

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

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

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

2. Wylie Goodman in for 2023-2027 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Presentation

Wylie Goodman, Senior Planner – Economic Development at the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, notes the similarities between Sandisfield's vision, as noted in the 2016 Master Plan, which states:

"Sandisfield is a hidden gem of the southern Berkshire region. The town has a broad range of assets including extensive forests, wildlife habitat, and public lands, as well as abundant recreation, cultural, and historic resources. Sandisfield's nearly 1,000 year-round residents, as well as many seasonal residents and second homeowners, have discovered and love the unique, rural community and have chosen to make it their home. Through dedication and collaboration, promotion and outreach, the town will leverage its assets to improve quality of life and establish Sandisfield a destination for all,"

and the CEDS vision, which states: "Berkshire County will be sought after as an affordable, inclusive, and safe place for people of all ages and backgrounds, offering a high quality of life and abundant employment opportunities. Our community will nurture and support each other, prioritizing equitable access to education, healthcare, and housing, and protecting our environment for future generations. We will build a resilient economy grounded in the region's history of innovation and entrepreneurialism - one that values and invests in its workforce and embraces change."

To work towards achieving their vision, the CEDS has broken their goals down into the following:

- Healthy people
- Resilient communities
- Future-ready workforce
- Robust infrastructure
- Strong business environment

Wylie expresses that these goals will help all towns in Berkshire County, including Sandisfield; and should Sandisfield request assistance in helping to work towards these goals, BRPC is there to help.

3. Discuss Town Financial Investment Policy Proposed by Town Treasurer

The Treasurer has proposed a Town Financial Investment policy modeled after Egremont's, which can be found online. Jonathan suggests the attorney review the policy before adopting it; the Select Board agrees. The bank representatives are proposing options for safe ways to invest and store the town's funds.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to accept the Town Financial Investment Policy pending Town Counsel approval.

Steve Seddon	Aye
Alex Bowman	Aye
John Field	Aye

4. Douglas Miner in for Town Clerk Updates

Douglas is waiting on a response from King Information Systems to create a plan for microfilming/digitizing documents in the storage container. Once completed there should only be two shelves of documents that require physical copies.

The General and Zoning bylaws have been updated and formatted in a clear and professional manner. The updates have been posted on the website. There may be a number of bylaws still missing, so Douglas intends on revisiting old ATM minutes to confirm.

150 dog licenses have been processed so far this year, with about 40 still needed. The deadline for dog licenses is May 31, 2023; dog licenses submitted after that date will receive a \$25 fine. The Town Clerk's Office has called all dog owners who have yet to submit an application in an attempt to prevent any fines.

5. Town Manager Updates

Brad sold two more pieces of equipment and the old fire truck is now up for auction.

Jon and Steve will work on a revised narrative for the Heat Pump Grant, as they would like to include the Library for upgrades too.

After interviewing with Rachel Burdick last week, Jon recommends the Select Board hire her for the Operation Maintenance Technician position.

There are two items on the ATM warrant that Jon will amend on the floor. The first is an increase from \$513 to \$540 in Police Department Expenses. This accounts for moving the Police Admin costs from Salaries to Expenses. The second change is the Fire/EMS Admin will be taken out of Fire Dept Maintenance and put into its own budget line for \$2,700.

There is a brief discussion regarding the lighting at the Transfer Station and separating the swap shop from the Attendant's office.

6. Select Board Updates

KP Law submitted their revisions and thoughts on the Planning's Board's Short Term Rental Bylaw quite late. They suggested both the Planning Board's original Zoning Bylaw AND their revised STR General Bylaw be put on the ATM warrant, which would allow the voters to decide which to approve themselves. Jonathan notes KP revised two portions of the original bylaw that were illegal and two that were unenforceable. KP's goal is to make sure the bylaw has the best chance of passing at the Attorney General's Office.

The Select Board agrees to table KP Law's version of the bylaw on the floor at the ATM. The Planning Board will meet tomorrow to review KP Law's suggestions and create a redline document with their agreed upon amendments.

Moving forward the Planning Board will submit any bylaws or amendments to Town Counsel much earlier in the ATM process.

7. Future Agenda Items

- Investment Options
- School & Town Charter Committee Vacancies
- Land Trust at Yanner Park

8. Review and vote to approve minutes of meetings

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of meetings 3/29, 4/3, 4/5, and 4/18.

Steve Seddon	Aye
Alex Bowman	Aye
John Field	Aye

9. Review and sign purchase orders, warrants, and mail

10. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Steve Seddon

Alex Bowman

John Field