

**Board of Selectmen
July 17, 2018
Town Hall**

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimas, Vice-Chair
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Michael Suprenant
Chase Kaitbenski
Leon Gaumond, Town Administrator
Rebekah DeCoursey, Temporary Assistant

Open Session

Chairman Blanchard reconvened the regular meeting at 6:35pm

Pledge of Allegiance

6:35 p.m. Public Hearing: Hamilton Rod and Gun Club – Gravel Removal Permit

Frank Bicchieri from Bertin Engineering presented the project on behalf of the applicant, who is seeking an extension of their original permit from several years ago. Mr. Bicchieri stated that the applicant had the property professionally surveyed, and the new plans reflect that survey. DPW director, Greg Morse, provided the applicant with his comments. Mr. Bicchieri did apologize for the short review time between providing the plans and the meeting tonight; he discussed the suggestions from Mr. Morse. Mr. Bicchieri stated he agreed with Mr. Morse that the plan needs more work. Following comments from the Board, Mr. Bicchieri will review the Town's gravel removal regulations to be sure the slopes are adjusted correctly. He will also meet with Mr. Morse and Conservation Agent Rebecca Gendreau for any additional comments or concerns. The public had no comments.

Motion: To continue the public hearing to August 20th at 6:35 p.m. with updated site plans for Hamilton Rod and Gun Club gravel removal permit. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant.

Vote: 5-0

Public Service Announcements

- On September 23rd the Burgess Bear 5K Run/Walk will be held to raise money for the 6th grade Ecology Field Trip, a wonderful experience for all 6th grade students at Burgess.
- Invitation to the Climate Leadership Summit July 21st at 10am.
- The 2018 Kayak for a Cause held by the Foundation of Hope will be held August 5th.

Employment Appointment

The Town Administrator asked for the Board's concurrence regarding the appointment of Ashley Griffin for the full-time position of Facilities Coordinator at \$50,000 per year. Ms. Griffin has a background in facilities management and lives in Sturbridge with her family. She will receive training in public procurement to support the Town buildings.

Motion: To approve the appointment of Ashley Griffin as Facilities Coordinator. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant.

Vote: 5-0

One-Day Liquor License – Hoyt Road Race/Alturist Brewing

The event will be held on September 9th, with beer poured between 12-3. The liquor license is held by Alturist Brewing, who will be serving the alcohol, at the event put on by the Hoyt Foundation. The race will finish at the Town Common.

Motion: To issue a 1-day liquor to the Hoyt Foundation through Alturist Brewing Company for September 9th from 12-3pm on the Town Common. By M. Suprenant.

2nd: M. Kaitbenski.

Vote: 4-1 (M. Dowling)

Route 15 Corridor Study

Ron Barron from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) presented. This was a project led by Jean Bubon, Town Planner, and Kevin Filchak, Economic Development and Tourist Coordinator, using funds from a DLTA Grant, to look at potential development opportunities along the Route 15 corridor. The top recommendations for potential development included:

- Outdoor & indoor recreational businesses
- Warehouse & distribution
- Medical facilities/ health care facilities
- Industrial

Factors limiting current development include:

- Lack of town sewer and water infrastructure
- Zoning regulations and setbacks
- Vast amount of wetlands
- Lack of appropriate capacity at the Route 15/131 intersection near Town Hall for tractor trailer trucks.

Current advantages of this area include:

- Vast natural resources
- Easy access to the highway
- Beautiful vistas

The Board agreed with Ms. Bubon that the next steps will involve a joint meeting with the Planning Board to discuss potential changes to the Zoning Bylaws to lead to more development opportunities in this area.

Department Head Updates

Tom Ford, Chief of Police

Normal report in the Police Department. Officer Hemingway went to training recently for the North American Police Work Dogs, held in Springfield. Officer Dessert completed his training at the FBI academy. New crosswalk lights have been installed at the Town Common, and will be installed by the Senior Center with assistance from DPW. The traffic light at the Route 15/131 intersection should be replaced this week, the portable sign board has been moved to alter motorists of the missing traffic light. M. Dowling asked about the progress that had been made on obtaining a School Resource Officer at the high school/junior high. Chief Ford responded that he is still in the process of arranging a meeting between the police chiefs of the five regional towns.

Nelson Burlingame, Building Department

There have been 84 new permits, including residential new construction and remodeling, Edward's Gas (moving underground storage tank and reconfiguring the site), Petrogas (Route 15 gas station

redevelopment), Paw Plaza (the dog day care), the 40B Project is beginning, Sturbridge Early Learning Academy (planning to open for the school year), Center of Hope, Heal Medical Marijuana Building will begin construction soon, and Panera has started their foundation. Through this busy season, Mr. Burlingame has also worked on the procedures for demolishing abandoned structures.

The Town Administrator made a recommendation to the Board to approve the draft policy on Abandon Structure Demolition.

Motion to approve the draft policy on Abandon Structure Demolition. By P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote 4-0-1 (C. Kaitbenski)

Discussion regarding Dry Hydrants on Big Alum Lake

Mr. Kibbe brought forward a conceptual proposal to install a dry fire hydrant at Big Alum pond, on town property near the dam. A dry hydrant is used to fill tanker truck in the incident of a fire in an area without public fire hydrants. The proposal includes a manmade island of sand and gravel, with the apparatus being above the floor of the pond but 4' below the ice. A dry hydrant costs roughly \$50,000-100,000. Mr Kibbye noted that this would be far less than installing water lines and hydrants around Big Alum. The Board discussed that this is a great idea, but obviously there would be other money involved for design work, building, maintenance, etc. The Board would also need to look into a policy of regulating dry hydrants, because it might be something numerous lake side residents would like to see installed for fire protection throughout town. It was suggested to reach out to SLAC (Sturbridge Lakes Association Committee) to get them involved.

Town Administrator's Update:

The Town Administrator presented the Board with a draft regulation on Chapter Land and the Right of First Refusal. The town does not currently have a policy on this, and he would like the Board to review the policy and take action at the next meeting. The process of Right of First Refusal is time sensitive and this policy will help ensure a proactive timely action on the part of the Town.

Notice of a Class Action lawsuit from PILOT payments. Our involvement in this would be minimal. There appears to be a minimal monetary amount that would be received for the Town, as we have only received \$2,400 in payments over the past few years. The Board agreed to have the Town participate so long as minimal involvement is necessary.

Motion to approve an Auctioneers license for Robert Glass Jr. By P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote 5-0

Announcement of a FM Global Fire Prevention Grant for \$1,680 received to purchase Ipads to be used in fire prevention.

Motion to approve the job description for the IT Specialist at grade 11. By P. Gimas.

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote 5-0

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- None

Correspondence

Mary Dowling read into the record the list of correspondence received.

Approval of minutes.

Motion: to approve the minutes from July 2, 2018 as amended by P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0

Citizen's Forum

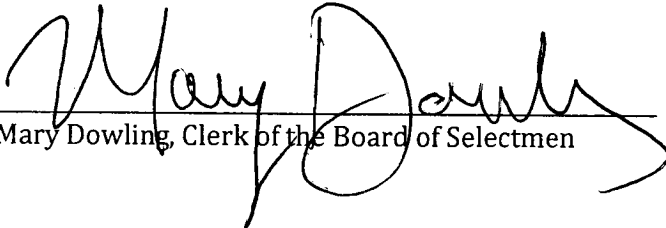
- None

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. by P. Gimas

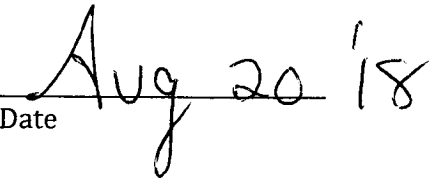
2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0

Minutes Prepared By: Rebekah DeCoursey



Mary Dowling, Clerk of the Board of Selectmen



Date