

**Board of Selectmen  
July 18, 2022  
Veterans Memorial Hall, Sturbridge Town Hall  
308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566**

**Present:**

Mary Blanchard, Chair  
Chase Kaitbenski, Vice Chair  
Selectman Ian Dunnigan

**Absent:**

Mary Dowling, Clerk  
Selectman Jamie Goodwin

**Staff:**

Robin A. Grimm, Ph.D., Town Administrator  
Michelle Garman, Executive Assistant

**Chair Blanchard called meeting to order at 6:30p.m.**

**The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Chair Blanchard read the agenda.**

**Moment of Silence**

For all those affected by Covid-19 the people of Ukraine war and senseless gun violence.

**Public Service Announcements**

Selectman Dunnigan hopes everyone stays cool with the heat. If anyone needs help, they can reach out the Leslie Wong and she would be happy to help them find a cooling station

Chair Blanchard advised about the Library's 125 year Celebration Picnic on the Common. Chair Blanchard gave a detailed description of all the events for the day.

Sturbridge Fire Department and Sturbridge Police Department Presented Certificates to Sean Murray, Michael Murray, David Morris and Corey Metzermacher. On May 12, 2022, Sturbridge Fire Department was dispatched to a structure fire at 90 Hall Road, Sturbridge. On arrival, Sturbridge Fire Department observed four (4) individuals who were employees of Cruise Control helping to put the fire out with fire extinguishers and knocking on doors to alert other residents so they would be safely evacuation from the building. As a result of their actions the Sturbridge Fire Department believes these four (4) individuals not only helped preserve the property but possibly saved some lives and saved some injuries. Because of their selflessness and disregard for their own safety the Sturbridge Fire Department and Sturbridge Police Department believes there men deserve to be recognized.

**Department Report: Building Department**

Nelson Burlingame, Building Inspector gave a detailed over review of his Department Report. A copy of which is on file with the Town Administrators Office.

**Department Report: Police Department**

Chief Dessert gave a detailed over review of his Department Reports. Copies of which are on file with the Town Administrators Office.

**Town Administrator Update**

Senior work off program Ann Murphy and Leslie Wong are working to make it a better program. There are some conflicts they are working to resolve to have a clearer outline of the program.

Department Heads were sent an email regarding tracking all Articles from Town Meeting. She wants to have a rolling five-year tracking of borrowing articles from Town Meeting. Chair Blanchard that is a great idea. Residents vote at Town Meeting and then it gets put on the back burner and no-one is following up.

Southbridge Water Sewer Agreement she stated its will take four to five years for us to have our own pump station. She is asking the board to consider an agreement to negotiate a five-year agreement.

**Motion: To authorize the Town Administrator to negotiate a five-year extension of the contract.**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

**Action Items:**

- A. Consideration and possible action on the appointment of Benjamin Hoffman to the Sturbridge Police Department as a full-time Police Officer effective July 19, 2022 at the hourly rate of \$35.39 and the benefits of a three-year employee excluding longevity.

**Motion: To approve the appointment of Benjamin Hoffman to the Sturbridge Police Department as a full-time Police Officer effective July 19, 2022 at the hourly rate of \$35.39 and the benefits of a three-year employee excluding longevity.**

**By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

- B. Consideration and possible action on the appointment of Carrie Soule to the Sturbridge Police Department as a full-time dispatcher effective July 27, 2022 at the hourly rate of \$28.28 and the benefits of a three-year dispatcher minus longevity.

**Motion: To approve the appointment of Carrie Soule to the Sturbridge Police Department as a full-time dispatcher effective July 27, 2022 at the hourly rate of \$28.28 and the benefits of a three-year dispatcher minus longevity.**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

- C. Consideration and possible action on the Sturbridge Police Department Comfort Dog Policy.

Chief Dessert gave a detailed description of the comfort dog policy it is his goal to have a comfort dog come into the schools with the school resource officer. This is not just for the schools if the dog is needed in other places the dog would be dispatched. Chief Dessert would also like the dog trained in search and rescue.

**Motion: To approve the Sturbridge Police Department Comfort Dog Policy.**

**By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

- D. Consideration and possible action on an application for a special one-day liquor license for Hamilton Rod & Gun Club for a Car Show at 24 Hamilton Road, Sturbridge on August 5, 2022 from 2:00p.m. to 1:00a.m. and August 6, 2022 from 10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

**Motion: To approve an application for a special one-day liquor license for Hamilton Rod & Gun Club for a Car Show at 24 Hamilton Road, Sturbridge on August 5, 2022 from 2:00p.m. to 1:00a.m. and August 6, 2022 from 10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.**

**By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectmen Dunnigan**

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

- E. Consideration and possible action on an application for a special one-day liquor license for Hamilton Rod & Gun Club for a Food Truck Festival at 24 Hamilton Road, Sturbridge on July 23, 2022 from 11:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.

**Motion: To approve an application for a special one-day liquor license for Hamilton Rod & Gun Club for a Food Truck Festival at 24 Hamilton Road, Sturbridge on July 23, 2022 from 11:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

- F. Consideration and possible action on an application for a special one-day liquor license for Deep Roots Distillery USA for Harvest Fest on the Town Common on October 15, 2022 from 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. and October 16, 2022 from 11:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

**Motion: To approve an application for a special one-day liquor license for Deep Roots Distillery USA for Harvest Fest on the Town Common on October 15, 2022 from 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. and October 16, 2022 from 11:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.**

**By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

- G. Consideration and possible action on an application for a 5K Road Race for Old Sturbridge Academy Parent Teacher Scholar Association/Christine Blinn for October 1, 2022 for the hours of 8:00a.m. to 9:30a.m.

**Motion: To approve on an application for a 5K Road Race for Old Sturbridge Academy Parent Teacher Scholar Association/Christine Blinn for October 1, 2022 for the hours of 8:00a.m. to 9:30a.m., with the stipulation of one detail officer.**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

- H. Consideration and possible action on 7 Main Street, Sturbridge to review and sign the purchase and sales agreement.

**Motion: To approve the sale of 7 Main Street to the Town of Sturbridge and sign document.**

**By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

- I. Consideration and possible action on first right of refusal for 355 Leadmine Road, Sturbridge.

**Motion: To waive our Right of First Refusal for 355 Leadmine Road, Sturbridge.**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**Correspondence:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

- A. July 5, 2022
- B. June 28, 2022
- C. June 21, 2022
- D. May 16, 2022
- E. May 2, 2022

**Motion: To approve the minutes of July 5, 2022 as amended.**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

**Motion: To approve the minutes of June 28, 2022.**

**By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

**Motion: To approve the minutes of June 21, 2022 as amended**

**By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Dunnigan**

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

**Minutes for May 16, 2022 will be held until next Board of Selectmen meeting due to no quorum.**

**Motion: To approve the minutes of May 2, 2022 as amended.**

**By: Selectman Dunnigan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

**Vote: 2-0-1 (Chair Blanchard abstained) (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

**Citizen's Forum**

Gary Galonek, resident at 164 Lake Road, Sturbridge

Mark Smith, resident at 186 Lake Road, Sturbridge

Mathew Kibbe, resident at 324 The Trail, Sturbridge

Mr. Smith addressed the Board of Selectman giving a background of what the residents of Lake Road are looking to address with the Town of Sturbridge. Mr. Smith states he does not understand how this is a private road yet it is a thru way for anyone. Other people use this road as a public way. Mr. Smith is asking at the Town level is there a way to reduce the flow of traffic.

When Old Town Way was built initial planned to be a cul-de -sac it was not going to be a thruway. What the residents are requesting is if Lake Road is a private road why can't the residents put up a sign stating private road.

Mr. Kibbe handing out copies of their proposals. The walking trails the Grand Trunk Trail in front of Old Sturbridge Village there is an entry point to the Grand Trunk Trail. His proposal is why can't there be and alternate route called 20A and allow traffic to come through.

Mr. Kibbe is not sure if the State would have to get involved.

Chair Blanchard advised Route 20 is a State Road any traffic lights or changes to the road would have to be approved by the State.

Mr. Galonek asked if there are any extra funds in the Sewer Betterment Fund?

Chair Blanchard state she did not believe so that the Sewer Betterment Fund was based on the cost of the initial construction.

Chuck Roy, President of the Lake Association stated the simple solution would be to put a fence at the end of the road at Sturbridge woods with a lock that only emergency vehicles would have access.

Keith Devarenne, resident at 89 Breakneck Road, Sturbridge. Mr. Devarenne stated since the new Applegreen was built most of the time the tractor-trailers line up and park up to Mashapaug blocking residents from going down Mashapaug. Mr. Davarenne would like to know who they need to call to place a complaint.

Chair Blanchard stated they should be calling the Police Department. There are signs all over indicating no parking.

**Adjourn:**

**Motion: To adjourn**

**By: Vice Chair Kaitbenski**

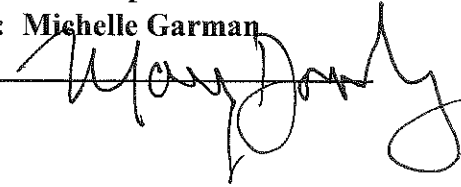
**2<sup>nd</sup>: Chair Blanchard**

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Selectman Dowling and Selectman Goodwin absent)**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:12p.m.**

**Minutes prepared by: Michelle Garman**

**Clerk of the Board:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Dowling", written over a horizontal line.

**Date signed:**

Oct 17 '22