should begin during the "dry" season in May or June and run about three (3) weeks. C. Moran asked about the hauling route that will be used as there is a residential area and busing route on that road; there is a concern about excessive noise. Mr. Clarke responded that trailers are being used and the route will be the least intrusive, on Fiske Hill north heading Route 20 east. M. Dowling cited her concern regarding the slopes on the skid roads and stabilization. Mr. Clarke stated that State regulations mandates slopes be stabilized to prevent erosion. Also, he showed the Board members on a sketch that previous landings and crossings have been reduced down to one due to abutter issues. M. Suprenant asked about how streams would be traversed. Mr. Clarke responded that temporary staging or a bridge will be erected on an old abandoned roadway, but the stream crossing #2 would be used. Mr. Clarke also stated that water would not be an issue affecting abutting properties.

Acting Chairman M. Dowling invited interested citizens and abutters present to come to the front and ask questions or give comments. Ed Goodwin, of 19 Orchard Rd, a resident and Chair of the Conservation Commission spoke. He has a concern that the Conservation Agent was not allowed a site visit by the property owner and that it is the first time he has ever encountered a site visit refusal. Kevin Smith, of 148 Fiske Hill Rd, asked about the narrow access road, which is also a right of way of an abutter who utilizes it as a driveway. Will there be much damage to this roadway? Mr. Clarke responded that State law mandates stabilization through various means. Peter Zeh, of 32 Old Farm Rd, voiced concern about big trucks causing damage on the access road. L. Gaumond reported that according to the DCR, Fiske Hill Road is a scenic road and there is a 100 foot buffer requirement. Jeff Cooper, of 123 Fiske Hill Rd, asked if the trees have been marked and if the cutting will be selective. Mr. Clarke responded that selective cutting will be done and the stump remains will be left to

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degrade naturally. Mr. Cooper also asked about a buffer zone where work is being done, could work be conducted right up to an abutting property line? Mr. Clarke responded that no buffer zone is required. M. Dowling stated to that the Board of Selectmen have limited jurisdiction and can only impose certain conditions for the work. M. Suprenant asked if a forest management plan was filed, and if so, may the Board be provided with the copy. Mr. Clarke stated that the plan is not a requirement; as the application is for cutting trees only. M. Dowling asked L. Gaumond if the Board could get opinion from Town Counsel on gaining site access and receiving the Chapter 61 plan. L. Gaumond responded that he can talk to Town Counsel along with the DCR if the Board requests. Mr. Clarke stated that he will forward the Chapter 61 plan per request of the Board.

Motion: I move to close the hearing. by: M. Suprenant.

2nd: by C. Moran

Vote passed 3-0

Discussion continued on whether the hearing should continue with the open issues still to be determined. L. Gaumond reminded the Board that they just closed the hearing.

Motion: I move to rescind the previous motion to close the hearing. by: M. Suprenant.

2nd: by C. Moran

Vote passed 3-0

Motion: I move to continue the deliberation and decision of the cutting plan hearing until the next meeting on March 5, 2018 with the applicant and Conservation Commission present. by: M. Suprenant.

2nd: by C. Moran

Vote passed 3-0

Department Head Reports

Planning Department: Jean Bubon, Town Planner appeared before the Board and gave overview highlights of her report:

- ❖ Open Space and Recreation Plan – Meetings and discussions have been ongoing to develop a citizen participation portion of the plan. A public forum is being planned at the end of March.
- ❖ Permit Software Implementation – The end of March, the Planning Department will be devoting many hours initially for set-up of the Town departments.
- ❖ Recreational Marijuana – Continuing to work on creating a bylaw and should be completed by the end of summer and certainly before the November election.
- ❖ Panera Bread – Special sign permit was approved by the Planning Board. Construction is tentatively scheduled for the Spring.

Water & Wastewater Departments: Shane Moody, Project Manager of Veolia Water Northeast appeared before the Board and gave overview highlights of his report:

- ❖ The department recently was awarded the George W. Burke, Jr. Facility Safety Award by the New England Water Environment Association in recognition of excellence in an active and effective safety program and safety record. S. Moody stated that there has only been one month in the past 29 years where there has been a lost time accident. Wastewater Treatment Employee Zachary Donahue was present and congratulated for the training time he put in towards getting this award.
- ❖ CCR and CEF Solids Reports completed

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- ❖ Flow Testing at McGilpin Road (Tighe & Bond)
- ❖ 30 emergency repair calls and 34 service calls during month of January 2018
- ❖ The Wastewater Treatment Plant within the zinc limits for January 2018

Department of Public Works: Greg Morse, DPW Director appeared before the Board and gave overview highlight of his report:

- ❖ Attended MassDOT meeting on culvert at Snell Street. Work doesn't begin until April or May of 2019
- ❖ Year End 2017 Report: road, sidewalk, building, equipment and storm related maintenance totaled 1,941 labor hours
- ❖ Labor Hours: 36 days maintenance for roads, 54 days for equipment, 15 days building, water-sewer totaled 11 days for month of December 2017
- ❖ Labor Hours: Storm maintenance required 72 days of labor, 27 days maintenance for roads, 53 days for equipment, 3 days building, 5 days trails, and water-sewer and police had minimal hours for month of January 2018

Town Administrator's Update

Senior Center Donation: Town Administrator asked the Board to accept the \$5,000 donation. The Board requested a thank you letter be sent.

Motion: I move to accept the \$5,000 donation to the Senior Center for Capital Improvements. By: C. Moran

2nd: by M. Suprenant

Vote passed 3-0

District Capital Projects Request Survey: Senator Anne Gobi has requested suggestions from the Town for capital projects for possible inclusion in the FY19 state budget. Some ideas for consideration are: public safety communications improvements; monies for DPW building; monies for PSC improvement; Senior Center; McGilpin Road area water line, etc. The Board agreed to review these and other suggestions and to then put in a formal request to legislators.

Application: Special Use Permit-Berkshire Bass: Berkshire Bass has applied for a one (1) day permit for a fishing derby event to be held on April 21, 2018. The Police Chief has reviewed and approved the request.

Motion: I move to approve the application for a permit for the Berkshire Bass Fishing Derby at Big Alum Pond on April 21, 2018. By: C. Moran

2nd: by M. Suprenant

Vote passed 3-0

Amendments to Board/Committee Appointment Procedures

The Town Administrator informed the Board that he has prepared some amendments to the Selectmen's policy on appointments based upon discussions at their retreat meeting in January. A copy of those amendments were included in the Board member packets. The Board agreed to carry over discussion until next meeting when more members could be present.

Letter of Resignation – Library Trustee: Barbara Helbig

The Town Administrator announced to the Board that Barbara's term is expiring in a few months and no action is required. The Board accepted her resignation and publicly thanked her for her service to the Town.

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Annual BB5k Road Race – JLT Family Foundation (Melanoma Awareness)

The Town Administrator requested the Board approve the annual BB5k race to be held on May 26, 2018.

Motion: I move to approve the application for the BB5k JLT Family Foundation road race to be held on May 26, 2018. **By: M. Suprenant**
2nd: by C. Moran
Vote passed 3-0

Old Business

Old Towne Way

Julie Horrigan, President of the HOA, was present to discuss and clarify what is needed to have Old Towne Way ready and approved as a public road. She stated she is almost complete in receiving all the waivers from 22 lot owners. She understands that the Town will take easements by eminent domain. She outlined the amount of financial investment the property owners have already contributed as a show of good faith and commitment but did not wish to go back to the property owners once again to ask for additional legal and recording fees amounting to less than \$2,000. Discussion among the Board members on the pros and cons of taking on the legal fees continued. It was decided that authorizing an amount up to \$2,000 would be acceptable.

Motion: I move to authorize payment of the legal fees in conjunction with eminent domain in taking Old Towne Way as a public way. **By: M. Suprenant**
M. Suprenant then amended his previous motion concerning the amount.

Amended Motion: I move to authorize payment of the legal fees in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 in conjunction with eminent domain in taking Old Towne Way as a public way. **By: M. Suprenant**
2nd: by M. Dowling
Vote passed 3-0

New Business

One Day Liquor License Request: Holiday Inn Express, 21 New Boston Rd-Baby Shower Event

Sales Director, Patti McDonnell appeared before the Board to ask approval for a baby shower event for Sunday, March 4, 2018. The guests will be providing wine and champagne and serving themselves in the banquet room.

Ms. McDonnell also requested another event that came in to her office for a 60th birthday party event the day before (Saturday, March 3, 2018) and hoped the Board could give last minute approval for that as well. The 60th birthday party will be held from 6:00-11:00 p.m. C. Moran asked Ms. McDonnell if the owner has a liability agreement or waiver in place that is signed by guests; she responded that he does not. There was discussion as to whether these events need a one day liquor license since the owners are not selling or serving alcohol; by applying for a permit, it places full responsibility on them as applicants. The Town Administrator stated he would be researching that and will get back to the Board and Holiday Inn Express.

Motion: I move to approve the application for a one day liquor license for the March 3, 2018 event with the stipulation of the Police Chief's approval. **By: C. Moran**
2nd: by M. Suprenant
Vote passed 3-0

Motion: I move to approve the application for a one day liquor license for the March 4, 2018 event. **By: C. Moran**
2nd: by M. Suprenant
Vote passed 3-0

School Resource Officer – Tantasqua Regional High School

M. Dowling would like to have a discussion on the potential need for a School Resource Officer at Tantasqua when the Police Chief comes before the Board again with his report. M. Dowling pointed out that Burgess Elementary School has an officer in place; but not at the high school.

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Correspondence
C. Moran read correspondence.

Approval of Minutes

February 5, 2018

Motion: To approve the minutes of February 5, 2018 as amended. by: M. Suprenant
2nd: by: C. Moran
Vote passed 3-0

January 16, 2018

Motion: To approve the minutes of January 16, 2018 as amended. by: M. Suprenant
2nd: by: C. Moran
Vote passed 3-0

January 2, 2018

Motion: To approve the minutes of January 2, 2018 as amended. by: M. Suprenant
2nd: by: C. Moran
Vote passed 3-0

August 21, 2017

Motion: To approve the minutes of August 21, 2017 as amended. by: M. Suprenant
2nd: by: C. Moran
Vote passed 3-0

August 2, 2017

Motion: To approve the minutes of August 2, 2017 as amended. by: M. Suprenant
2nd: by: C. Moran
Vote passed 3-0

July 17, 2017

Motion: To approve the minutes of July 17, 2017. by: M. Suprenant
2nd: by: C. Moran
Vote passed 3-0

April 27, 2017

Motion: To approve the minutes of April 27, 2017 as amended. by: M. Suprenant
2nd: by: C. Moran
Vote passed 3-0

July 5, 2016

Motion: To approve the minutes of July 5, 2016. by: M. Suprenant
2nd: by: C. Moran
Vote passed 3-0

July 18, 2016

Motion: To approve the minutes of July 18, 2016 as amended. by: M. Suprenant
2nd: by: C. Moran
Vote passed 3-0

August 8, 2016

Carry over the minutes of August 8, 2016 to the next meeting for absent members' approval.

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Citizen's Forum

None

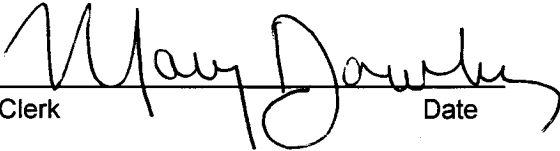
Motion: To adjourn the meeting. by: C. Moran

2nd: by: M. Suprenant

Vote passed 3-0

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Colleen J. King, Administrative Assistant



BOS Clerk Date 3/19/18