

TOWN OF LEE
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday August 1, 2023 @ 7:00PM
Town Hall • 38 Main Street • Former Courtroom

Minutes

Members Present: Gordon Bailey, Sean Regnier

Members Absent: Bob Jones

Mr. Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

1. Minutes: Open Session Minutes of 07/18/2023

Mr. Regnier made a motion to approve the 07/18/2023 open session minutes as submitted which Mr. Bailey seconded and was approved, 2-0.

2. Public Hearings:

a) Class I & Class II Auto Dealer License Application (sale of new and used trailers only) – Meadow Farm Equipment, 1160 Pleasant Street

Robert Piccolo was present representing the business.

Mr. Piccolo stated that the company is looking to sell new and used trailers, and in order to do title work, a dealer license is required. He confirmed that the Board was given a copy of his business certificate, surety bond, a copy of their worker's compensation insurance, and a plot plan. He stated that he plans to have 10-15 trailers on the property at a time, but may have more each spring.

Mr. Piccolo stated that their operating hours are Monday-Friday 7am-5pm and Saturday 7am-2pm.

Mr. Bailey announced that he received one public comment today in support of the application. He then opened the meeting up to the public.

Patricia Carlino, present via Zoom and an abutter, asked Mr. Piccolo what kind of trailers he was looking to sell. Mr. Piccolo stated that they would be mostly equipment, landscaping, and dump trailers. He confirmed for Ms. Carlino that he would not be using his second curb cut on Fairview Street to get the trailers on and off the property, and he plans to put a log across the curb cut because someone else has been using it. He also confirmed that all trailers will remain on the business side of his property, and not in the residential area.

Mr. Regnier made a motion to approve the Class I & Class II Auto Dealer License (sale of new and used trailers only) for Meadow Farm Equipment, 1160 Pleasant Street, which Mr. Bailey seconded and was approved, 2-0.

3. Public Comment

Kathy Hall, Chair of the Lee Youth Commission (LYC), began by stating that safety surfacing has been done at four of the Town's playgrounds and new pickleball equipment has been ordered and should be arriving soon. She stated that the LYC will be offering pickleball time at the Athletic Field every Tuesday from 4pm to 6pm. Ms. Hall stated that the LYC will be ordering a new swing set for the East Lee Playground from Miracle, a company that does community outreach. She stated that the LYC will be asking for volunteers to help install the equipment once it is ordered and arrives. Ms. Hall finished by reminding the public that Founder's Weekend is around the corner on September 15th-17th.

4. General Business:

a) Appointment: Michael Somerville, Full-time Firefighter/EMT

Mr. Regnier made a motion to appoint Michael Somerville as a full-time firefighter/EMT which Mr. Bailey seconded and was approved, 2-0.

b) Berkshire Gas Permits: 49 Fuller St, 55 Fuller St, 95 Old Pleasant St

Mr. Regnier made a motion to approve the Berkshire Gas Permits for 49 Fuller St, 55 Fuller St, and 95 Old Pleasant St which Mr. Bailey seconded and was approved, 2-0.

Berkshire Gas Permit Nunc Pro Tunc: 49 W Center St

Mr. Regnier made a motion to approve the Berkshire Gas Permit for 49 W Center St nunc pro tunc which Mr. Bailey seconded and was approved, 2-0.

c) Sign letter in support of Bike Path

Peter Bluhm, 75 Orchard Street, began by stating that he is a member of the Planning Board, the Chair of the Master Plan Committee, and a former member of the Bike Path Committee. He stated that John Toole came in at the last Master Plan Committee meeting to talk about the bike path process and his expectation was that the construction would begin FY25 having had 25% of its design phase completed for some time. Mr. Bluhm stated that they then found out that from the TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan), Mr. Kus reported to CJ Hoss (BRPC staff member helping with the Lee Master Plan) that the bike path is scheduled for FY28 and that the work Lee needs to do for funding has not been completed. Mr. Bluhm stated that according to Mr. Toole, all of the work for funding has also been completed for some time.

Mr. Bailey stated at one point there was some trouble with rights of ways, but he believes that has all been cleared up. Mr. Bluhm stated that according to Mr. Toole, there is one land owner still in opposition of a right of way. Mr. Bailey stated that the scheduling could have been moved from FY25 to FY28 for that reason.

Admin Brittain stated that he did check with their contact at MassDOT and it was confirmed that the Town has done everything they can do and that the Town will be in a holding pattern until the design reaches its final phase (which is not up to the Town).

Mr. Bailey read a drafted letter to the Secretary of Transportation showing support from the Select Board for the bike path and request to expediate the project for the residents of Lee and Berkshire County.

Mr. Regnier made a motion to have all Select Board members sign the letter in support of the bike path which Mr. Bailey seconded and was approved, 2-0.

5. Any topic the Chairman could not reasonably anticipate.

Mr. Bailey stated that they received a One Day Entertainment License application last minute for Founder's Day Weekend. He stated that it is for September 16th and to have a food truck rodeo with live music by the gazebo on Railroad Street from 10am to 8pm. Admin Brittain stated that the applicant asked to be put on tonight's agenda so they can start advertising for food truck and live music vendors.

Applicants Ray Gardino, the event lead for Relay for Life for Berkshire County, and Terry Bishop, owner of Biggins Diggins, were present. Mr. Gardino stated that they did attend a meeting with the Lee Chamber of Commerce regarding Founders Day Weekend and they received approval from the Police and Fire Chiefs. There will be no road closures. He stated that the goal is to keep people in Town after the parade on September 16th.

Mr. Regnier made a motion to approve the one-day entertainment license for the Relay for Life Food Truck Rodeo on Saturday September 16, 2023 which Mr. Bailey seconded and was approved, 2-0.

6. Town Administrator – Website directions for public comments on PCB Transportation

Admin Brittain began by stating that the Founders Day Parade will be held on Saturday September 16th and the Taste of Lee will be on Friday September 15th.

Admin Brittain stated that on the front-page news section of the Town website, you can find a picture of a dump truck that links to submit comments on the PCB Draft Transportation Proposal. He stated that the presentation GE and the EPA presented, the minutes from the meeting, and CTSB's recording of the meeting can all be found at the link. He stated that if someone is not able to submit comments online, they can call him instead.

Admin Brittain congratulated the Senior Center which received a "Senior Center Program of Excellence" award from the National Institute of Senior Centers for their generational girl scout and senior program that they do.

Admin Brittain added that they have a reminder update from the EPA that they're starting construction around the fence around the GE property, but it is not

construction of the disposal facility. There will also be people around Woods Pond doing pre-investigation samples.

Lastly, Admin Brittain stated that he needs the Board's permission to sign off on the contract with Jack Goncalves & Sons, Inc., who are doing the water main replacement on Railroad Street and Robert Street which has been bid through 30B. He stated that they're looking to start working next week, work on Robert Street in mid-August and complete Railroad Street after.

Mr. Regnier made a motion to allow the Town Administrator to sign the contract with Jack Goncalves & Sons, Inc. which Mr. Bailey seconded and was approved, 2-0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2023.

Mr. Regnier made a motion to adjourn at 7:33pm which Mr. Bailey seconded and was approved, 2-0.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sabrina Touhey".

Sabrina Touhey
Exec Asst TA/BOS

Approved on: 08/15/2023