

Selectmen's minutes of meeting June 15, 2020

Members present: Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke, George Riley, Joanne Grybosh  
Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Remote participation information provided to the public.

Reviewed and signed minutes of meeting

Reviewed and signed purchase orders

Sam Mercier tabled until next week.

Roger Kohler in representing the Planning Board to review the revised Marijuana Bylaw. Roger reviewed a memorandum from Berkshire Regional Planning Comm. He stated that there are changes that we could make based on BRPC recommendations. Roger said that there are a couple of more drafts. Discussed setting the number of licenses given. Brian responded that the draft looks the same as the prior draft. Roger responded that it is. Roger reviewed the overlay district. BRPC recommended a map of the district. The Planning Board members are 3 in favor and 1 opposed to the 1,000 foot frontage requirement. Discussed the 1,000 foot setback from any property line. Brian reviewed the difficulty of the 1,000 foot setback. Roger is opposed to the 1,000 foot setback. He stated that it is the Select Board that will have final say on the final draft of the bylaw. Brian would like the Planning Board to identify how many properties in town would meet the criteria, his guess is probably only one or two parcels. George responded that most of this draft includes establishments, he would like more of a distinction between retail and cultivators. The bylaw needs to be more distinctive. George pointed out that this bylaw would prevent any marijuana cultivators. Roger responded that a majority of the Planning Board is in favor of keeping the draft. Roger reiterated that the Selectmen can make any changes.

George reviewed the special permitting process which would protect the town. Brian asked Roger if he would take the recommendation from BRPC and re-present it to the Planning Board and present a revised draft with the recommendations. Discussed outdoor cultivation, the current draft prohibits this. Roger asked the Select Board what they would like to see as the setbacks that would be fair. Brian responded 500 feet. George and Mark agreed. George pointed out a contradiction regarding greenhouses. Mark said there needs to be a separation of detail between growing, processing and retail. Retail could go into the overlay district with a special permit. Brian asked about setbacks in the overlay district. Roger responded they would be the same as any other retail store. George made track changes and will forward to Roger. Brian said outdoor cultivation needs to be addressed. Nina Carr state that in general the Planning Board is loathed to get specific in any portion of the bylaw. Brian responded that this is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft and they continue to work on this, it is a lengthy process.

Roger in to revisit raising the Planning Board fees to \$100 per division. Brian asked Roger to do a survey of surrounding towns and come back with numbers for the next meeting.

Discussed Permit Eyes, the program for online building permits. Brian and Joanne had a virtual presentation/demonstration of the Berkshire Plan and the 2020 Plan. The recommendation is that we use the Berkshire Plan which is what most towns around us are using. Brian asked Joanne to look into Covid CARES Act which may cover the cost of this since this would allow a no contact building permit process.

Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to accept the Berkshire County System with the option of upgrading in the future.

Discussed the CARE Act Relief funding, it will be under the Town Manager updates.

Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko reviewed the set up for the annual town meeting. She will have extra election workers at the check in table. Constables will be available. We cannot force people to wear masks but will escort non mask wearers to an area away from everyone else. Masks will be available along with hand sanitizer. The town custodian will be present to clean the rest room after each usage. Moderator Simon Winchester stated that he has had communication from Dawn Lemon that there are a lot of parents and children coming to the Town Meeting, he suggested moving the school budget to Article #1. All agreed. The DPW will be at the DPW garage at 8:00 am to set up for the Annual Town Meeting.

George addressed the audio system. Joanne and Brian are working on getting a rental system in time and then purchasing one after.

Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to purchase an audio system.

Discussed the reopening of town buildings. Mark would like it to be by appointment only. George discussed having a safe place where the public can come in at a safe distance. This will go into effect June 22. Brian suggested using 2 three foot wide tables to create a 6 foot barrier until plastic guards can be built. All visits to town hall must be by appointment only.

Roger would like confirmation from the selectmen that committees can start meeting. The selectmen agreed that boards can meet using social distancing requirements.

Town Manager updates:

Joanne reviewed the CARES Act Covid 19 policy overview. The CARES Act is funding for necessary expenditures related to Covid 19 that have not been budgeted for as of March 29.

She participated in Webex to be trained to use the Covid website, deadline was June 12. We are covered and enrolled and should receive approx. \$20,000 by the end of the fiscal year.

Route 57 paving project, last week she meet with BETA with Brad Curry and Chuck Loring via conference call. Two bids are going out, one for paving and one for culverts. We will open the culvert bid on July 15 and award it on July 20. The paving bid will be opened on July 29 and awarded on Aug. 3.

MVP core team meeting, she and Brad had a meeting with Jeff Malloy with a number of other towns, they watched the video and then survey of other departments such as Fire and Police. One of the items for the MVP is the dirt road study. Next task is time consuming to start using their online tool to start uploading data on our roads.

Joanne will communicate to boards and committees and use the website to capture the opening by appointment only.

The swap shed, she has ordered colored stickers to keep track of when items came into the shed to monitor how long items are held.

Yanner Park, she is receiving a contract by Friday for the driveway and parking lot so that the contractor can start work the end of this week. Discussed whether the cleanup was done from the logger and whether this will interfere with the driveway work. Brian will follow up with Bob Tarasuk.

She is working on a quote for the p.a. system with a mic stand and technician to set up for the annual town meeting.

She has posted and continues to update the road grading schedule on the website and on facebook.

Complete Streets, we are one of 12 communities that has not completed the grant. She has gotten an extension.

She has been working with Roger Kohler on a contract for Berkshire Public Health, they are taking the place of Porchlight. The Board of Health recommends going with Berkshire Public Health.

Future agenda items:

Library update

Roger Kohler with planning board fees

Conservation to discuss long term transfer station contract

Drop Box, Joanne is working on this.

Mail reviewed

Warrants reviewed and signed

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

Roger Kohler and George Riley discussed that he received a request for a public hearing regarding a zoning board bylaw amendment regarding signage. The request came from the board of selectmen in January and has not been acted on yet.

The amendment for municipal signage has been forwarded to the Planning Board.

Motion by George, second by Brian, passed unanimously to move forward with the municipal signage bylaw.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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Mark Newman

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Brian O'Rourke

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George Riley