

**Board of Selectmen
July 17, 2023
Town Hall
Veteran's Memorial Hall, Town Hall
308 Main Street, Sturbridge**

Present:

Jamie Goodwin, Chair
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Selectman Mary Blanchard
Selectman MaryLou Volpe

Absent:

Chase Kaitbenski, Vice Chair

Staff:

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

**Chair Goodwin called meeting to order at 6:30p.m.
The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

Moment of Silence

Chair Goodwin read the agenda.

Public Service Announcements

Selectman Dowling thanked everyone involved in the 3.1 Road race. She will give an update on how much money was raised at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Department Reports:

Police Department – Earl Dessert, Chief of Police, gave a detailed description of his department report a copy of which is on file in the Town Administrators Office.

Chair Blanchard requested a detailed report of the accidents on Route 20 between the area of Cracker Barrel and Walmart.

Chief Dessert will isolate that area and run a report.

Selectmen Dowling stated last summer there were several car thefts in Town and wanted to know if the numbers have dropped this year.

Chief Dessert stated yes our numbers have dropped this year.

Selectman Dowling stated in the past the Town received grant money to hold sting operations to make sure local businesses are not selling alcohol to minors.

Chief Dessert state grant money for this type of operation has not been available for the past few years. He indicated the department does have a few operational things they do to prevent this from happening.

- A. Consideration and possible action to confirm the appointment of Steven Leitao as a police officer with the Sturbridge Police Department, effective July 18, 2023 with the hourly rate of \$34.18 and the benefits of a two-year employee minus longevity.

Chief Dessert gave a detailed description of Steven Leitaos background.

Motion: To approve the appointment Steven Leitao as a police officer with the Sturbridge Police Department, effective July 28, 2023 with the hourly rate of \$34.18 and the benefits of a two-year employee minus longevity.

By: Selectman Blanchard

2nd: Selectman Volpe

Vote: 4-0-0

Town Administrator Update

Robin Grimm, Ph.D., Town Administrator advised the Board of Selectmen on where the departments are moving at the center office building, indicating Conservation Department will now be located on the second floor with Recreation and Economic Development. The new Center Office Building Receptionist will be located in the old Conservation office.

Selectman Dowling requested when the Farmer's Market is cancelled if it could be posted on the Town's website not just on social media.

Action Items:

- B. Consideration and possible action on the appointment of Bailey Applegate to the Sturbridge Cable Advisory Committee for a term to expire July 13, 2026.

Bailey Applegate was unable to attend the meeting. The Board of Selectmen placed a hold on this action item until Bailey is able to attend.

- C. Consideration and possible action on an application for a 5K Road Race for Old Sturbridge Academy Parent Teacher Association/Kathy Tourville for Saturday, September 30, 2023 for the hours of 8:00a.m. to 11:00a.m.

Motion: To approve 5K Road Race for Old Sturbridge Academy Parent Teacher Association/Kathy Tourville for Saturday, September 30, 2023 for the hours of 8:00a.m. to 11:00a.m.

**By: Selectman Volpe
2nd: Selectman Dowling
Vote: 4-0-0**

- D. Consideration and possible action on the appointment of Ellen Thibodeau as the part-time Program Assistant at the Sturbridge Senior Center at the starting salary of \$21.56, effective July 18, 2023.

Motion: To approve the appointment of Ellen Thibodeau as the part-time Program Assistant at the Sturbridge Senior Center at the starting salary of \$21.56, effective July 18, 2023.

**By: Selectman Mary Lou
2nd: Selectman Blanchard
Vote: 4-0-0**

- E. Consideration and possible action on an application for a one-day liquor license for Bay State Brewery for the Corn Hole Tournament at the Town Common on July 29, 2023 from 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m., one police detail is required.

Motion: To approve the application for a one-day liquor license for Bay State Brewery for the Corn Hole Tournament at the Town Common on July 29, 2023 from 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m., one police detail is required.

**By: Selectman Blanchard
2nd: Selectman Volpe
Vote: 3-0-1 (Selectmen Dowling abstained)**

- F. Consideration and possible action on an application for a one-day liquor license for Hamilton Rod & Gun Club for a car show at 24 Hamilton Road, Sturbridge on Friday, August 4, 2023 from 2:00p.m. to 1:00a.m. and Saturday, August 5, 2023 from 10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

Selectmen Volpe disclosed that she is a member of the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club.

Motion: To approve the application for a one-day liquor license for Hamilton Rod & Gun Club for a car show at 24 Hamilton Road, Sturbridge on Friday, August 4, 2023 from 2:00p.m. to 1:00a.m. and Saturday, August 5, 2023 from 10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

**By: Selectman Blanchard
2nd: Selectman Volpe
Vote: 4-0-0**

- G. Consideration and possible action on the re-appointment of Heather Egan to the Sturbridge Lakes Advisory Committee as the Walker Pond Representative for a term to expire June 29, 2025.

Motion: To approve the re-appointment of Heather Egan to the Sturbridge Lakes Advisory Committee as the Walker Pond Representative for a term to expire June 29, 2025.

By: Selectman Blanchard

2nd: Selectman Volpe

Vote: 4-0-0

- H. Consideration and possible action on the re-appointment of Leigh Darrin to the Sturbridge Lakes Advisory Committee as the Cedar Lake Representative for a term to expire July 17, 2025.

Motion: To approve the re-appointment of Leigh Darrin to the Sturbridge Lakes Advisory Committee as the Cedar Lake Representative for a term to expire July 17, 2025.

By: Selectman Blanchard

2nd: Selectman Dowling

Vote: 4-0-0

- I. Consideration and possible action on the resignation letter from Kristen Mapplebeck from the Tantasqua School Committee, effective July 9, 2023

Motion: To accept the resignation letter from Kristen Mapplebeck from the Tantasqua School Committee, effective July 9, 2023.

By: Selectman Blanchard

2nd: Selectman Volpe

Vote: 4-0-0

Old Business:

Selectman Dowling asked if the Town has spoken with MassDOT for the beautification on the triangles.

Robin Grimm, Ph.D., Town Administrator stated she is working with MassDOT on the beautification and a welcome signage.

Selectman Blanchard wanted to know the status on the parking lot at 501 Main Street.

Town Administrator stated the project is moving along, the engineering and design work is completed.

Selectmen Blanchard asked how is the evaluation on the Town Administrator was progressing. The Town Administrator had asked for more time since her goals were given in January. Chair

Goodwin stated that once they have a full Board in attendance they would be able to discuss the Town Administrators goals.

The Town Administrator respectfully requested the Board of Selectmen meet with all employees when performing her evaluation.

New Business:

Town Administrator advised residents to avoid the area of Cooper Road, this is a dangerous area due to the sinkhole that occurs during the latest storm and excessive amount of rainwater. The Town is also looking into FEMA and MEMA funding from this event.

The MassDOT is preparing a closure on Route 20, soon to complete some repairs. The area MassDOT is planning on closing is the area near 433 Main Street. Town officials are meeting with MassDOT next week regarding the closer. The Town cannot have Cooper Road closed and that portion of Route 20 closed at the same time.

Correspondence

Citizen's Forum

Adjourn:

Motion: To Adjourn

By: Selectman Blanchard

2nd: Selectman Volpe

Vote: 4-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Michelle Garman

Clerk of the Board: Wang Drouley

Date signed: Aug 7 '23