

APPROVED ON 9/15/20

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING – July 21, 2020

Present: David Consolati, Chairman, Patty Carlino and Sean Regnier Consolati, 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:** *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to approve the Open Session Minutes of June 16, 2020 and July 7, 2020.*

2. **Public Hearings:** None

3. **General Business:** a) John Toole - Bike Path Update - He explained that they were on the schedule for funding in 2020-2021 and have now been pushed back for funding in 2025. The bike starts at the Lee-Stockbridge line, up Rt. 102 behind Big Y to Lee Bank (West Park St.). They have had issues with one motel owner but have come to a solution. There is an area where the bike path will cross the street and a brief discussion on solutions, which included a tunnel were discussed. Chairman Consolati commented that a tunnel is more than likely not something that the Town could afford. John Toole stated that as we are still in Phase I of the bike path, Phase 2 is merely a dream at this point.

b) Lee Youth Commission - *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to waive the yearly inspection fee for the Lee Youth Commission.*

c) St. Mary's Parish - *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to waive the yearly inspection fee for the St. Mary's Parish.*

d) BPW Membership - David Forrest - After a brief discussion regarding BPW membership legislation, *the Board members voted unanimously to appoint David Forrest as an Associate Member of the BPW, until such time as they can change the legislation through Town Meeting with regard to members of BPW being on any other Board. Currently, David Forrest is a member of the Planning Board.*

e) Annual Town Meeting Discussion – The Board is still trying to determine when we can safely hold a Town Meeting, with a 26-page draft warrant which will be discussed. As of this date, the state aid for schools is still an unknown, which is another reason to hold off the Town Meeting. We certainly can't approve warrant articles when revenues are speculative. Chris Ketchen stated that it would make sense for the time line to be in line with setting the tax rate. There are so many unknowns at this point (state aid? What the schools are doing? And most importantly, if we see

recurrence of COVID and its severity. At this point it would be foolish to anticipate funds that we're not getting. In order to save funds, we are taking on smaller projects.

4. Pending Business – None

5. Town Administrator - Approve; 1/12 Budget for August, 2020. After a brief discussion regarding the budget figures, *by a roll call vote, the board members voted unanimously to approve the proposed 1/12 Budget for August, 2020 in the amount of \$2,177,398.00.*

*AYES*

*NAYS*

*David Consolati*

*None*

*Patty Carlino*

*Sean Regnier*

6. Public Comments – Eric Williams, C.O.O. of Canna Provisions, 220 Housatonic Street, came before the Board with a one-year update. On July 5<sup>th</sup>, they made their payment to Lee in the amount of \$494,022.65 which represents 3% of their sales. He explained that over the past year they have had to hire police details for traffic a few times. They now have two leases. They are renting 2 floors in the Fox Builders Building and are renting space at the Super Eight Motel for their overflow. They have hired 73 people full time; 16 of those are Lee residents. Some of their employees live in Lee, others are looking for homes in Lee. Canna Provisions employers and employees have offered volunteer work for street clean-up with the Greener Gateway Committee. They have helped out with Founder's Weekend. They have been involved in the town with the flowers, Farmer's Market, Berkshire Humane Society and United Way. They came to town two years ago and fell in love with Lee. It is all coming together for them and they are looking forward to another great year. His suggestions for the Town include, fixing the internet problems (band width) which slows down their business at times. Offer free wi-fi near the exit and downtown areas and improve pedestrian safety near the Fuller Street area (sidewalks?) His last statement was that they are proud of all they've done in the past year. Everyone has suffered and/or been impacted during the Covid-19 pandemic. Eric offered his thanks to Jim Wilusz at Tri-Town, saying "he should be valued now, more than ever".

Kathy Hall came before the Board that she would like to be on the agenda for every meeting stating she would like to keep everyone updated on where they stand with their projects. As they are further into Phase 2 with the Community Center project, the survey taken will be posted on the town of Lee website. Two things have come up as a part of the Community Center; namely a swimming pool and 2 regulation basketball courts. During Phase 2 they will be working with Berkshire Regional Planning Committee. They still have location concerns, transportation, etc. They still have a volunteer architect and engineer. She stated that it is important for people to go on the website for meeting dates and Zoom meetings.

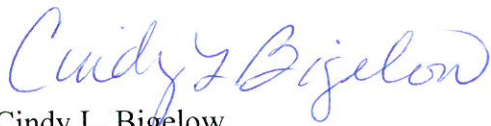
Patty Carlino presented to the Board and audience a memorial in memory of Hank Zukowski that will be placed on one of the benches across from the Town Hall in the small garden near the Morgan House where Mr. "Z" used to sit and converse with the townspeople.

Sean Regnier reminded everyone that the comment period for the "Rest of River" opened a week or two ago. He encouraged everyone to read the agreement and draft.

7. Next Regular Meeting - Our next regular meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2020.

8. Motion to Adjourn- *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 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