

Selectboard Minutes
December 15, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:30pm

Present: Ann Marie Visconti, Chair; Tonya Santaniello; Curt Robie
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Ed Fahey, Health Inspector; Bill Girard,
Building Commissioner

Also in attendance: Sherri Venditti; Joe Kearns, Finance Chair; Suzanne Lemieux,
Town Clerk; Skip Savery, Highway Superintendent; Adair Laurel-Cafarella;
Crystal Kruzyna

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$19,951.53; Expenses: \$20,302.06

Minutes approved on motion by Ann Marie, Tonya 2nd; vote 2-0 with Curt
abstaining as he was absent at meeting.

Board met with Ed Fahey, discussion regarding having set hours at the Town Hall, this would come with an additional cost to the Town. Process seems to be running much smoother of late so hours may not be needed. Ed had emailed his job description and TA will forward to webmaster for posting. Also, Berkshire Health has hired a full-time person to answer phone calls, this gives another option other than email. Ed expressed a desire for the town to join the Permit Eyes which allows all health, septic issues to be submitted on line for his review. Berkshire has obtained a grant that would pay for the cost of joining, \$2,800 and the first-year membership, \$1,400 and maybe also cover the 2nd year. Board agreed to participate. Also, Ed requested the board approve using the FDA Food Standards as this will also open up additional grant opportunities, Massachusetts Standards are the same as the FDA so there would be no change testing, etc. He will forward documents to board. Also, fee increases that were approved previously have not been posted on line effective 1/1/22, TA will have this done. Board thanked Ed for his attendance and input.

Board next met with Bill Girard, they had questions on whether there was some illegal building in some areas. Bill said he was aware of some and had posted notices on the properties to contact him as no one was around when he stopped at the properties and the next step is to send them letters. The building at 25 Bell Road is an issue as Bill had issued a permit for the owner to build a garage and admitted he “blew” it by forgetting to check for the wetlands and then found the set

back was incorrect as the owner had measured from the road and not the property line. Since the permitting was done on line, he then denied the permit, the owner had already had the garage foundation poured and was in the process of erecting his garage. The owner was able to have the Conservation Committee approve the building but now is waiting to have a hearing before the ZBA regarding the set-back issue. The property owner, Frank Lopinsky has been very patient and is proceeding through all the right channels to get his garage approved.

Sherri questioned the RV's and campers that are appearing on undeveloped land, the Zoning by-laws need to be enforced. Bill said if he gets a written complaint he follows up, he does not act on verbal issues.

James Burns attended the meeting to discuss a drainage issue he has with his property on Cone Road, he purchased the former Preserve property a couple of years ago and alleges the town changed a culvert that is not discharging water on his property, they also dug a trench that divert additional water and is threatening his barn. He is worried that mold will become an issue, he stated no one lives there but he uses the barn for storage. It was explained that the culvert has not been changed and that the trench has been there for years and the town usually cleans it once a year. He said he had photos but could not find them at this time. Also, this has been an unusually wet year.

Accountant Bev Cooper, could not make it to the meeting. She has been in contact with David Irwin of Adelson regarding the audit and has been sending him the requested info. She said she will resume having Saturday hours in the Town Hall.

Old business: TA will follow on the Green Grant light replacement with Darek Chomiak. Crystal Kruzyna advised the infant CPR dummies had been found, they were in the firehouse and had gotten buried under some other articles.

Curt said the Open Space Committee is moving along; the House Doctor request resulted in one submission. He and the TA reviewed the proposal and contacted the references and all went well. The company has a niche for doing business with small towns and will meet after the holidays. The bids for the fish culvert on Root Road will be reviewed on Tuesday at 9am. The crack sealing has been completed on the basketball court and the paving will be completed in the spring. Also, the court will be lined for Pickleball as well as basketball. He will be in contact with Hill Engineering to see what will be necessary for them to bring their engineering report on the Town Hill Road bridge up to date.

There was no public input.

Curt motioned to adjourn, Tonya 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair

Tonya Santaniello

Curt Robie