

**Board of Selectmen
May 6, 2019
Town Hall**

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimas, Vice-Chair
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Chase Kaitbenski
Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator
Jeneé Lacy, Administrative Assistant

Absent:

Mike Suprenant

Also Present:

Chief Ford, Police Chief
Melissa Bak
Jean Bubon, Town Planner
Mr. Veinotte
Stephanie Drew
Matthew Sweet
Catherine Trifilo, CPC
Dean Iandoli, CPC
Michael Staiti, CPC
Ron L'Ecuyer, CPC
Seth Rutherford, 253 Farmacy
Marcia Wagner, 253 Farmacy
Deb Crowley, The Herb Company
Ashley Esper, The Herb Company
AnnMarie Belair, The Herb Compnay
Katherine Bracher-Adams, Heal, Inc.
Trish Foss, Heal, Inc.
Barbara Search, Historical Commission
Bob Briere
Tom Chamberland, Tree Warden

Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

M. Blanchard read the agenda.

Public Service Announcements

M. Blanchard read the public service announcements.

- Memorial Day Parade

Concur with Appointment of Melissa Bak as a Full-Time Police Officer

Chief Ford came forward with Melissa Bak. Chief Ford introduced M. Bak and gave a quick background regarding her credentials.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Melissa Bak as a Full-Time Police Officer with a starting pay of \$28.16/hour effective May 7, 2019. By: P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (M. Suprenant Absent)

Concur with Appointment of Andrew Houle as an On-Call Firefighter

J. Bridges gave a quick background regarding Andrew Houle and James Towns and recommended them to the positions of On-Call Firefighter and Full-Time Firefighter/EMT.

Motion: To concur with the appointment of Andrew Houle as an On-Call Firefighter, effective May 7, 2019. By: P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (M. Suprenant Absent)

Concur with Appointment of James Towns as a Full-Time Firefighter/EMT-B

Motion: To concur with the appointment of James Towns as a Full-Time Firefighter/EMT, effective May 7, 2019. By: P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (M. Suprenant Absent)

Tantasqua Architectural Design Class Presentation

J. Bubon came forward with Mr. Veinotte (Architectural Design teacher), Stephanie Drew and Matthew Sweet (Architectural Design students at Tantasqua). J. Bubon introduced the CAD teacher and the two students and gave a brief background regarding their project on 8 Brookfield Road.

M. Sweet and S. Drew presented their project on their architectural design plans for 8 Brookfield Road. The Board asked questions of the students regarding the building and some of the design choices they made.

M. Blanchard read and presented certificates of appreciation to S. Drew and M. Sweet for their work on 8 Brookfield Road.

Adult Use (Cannabis) Retail Business Introductions

The Caregiver Patient Connection – Catherine Trifilo – 214 Charlton Road/201 Main Street

Catherine Trifilo, Dean Iandoli, Michael Staiti, and Ron L'Ecuyer of The Caregiver Patient Connection came before the Board. C. Trifilo introduced herself and her business partners and gave a background on the company and how it started. The security director R. L'Ecuyer gave a breakdown of his security plan. D. Iandoli went over their current facilities, controlling product, and why Sturbridge should pick them for a Community Host Agreement.

The Board and CPC discussed security concerns regarding 214 Charlton Road and 201 Main Street. The Board and CPC discussed initial opening period, parking, capital, impact of residential roads, amount of customers/traffic, and concerns regarding underage persons and edibles.

M. Dowling inquired as to how many customers the CPC thinks they may have a day. CPC stated that they are anticipating around 500 customers a day.

253 Organic – Seth Rutherford & Marcia Wagner – 138 Main Street

Seth Rutherford and Marcia Wanger of 253 Organic came forward. S. Rutherford gave a presentation regarding their business model and a background on their company. M. Wagner stated that they are fully capitalized and wanted to make sure it was clear that everyone involved in the company is very successful in their own line of business. M. Wagner discussed the Boards concerns regarding underage use of marijuana, discussed the education programs they put into place in Montague and stated that they would stay appointment only after their initial opening. M. Dowling inquired as to how many customers 253 Organic thinks they may have a day. 253 Organic stated that they are anticipating around 1000 customers a day.

S. Rutherford discussed their security plan. The Board asked about J. Bubons concerns regarding parking, S. Rutherford discussed how they have addressed those concerns. The Board and 253 Organic discussed the mobile app that will be used for the store, residential road congestion and traffic concerns.

253 Organic's Engineer showed and discussed the location site plan. The Board and 253 Organic discussed security concerns, concerns regarding affordable housing near the possible location of the facility, and what the shop would be selling for product.

The Herb Company – Debbie Crowley & Anne Marie Belair – 55 Main Street

Deb Crowley, Ashley Esper and AnneMarie Belair of The Herb Company came before the Board and gave a background on their all woman run Company. They discussed how their facility will work and their policies and procedures.

The Board asked about their traffic study and other locations. M. Dowling inquired as to how many customers The Herb Company thinks they may get a day. The Herb Company stated that at this point it would be difficult to determine.

The Board and The Herb Company discussed security, and concerns from the Town Planner and what the company had done to address concerns.

*The telegram & Gazette started recording the meeting

Heal, Inc. – 660 Main Street

Katherine Bracher-Adams and Trish Foss of Heal, Inc. came forward, Heal, Inc.'s Attorney introduced the company and gave a brief background. The Board and Heal discussed the 5 Year Moratorium on Recreational sales, the Board discussed that they were open to dissolving the Moratorium. Heal, Inc. agreed to have an initial opening period the same as the other potential retail companies.

J. Bridges stated that no decisions had to be made right away and suggested that a special meeting should be scheduled to discuss the Host agreements all together.

The Board decided to wait to have a meeting regarding all the marijuana company's but told Heal, Inc. to move forward with applying for a retail license.

Open ATM Warrants

Motion: To open the Annual Town Meeting Warrants. By: P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (M. Suprenant Absent)

Historical Commission

Article 5 – Gravestone Restoration

Barbara Search came forward with the Historical Commission and introduced everyone. Bob Briere discussed the ongoing gravestone restoration.

Motion: To support and place Gravestone Restoration Article. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (M. Suprenant Absent)

Article 8 – Town Cemetery Signs

The Historical Commission discussed the rubbing of tombstones and prohibiting any addition of chemicals. They discussed why cleaning the stones is damaging to the stones and how vulnerable the stones are.

M. Dowling brought up the issue with service dogs if no dogs are allowed in the cemetery, the Board and the Historical Commission discussed pet rules.

The Board discussed that children would no longer be allowed to make rubbings of the stones. B. Search stated that they can teach children about the stones without doing rubbings and that replica stones are made if they want to still do rubbings.

P. Gimas suggested that the cemetery signs prohibit the use of chemicals or powders for rubbings. B. Search explained by rubbings, even by children, are harmful to the stones.

M. Dowling suggested that rubbings can only be done with special permission.

The Historical Commission stated that they could allow some rubbings with permission on stones that look like they can take the damage.

M. Blanchard stated that the signs should state “to deter stone damage” instead of “rubbings”.

Motion: To place and support Town Cemetery Signs Article as amended. By: P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (M. Suprenant Absent)

B. Briere brought up issues with certain types of dog leashes causing damage to the gravestones. M. Blanchard stated that they will take that into consideration when they create the policy.

M. Blanchard brought up the invite to the Memorial Day celebration that B. Briere invited the Board to. B. Briere stated that he would like either J. Bridges or a member of the Board to say a few words at the event.

Trails Committee

Article 9 – Grand Trunk Article

Tom Chamberland and the Trails Committee came forward, T. Chamberland gave some background regarding the Grand Trunk Trail feasibility study to find fine routes for a possible rail trail.

Motion: To place and support Grand Trunk Article. By: M. Dowling

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (M. Suprenant Absent)

Article 35 – Commission on Disability

Motion: To amend Article 35 to add the language “to consist of a 5 member commission”. By: M. Dowling

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (M. Suprenant)

Close ATM Warrant

Motion: To close the Annual Town Meeting Warrants. By: P. Gimás

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (M. Suprenant Absent)

Trails Committee Continued

T. Chamberland discussed the Roverlands Trails and parking lot that they are getting ready to build.

J. Bridges stated that the Town’s Attorney should look at the restrictions to change the parking spots.

Motion: To support the Trails Committees request to start the process to amend the restrictions on the Riverlands construction to include 27 parking spots. By: M. Dowling

2nd: P. Gimás

Vote: All in favor (4-0) (M. Suprenant Absent)

T. Chamberland discussed the OSV trail easement.

5 Leaves Project – Matt Masseli

Matt Masseli came before the board to give an update regarding the 5 Leaves Project – affordable housing development.

M. Masseli discussed a meeting that was held with 5 Leaves, himself and M. Suprenant and asked the Board that a coordinated effort be made to find a solution to the short fall in funds by the developer.

M. Blanchard stated that the first time M. Masseli came before the board Ed Neal (Housing Partnership Chair) sent her a note saying that they had not assigned a rep. to the 5 leaves project. But since then she has received another note from Ed Neal stating that the board voted for M. Masseli to be the rep. for the 5 leaves project.

M. Blanchard stated that coordination is fine but it’s not up to the town to pay for the short fall of the 5 Leaves project. M. Masseli suggested creative financing to help the developer finish the project.

J. Bridges stated that he would like to look into the project to see if there is a solution to the issue. Agrees with M. Blanchard that the other water and sewer users shouldn’t have to compensate for this developer.

M. Blanchard stated that the Housing Partnership should really be spearheading this project. M. Dowling feels that the developer should be the one coming forward looking for a solution.

Old Business

C. Kaitbenski made a comment regarding the retail marijuana presentations that had just been presented and stated that it made him feel very positive about the situation.

M. Dowling asked about ordering the flags for Memorial Day.

New Business

C. Kaitbenski gave a Panera Bread update stating that there will be two weeks of testing equipment and then they will be opening.

Motion: To authorize the Town Administrator to call the State to do plantings on Rt. 20. By: C.

Kaitbenski

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (M. Suprenant Absent)

Correspondence

M. Dowling read correspondence

M. Dowling stated that residents wanted to commend the animal control officer for going above and beyond for finding homes for the strays in Town.

M. Dowling inquired about the Southbridge Landfill Site Assessment, the Board discussed the Southbridge Landfill and J. Bridges stated he would get more information.

Approval of Minutes

April 19, 2019

Motion: To approve April 19, 2019 minutes as amended. By: P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (M. Suprenant Absent)

April 30, 2019

Motion: To approve April 30, 2019 minutes. By: C. Kaitbenski

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: 3-0-1 (M. Suprenant Absent) (P. Gimas Abstained)

The Board discussed next steps regarding the retail cannabis information.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn at 8:29 pm. By: P. Gimas

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (M. Suprenant Absent)

Adjourned at 8:29 PM

Minutes prepared by: Jeneé Lacy

Clerk of the Board: Mary Dombi

Date signed: June 16 '19