

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: Steve Seddon, Alex Bowman, John Field, Jonathan Sylbert

Called to order at 6:30PM

1. Call to order: Note that the meeting is being recorded

2. Discuss Comments from AG on Cannabis bylaw

The Attorney General is holding up the approval of the Cannabis Bylaw because they request an explanation for the 50 acre restriction and the wording on banning deliveries is insufficient, possibly illegal, and would require a ballot measure clarifying the wording should the town be permitted to leave it the way it is. No other town has restricted the acreage required to cultivate cannabis.

Jonathan believes the town has three options, state they have no comment and let the Attorney General make a decision, give them the Planning Board's rationale for the 50 acre restriction, or agree to make an amendment at Town Meeting.

Barbara supports letting the Attorney General make a decision. Should it be turned down, Sandisfield will be without a Cannabis Bylaw. At this point, a new bylaw could be proposed banning all outdoor grows. Any Special Permits that have already been granted would not be affected.

Jonathan notes that delivery methods were not included in the bylaw, which includes retail sponsored delivery, wholesale delivery services, and individual "Uber"-type deliveries. Establishing permitted delivery types would need to be voted on at an election. It's suggested the Planning Board bring this issue to the Annual Town Meeting and schedule a Special Hearing as soon as possible.

The Governor has clarified the law, which previously implied growers were to pay their community 3%. Now, no cannabis establishment is required to pay this amount, which creates risk for towns who only approved cannabis for the revenue it would produce. The law did not specify if already established HCA's will be required to follow through on their agreements.

3. Rte. 57 Culvert Bridge Replacement Bid Result

The town received 15 bids for the culvert bridge replacement on Rt. 57, ranging from \$620,000-\$700,000. While the project was estimated at \$547,000, the lowest bid was \$620,005, the second was \$633,971.15, and third came in at \$643,081.02. \$200,000 of the \$500,000 from the state has already been spent on engineering.

Additionally, the Silverbrook Bridge is 19 feet in length, which qualifies it for the Small Bridges Grant, but not federal funding. In order to rebuild the bridge, it will need to increase to 32 feet in length. However, Sandisfield is only eligible for funding for the 19 foot bridge, meaning the town will only receive \$500,000 for a two million dollar project. Sandisfield must create an inventory of liabilities, and go to the legislatures, MassDOT, and the state to explain that Sandisfield cannot afford to replace the bridges on a \$3.6 million potential tax-payer revenue.

4. Review STM Warrant, re: STM meeting Thursday, 11/17 @ 7pm

How the articles will be presented at the Special Town Meeting on Thursday, 11/17 are discussed, and who will be speaking.

A community member outside the Select Board will speak on behalf of Article 1, which will allow the town to send a letter requesting the terms for leaving the Farmington River Regional school district.

Jonathan is asked to speak on article 2, which will establish the responsibilities of the Select Board and Town Manager positions.

Article 3 & 4, the Accessory Dwelling Unit bylaw and Driveway Amendment bylaw are the responsibility of the Planning Board.

Alex will explain Article 5, adopting M.G.L. c. 60, § 62A, and Article 6, adopting MGL Chapter 40U. John Field will speak on all the money articles, Articles 6, 7 and 8.

5. Town Manager Updates

It's announced that the search for a new Principal at Farmington River Elementary will reopen in the spring, as their initial search did not create a large enough pool of applicants.

Jonathan explains he applied for a MIIA Grant under the advice of Sandisfield's MIIA representative to receive funding for the GPS units for town vehicles, and a facilities asset monitoring software that can assist in creating a capital plan. However, Sandisfield only received grant approval for the software. This proves unfortunate, as the software will annually increase, and the GPS is a capital purchase that will only

have lower cost maintenance requirements in the future. The Select Board agrees to request from MIIA that the funding allocated for the software be used for the GPS units instead.

DayDreamz Estates has announced that they are on schedule to begin selling cannabis by the end of December. The establishment should be reassessed soon, as their buildings are now complete.

6. Select Board Updates

The Building Inspector, Paul Greene will be sending out enforcement letters to residents who are not complying with the building codes/bylaws.

A job description should be established and published for the Board of Assessors.

7. Future Agenda Items

8. Review and sign minutes of meetings, purchase orders, warrants, and mail

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to release the Executive Session minutes from September 16, 2022 and October 20, 2022.

Steve Seddon	Aye
Alex Bowman	Aye
John Field	Aye

9. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Steve Seddon

Alex Bowman

John Field