

APPROVED ON 9/1/2020

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – August 18, 2020

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

David Consolati called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** None.

2. **Public Hearings:** None

3. **General Business:** a) Canna Provisions – Event Permit for 987 Meadow Street for a drive-in/concert venue - Sean Curley, Chief Marketing Operations for Canna Provisions, came before the Board to present their intentions. They would like to provide live entertainment (movies, music) in the open field across from Drakes on Meadow Street. He explained that this has been done in Lenox, Yarmouth, Falmouth, Greenfield, etc. and they have worked with Shakespeare & Co. and the Mahawie Theater. They presented the Board with handouts explaining what their intentions are and how they intent to proceed. They follow all protocol for social distancing and intend to have events on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with local bands, etc. They want to give back to the community. Chairman Consolati interjected with a statement that the property in in a floodplain and they would have to meet with the Conservation Commission also. Mr. Curley expressed that they will explore the floodplain and all the possibilities; their goal is to make this happen. Patty Carlino expressed that she is in favor as long as they take all concerns into play, including the Board of Health, police, etc. Mr. Curley said he would reach out to the Boards as they want to do this in the right way. Sean Regnier also said he was in favor and asked about capacity. Mr. Curley said the stage would be 20-25 foot in size and 350 cars was the maximum. He offered that they have done this on Martha's Vineyard, also in a flood plain and everything worked out. They want to give back to the community and once they get final approval, it will take 10-14 days to build out. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to approve the request for an event permit, contingent on approval from the health department and the Conservation Commission.*

b) Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRCP) – Delegate (Buck Donovan) – *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to elect Buck Donovan as the BRCP Lee delegate.*

c) Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRCP) – Alternate Delegate (Matt Carlino) - *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members (Patty recused herself) voted unanimously to elect Matt Carlino as the BRCP Lee alternate delegate.*

d) Lee Youth Commission (LYC) Update - Kathy Hall came before the Board and explained a revised survey result posted on the website has been taken care of. Phase 2 of the survey is posted on the website. People can join in on ZOOM meeting (the link and agenda is posted on the website)

Workers have painted lines on the basketball court on the East Lee playground. She also thanked the Kiwanis for the Skateboard park and commented the people are enjoying it.

Kathy mentioned to Sean that the EPA open meeting is on Wednesday, August 26th. There is one in the afternoon and one in the evening (you have to register on-line on the website).

Kathy talked about the LYC survey and the 1 ½ year research. They are happy with the study and the survey. A map was put together of the town owned property that was put together by Matt Puntin who has donated his time to the LYC. Kathy stated that the Lee Community Center must be all inclusive, needs to be central and needs parking. She also stated that they are looking at adding a community pool. Their next meeting will be on Monday, August 24th @ 7:00 PM.

d) Annual Town Meeting Discussion - CAO, Christopher Ketchen came before the Board and stated that we have arrived at a time where the Commonwealth, Department of Revenue has communicated to us a reliable revenue record. They have committed to a number significantly higher than anticipated. We submitted a revised budget with a 10% cut in Chapter 7. Subsequently, the DOR committed to level funding from the prior year. He and the financial team bring a budget forward at this time with a reasonable expectation around local and state revenue without changing the tax impact from previous property budget, which reduces the reliance of free cash on the operating portion of the budget. There will still be free cash deployed for capital expenses and special articles. The proposal at this point will be re-cast and the main budget Article that reflects the new model. We are now ready to schedule and move forward with our Town Meeting. Lee has an advantage over neighboring towns with its form of government. Chairman Consolati stated that he appreciates not going into free cash. Patty Carlino asked if we are setting the date for the town meeting? Chris stated that we have to go to the Finance Committee first and then send out warrant to current members. We have to decide how we want to go forward with Town Meeting, i.e. remotely, social distancing indoors, etc. We will solicit feedback from the reps directly on how they want to manage this. Chris said we need to look at a hybrid model of Town Meeting. Patty stated that she is willing to help with mailing out an option for the reps with specific questions. Chris agreed with the idea of soliciting feedback. Patty said that are many ways to do it and she will ask the reps to find out which are more likely to attend. She will ask for them to e-mail or call with responses; hopefully by Sept. 1st for our next meeting. David stated that we are doing alright and getting by now, but Patty wants to move along and set the tax rate as she is afraid things with COVID-19 might get worse.

4. Pending Business: None.

5. Town Administrator: a) FY 2021 Revenue and Expense Reports for the period ended July 31, 2020 are in the Selectmen's office for their review.

b) Approve Operating Budget for month of September – After a brief discussion regarding the budget figures, *upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to approve the 1/12 Budget for September 2020 in the amount of \$2,177,398.00 and to submit same to the Department of Revenue.*

c) Authorization of Chair to sign Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) – After a brief discussion, *the board members voted unanimously to sign a one-month extension of the IMA with Lenox for a shared Chief Administrative Officer (through September 30, 2020).*

6. **Public Comments:** Chairman Consolati stated that he is especially impressed with the townspeople coming and going into town, going to restaurants, etc. House sales are up, people will be staying, school will be starting soon. We all must all still be vigilant regarding COVID-19.

7. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

8. **Motion to Adjourn:** *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 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