

TOWN OF LEE
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday August 15, 2023 @ 7:00PM
Town Hall • 38 Main Street • Former Courtroom

Minutes

Members Present: Bob Jones, Gordon Bailey, Sean Regnier

Members Absent: None.

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

1. Minutes: Open Session Minutes of 08/01/2023

Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve the 08/01/2023 open session minutes as submitted which Mr. Regnier seconded and was approved, 2-0. Chairman Jones abstained from the vote because he was not present at the August 1, 2023 meeting.

2. Public Comment

Kathy Hall, Chair of the Lee Youth Commission (LYC), began by stating that plans are moving forward for activities and skateboard competitions at the Lee Athletic Field on Saturday, September 16th of Lee Founders' Weekend from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. She added that there will also be food provided for a small fee by the boy scouts and ice cream from the copsicle truck.

Janice Braim, 35 Church Street, stated that she attended the Rest of River (RoR) meeting today and that she feels we need to get rid of BRPC because they are all corrupt. She stated that Josh Bloom found emails that hurt their case in court. She stated that RoR is out of control and they treat Mr. Jones and Mr. Bloom like dirt. Ms. Braim also stated that RoR wants to spend more money on its current attorney, and she wishes that she had spoken up before to say they should not have one attorney represent all five towns and she believes the members of RoR are just thinking about the money down the road. She stated that she appreciates all Bob Jones, Josh Bloom, and the rest of the Select Board have done, but people need to stop and realize they should not do something to someone else that they do not want done to themselves.

Anne Langlais, 25 Union Street, stated that she wanted to echo what Janice said about today's RoR meeting. She stated that there were several interruptions made by the Chair of RoR throughout the meeting to anyone who spoke in opposition of the dump. She stated that there has to be a way to contact the Attorney General and express Lee's concern as far as ethics are concerned. She stated that she will send an email to RoR with the questions and comments she has and will expect an answer in return. She stated that the level of disrespect given to Lee's representatives on RoR is beyond her. She stated that they are supposed to be disbanding RoR in December; RoR has reached their goal, Lee has been thrown under the bus, and there is no further reason for them to continue. She is not sure what their goal is to continue. She stated that they claim they want to oversee, but Lee is ready to oversee itself and doesn't need four other towns looking over our shoulders telling us how it is going to be run. No one currently on RoR has the education to oversee the dump, and she would like to see Lee reach out and be more aggressive in expressing that Lee is not happy to continue having RoR make decisions for a town they do not live in.

Chairman Jones stated that he is in agreement with everything said so far. He stated that everything said is being taken into consideration by the Lee Select Board.

4. General Business:

- a) 2 One Day Entertainment License Applications (Weekday & Sunday)- Founder's Day Weekend – Lee Chamber of Commerce

Kathy Devarenes, 460 Greylock Street, stated that she wanted to introduce herself as the new Executive Director of the Lee Chamber of Commerce. She confirmed for Mr. Bailey that they have not had any vendors interested in providing live music on Sunday of Founders Weekend yet.

Mr. Regnier made a motion to approve the Weekday and Sunday entertainment licenses for Founder's Day Weekend for the Lee Chamber of Commerce, which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

- b) Request to waive annual inspection fee – St. Mary's Church

Mr. Bailey made a motion to waive the inspection fee for St. Mary's Church which Mr. Regnier seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

- c) Temporary Sign Permit & Fee Waiver - Greener Gateway

Mr. Regnier made a motion to approve the temporary sign permit and waive the fee for Greener Gateway, which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

- d) Adopt and sign Cannabis Social Equity Policies (State Requirement)

Chairman Jones recused himself.

Admin Brittain stated that this is a state requirement and is an initial policy since there are still a lot of changes going on in the CCC; they are still working on more regulations that have not been released yet.

Mr. Bailey read the Cannabis Social Equity Policies aloud for the public.

Mr. Regnier made a motion to adopt and have the Select Board sign off on the Cannabis Social Equity Policies which Mr. Bailey seconded and was approved, 2-0. Chairman Jones abstained from the vote.

- e) Sign a meeting facilitator complaint letter to RoR Committee

Chairman Jones read the letter aloud for the public.

Gail Ceresia, 161 West Park Street, asked if there was any way to add the previous open meeting law complaint to this letter. The Board agreed it was important to send the letter as is now and there is an opportunity to send a follow-up letter at another time that includes Ms. Ceresia's request in the future.

Janice Braim, 35 Church Street, stated that she thinks it's a great letter. She asked if there was any recourse on Atty Pawa lying in court. Chairman Jones stated that he did not have an answer for Ms. Braim tonight, but they will act on what they feel they can.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to have all Select Board members sign off on the meeting

facilitator complaint letter to the RoR Committee which Mr. Regnier seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

5. Any topic the Chairman could not reasonably anticipate.

Chairman Jones stated that he has submitted a letter to his colleagues on the Select Board giving his resignation as the alternate delegate for the Town of Lee on BRPC. He stated that he would applaud the Board if they did not appoint another Select Board member as a form of protest. Mr. Bailey stated that he would like time to think about it, and they could make that decision at the next meeting.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to accept Chairman Jones' resignation with regret which Mr. Regnier seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

Chairman Jones stated that they received a last minute one day beer and wine license application and one day entertainment license application from the Lee High Class of 1963 for their reunion in the LMHS cafeteria on September 16, 2023 from 5:30pm to 9:00pm.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve the one day beer and wine license for the Class of 1963 Reunion on September 16, 2023 which Mr. Regnier seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

Mr. Regnier made a motion to approve the one day entertainment license for the Class of 1963 Reunion on September 16, 2023 which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

6. Town Administrator – EPA Update

Admin Brittain stated that the EPA shared that they are starting work on the fencing around the UDF area starting the week of August 7th. He stated that Woods Pond sediment sampling will begin the week of August 14th and work is estimated to occur over three weeks and GE is evaluating working through the weekend. Flood plain soil sampling will begin following the completion of sediment sampling activities and the follow-up bathometric survey work will occur later in the fall. They also released a comment period for the UDF plans on the EPA website, and he will link it onto the Town's website as well.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2023.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to adjourn at 7:29pm which Mr. Regnier seconded and was approved, 3-0.

Submitted by:



Sabrina Touhey
Exec Asst TA/BOS

Approved on: 09/05/2023