

TOWN OF LEE  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday October 3, 2023 @ 7:00PM  
Town Hall • 38 Main Street • Former Courtroom

Minutes

**Members Present:** Bob Jones, Gordon Bailey, Sean Regnier

**Members Absent:** None.

**Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.**

1. Minutes: Open Session Minutes of 09/19/2023

*Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve the 09/19/2023 open session minutes as submitted which Mr. Regnier seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.*

2. Public Comment

Kathy Hall, Chair of the Lee Youth Commission (LYC), began by stating that the LYC is starting its series of Lee's Second Saturday Gym Nights at the Crossway Tower Gym at the former Central School Building, 130 High Street, Lee. These events are free and sponsored by the LYC. The series kicks off with a game of dodgeball on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>. Joshua Bloom, a member of the Commission, is the team leader of this project. The LYC invites children ages 5-9 to join in on the action from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Parents are encouraged to stay and help. Children aged 10-14 are welcome to take part in the second round of fun from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Parents are welcome to either drop their older children off or volunteer to help facilitate. Ms. Hall added that the LYC asks all families to register in advance at <https://www.lee.ma.us/youth-commission> so the LYC knows how many people to expect and to ensure a seamless and enjoyable experience for all.

Mr. Regnier stated that there was a Master Plan Committee meeting yesterday; they are finalizing the housing section of the document, and they'll discuss education and land use at the next meeting.

Joshua Bloom, 204 West Park Street, began by stating that there are four new documents that the EPA just released for public comment, and they are available on the EPA's website. The EPA is allowing 60 days for public comment. Mr. Bloom encouraged the public to look at these documents and talk about whether or not it is time for Lee to hire its own consultant to provide technical review of documents like the Town of Lenox.

Admin Brittain added that there is a news section on the Town's website that has all of the PCB documents available.

3. General Business

a. Sign Annual Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund & Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Abatement Program Letter

*Mr. Regnier made a motion to have the Select Board sign the Annual Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund & Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Abatement Program Letter which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.*

b. Appointment - Joshua Tracy, Lee Police Department, Fulltime Officer

Chairman Jones stated that the Board received a letter of recommendation for appointment from Chief Craig DeSantis. This will fill the Police force in the Town of Lee.

*Mr. Bailey made a motion to appoint Joshua Tracy as a Fulltime Lee Police Officer which Mr. Regnier seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.*

c. Berkshire Gas Permit - 151 West Park Street

*Mr. Regnier made a motion to approve the Berkshire Gas Permit for 151 West Park Street to add a test station with anodes to existing casing running underneath railroad tracks on the south side of the road, which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.*

d. Temporary Sign Permit & Fee Waiver - St. Mary's School

*Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve the temporary sign permit and waive the fee for St. Mary's School's 2023 Holiday Bazaar which Mr. Regnier seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.*

e. Trick or Treat – Proposed Date: Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup> @ 5pm-7pm

Mr. Bailey stated that anyone who would like to participate in Trick or Treat should turn their outdoor lights on.

*Mr. Regnier made a motion to set the date for Trick or Treat 2023 to Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00pm to 7:00pm which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.*

f. Discussion of Special Town Meeting (December 2023)

Admin Brittain stated that the date of the Special Town Meeting has been set for Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and will be held at the LMHS Auditorium. Admin Brittain went through the draft of the warrant. He listed the public safety building, a proposed CPA land purchase on Stockbridge Road, opioid money appropriation from the State, and two zoning articles.

Admin Brittain stated that there will be an informational meeting on the public safety building on Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup> in the LMHS cafeteria at 6:30pm.

4. Any topic the Chairman could not reasonably anticipate.

Chairman Jones stated that the Council on Aging has issued a proclamation listing a number of people who are over the age of eighty years old who are still actively making contributions to the Town of Lee. Chairman Jones proclaimed that October 14, 2023 will be recognized as "Inspirational at 80 Day" in Lee, MA in honor of these individuals.

*Mr. Bailey made a motion to allow the Chairman to sign the proclamation which Mr. Regnier seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.*

Chairman Jones announced that the Select Board and Admin Brittain will be participating in Trunk or Treat at the Lee Elementary School on Friday October 27<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to 7pm.

5. Town Administrator – November 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting w/ EPA (discuss format)

Admin Brittain stated that there is a meeting scheduled on November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the LMHS Auditorium with the EPA for a follow-up about PCB transportation. The suggested format would allow the Select Board to open the meeting, the EPA will go over specific routes, and then there will be time for public comment.

Admin Brittain stated that at this point, there has been some preliminary conversation and there is no transportation plan yet. The initial plan will be submitted on October 31<sup>st</sup> and they will extend the comment period longer than the normal 45 days.

Chairman Jones stated that they want everyone to have a chance to speak but they want to be sure there is a level of civility and patience at the upcoming meeting with the EPA.

David Carrington, 190 East Street, asked if there would be an opportunity to present a competing transportation plan, such as the railroad. Admin Brittain stated that Mr. Carrington could definitely submit that presentation during the comment period, but he does not believe there will be time for a full presentation. He stated that he will ask if there will be any time restrictions at the meeting.

Gail Ceresia, 161 West Park Street, stated that she heard that the PCB trucks will definitely be using Main Street in Lee. Chairman Jones stated that that has been in the newspaper but the EPA has not issued a formal presentation. He stated that he expects Main Street to be on the table but that's what this period of feedback and the meeting is all about. Mr. Bailey stated that they have laid it out very clearly for the EPA that the residents wish to have no PCB trucks on Main Street, and we will see what they present on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Joshua Bloom, 204 West Park Street, stated that when he met with Admin Brittain and the EPA, the EPA suggested that they would strongly advocate for trucks going from the UDF to out of state to use Main Street in Lee. He added that the EPA has also stated that railroad use is unlikely because a loading and unloading station would need to be created (where the UDF will be) which would increase truck traffic. Mr. Bloom stated that he does not agree with that statement. He stated they are waiting to hear from GE but as far as the EPA is concerned, they are against the railroad and all for using Main Street.

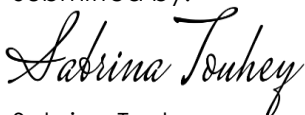
Chairman Jones stated that this is an ongoing conversation and struggle, and people will need to step up and voice their concern and offer alternative suggestions. It cannot be at one meeting in November—it'll have to be in writing and to all governmental representatives.

Mr. Bailey stated that during his meeting with the EPA, he suggested two alternative routes to get to 90-W without going down Main Street. He stated that the battle is not over yet.

**The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2023.**

**Mr. Bailey made a motion to adjourn at 7:32pm which Mr. Regnier seconded and was approved, 3-0.**

Submitted by:



Sabrina Touhey  
Exec Asst TA/BOS

**Approved on: 10/17/2023**