

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – November 19, 2019

Present: Thomas Wickham, Chairman, Patty Carlino and David Consolati, Chairman, Board of Selectmen and Christopher Ketchen, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Thomas Wickham called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to approve the Open Session Minutes of October 1, 2019.

2. **Public Hearings:** a. Columbia Growth, Inc. - Special Permit for establishment and operation of a Marijuana Cultivation Facility under (9.11 [B] [6] and a Marijuana Product Manufacturer (9.11 [B] [7]) from the Town of Lee Zoning Bylaws to locate a Marijuana Establishment for the cultivation and manufacturing of cannabis. The cannabis will be sold to licensed marijuana establishments in Massachusetts. The property affected is located at 157 Columbia Street in the Industrial Zoning District (Assessor's Map 13, Lot 1). - After a brief discussion, the parties all agreed that the Hearing would be continued until the Selectmen's meeting on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at which time they would have Site Plan recommendations. Mr. Shapiro also questioned whether they could sign a "conditional HCA" at that time and the Board stated they would take it into consideration. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Board members voted unanimously to continue the hearing until the Tuesday, December 17th meeting.*

3. **General Business:** a) Selectmen Discussion - Hiring of School Superintendent – Chairman Wickham spoke about learning the process of the hiring of the school superintendent – Andrea Wadsworth, Chair of the School Committee and Vice-Chair of the Union came before the Board to respond to Chairman Wickham's questions regarding the turnover of Superintendents and to learn about the hiring process. Tom asked her if there were other models we could emulate. Andrea replied that DESI (Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education) requires a licensed superintendent. Tom added that it would be a money saver to partner with another entity. She responded that they have reached out to Lenox to discuss partnership four times to no avail, but acknowledges that she respects their position. Tom said that he has seen the superintendent as more of a business model. Andrea stated that the superintendent is the face of the school. Tom asked if the School Committee has met and said "here's what to do". Andrea stated that they have discussed this, but it is hard to have a part time superintendent if the business side is weak. Patty asked if this could be titled differently and Andrea stated that whatever the position is titled, they would have to be licensed, which takes about two years. Tom said, "so we could hire someone without a license and they'd have time to get one?" Patty asked if every town has a business administrator and Andrea replied they are required under DESE. Patty explained that she is not trying to interfere but our side of this is that we have to protect the taxpayers of the whole town not just the school district and we have a hard time maintaining the tremendous financial increases due to a shrinking enrollment. She stated we are trying to look "outside the box" and there is nothing wrong with trying something different by looking at other methods.

David mentioned that there was a plan in place before Eberwein came in. Patty asked if there could be waivers for different things to do. Tom suggested he's just looking at different business models. Perhaps schools could go to a payroll system which take full responsibility for errors. Andrea responded that she would be happy to partake in a conversation with regard to the outsourcing of payroll. Patty asked how many other school districts was Jake Eberwein in and Andrea replied he was Superintendent for Pittsfield (5 yrs.) and Lee – Dean at MCLA (5 yrs.). Patty explained we just need to look at different models that would fit the Town of Lee, not just to rely on the pool that is out there with an aim to bring districts together. Andrea replied that is why she was looking at collaboration with neighbors to which David replied that he thought she was against shared services. Andrea she was not against Shared Services, just Shared Services done badly.

b) Berkshire Gas Permits - *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to grant a permit to Berkshire Gas to install new gas service at 275 Mandalay Road (nunc pro tunc – 11/14/19).*

c. Notice – 2020 Election Dates – The Board read the 2020 Election Dates as prepared by Town Clerk, Brandi Page as follows: Primary-Tues., March 3, 2020 / Annual-Mon., May 18, 2020 / Primary-Tues., Sept. 1, 2020 / and State-Tues., Nov. 3, 2020.

4. Pending Business:

- a. Zoning Board of Appeals – public hearing on Application of Carr Hardware for a variance from Section 199§7.5(A)(B) and §718(D) 2 of the Town of Lee Zoning Bylaws – Hearing on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Planning Board Office.
- b. Zoning Board of Appeals Appeal of the Decision of the Building Inspector by Harold Sherman. Public hearing on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 7:15 PM in the Planning Board Office.

5. Chief Administrative Officer:

a. Renewal of Lease – USPS – 10 Church Street, South Lee – CAO, Christopher Ketchen announced to the Board that a settlement has been reached with the USPS and their contract for the Lease of the South Lee Post Office Contract. The terms include the annual rent of \$15,000.00 payable in equal installments at the end of each calendar month during the term and the waiver of the broker's fee. The term of the lease begins on December 1, 2019 and ends on November 30 2024. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, Board members voted unanimously to approve the contract between the Town of Lee and the United States Postal Service.*

5. Public Comments:

Green Theory Cultivation came before the Board update the Board. They will not be discharging anything into the town water supply. They have agreed to sign a conditional Host Community Agreement (if needed). Chairman Wickham commented on the “high tech, unique” approach to

cultivation. They will be located at 845 Pleasant Street and have already had their Community Outreach.

Kathy Hall came before the Board to announce that the skating rink frame is up. The tarp will go in next week for the skating rink. The next project will be an outdoor fitness area at the Lee Athletic Field.

Patty Carlino extended the Board's congratulations to the Lee High Football Team, the Girls Volleyball & Soccer Teams, and the Drama Program.

7. Next Regular Meeting: Our next regular meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

8. Motion to Adjourn: *By a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM*

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy L. Bigelow,
Administrative Assistant

Notice of Website Posting Sent to:

Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk
Town Collector
Planning Board

Board of Assessors
Board of Health
Conservation Commission
Police Chief
Building Inspector

Dept. of Public Works
Town Treasurer
Town Reps. District Chair
Superintendent of Schools
Town Accountant