

APPROVED ON 4/20/21

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – April 6, 2021

Present: David Consolati, Chairman

By ZOOM: Patty Carlino and Sean Regnier, Board of Selectmen.

Absent: Christopher Ketchen, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Chairman David Consolati called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, stating that pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, this is an audio recording with a roll call vote of members present by ZOOM.

<i>David Consolati</i>	<i>here</i>
<i>Patty Carlino</i>	<i>here</i>
<i>Sean Regnier</i>	<i>here</i>

1. **Approval of Minutes:** *Upon a motion duly made and seconded and upon a roll call vote, the Board members voted unanimously to approve the open session minutes of March 16, 2021.*

<u><i>AYES</i></u>	<u><i>NAYS</i></u>
<i>David Consolati</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Patty Carlino</i>	
<i>Sean Regnier</i>	

2. **Public Hearings:** None.

3. **General Business:** a) Steve Brouker – re: Gazebo/Park – Intersection of East & Bradley Street
- Steve Brouker came before the Board to request naming the Gazebo/Park at the intersection of East & Bradley Street to be named after David Bowers who received a Bronze Star/Normandy/Purple Heart. He was asked to make sure it was not named already and Mr. Brouker said he checked with Jim Curtin/VFW and they endorse it. Claire Lahey said she would

check with the Historical Committee. The Board stated that they would make sure it was not already named and would get back to him.

b) Matthew Fenton - Follow Up – Voluntary Recognition for EMT/Firefighters to unionize – Matthew Fenton came before the Board to ask the Board to Voluntarily Recognize their department to unionize. When asked why they were not going through the normal channels, he responded that this is their normal way as it ensures that it goes through in approximately 20 days if there are no objections and avoids legal hurdles. He stated that they are the last town dept to unionize. Their biggest benefit to this would be training regarding hazardous materials, etc., at no cost to the Town. It is all state funded. Everything would move quicker going this route (voluntary recognition). Matt explained that he has the by-laws drafted up and will send to the Board. The IFF/PFMM will be one collective bargaining unit. There will be a contract later down the road. When asked if he has spoken to Chief Brown, Matt answered that he has talked with Chief Brown who is okay with it, but his position upholds to the Town. Chairman Consolati stated that he spoke with Chief Brown and he is fine either way and would have no problem with it.

Matt Tyer came before the Board stating that he is the only full-time guy in the Department and stated to Patty Carlino that this is a good faith measure and he/they wanted to work with the Board and not blindside them. They will keep the status quo and this gives them protection in the future and creates resources for their department. In answer to Patty's question, Matt said they currently have nine full-time employees and this will have no effect on our volunteers. It will be "business as usual and they will be able to network and reach out for resources. It will provide H.R. specifically for first responders. Chairman Consolati stated that he is not against unions "it is what it is." *Upon a motion duly made by Sean Regnier and seconded by Patty Carlino and upon a roll call vote, the Board members voted unanimously to the Voluntary Recognition of the EMT/Firefighters to unionize.*

AYES

NAYS

*David Consolati
Patty Carlino
Sean Regnier*

None

c) John Graziano – Discussion – Woodland Road - John Graziano, Attorney for Thomas M. and Steven A. Garrity, came before the Board to initiate the petition for a zoning amendment changing the district designation for the property from Conservation/Residential to Industrial. He explained that he is asking for the amendment to fix what's going on there. As the property is commercially zoned around this piece his clients would like this property to conform to the surrounding area. Patty asked if this would what would be considered "spot zoning" to which Atty. Graziano stated it is not. He said it would be adding a piece to a zone as it is adjacent to that zone. Patty replied that we would refer to the Planning Board and then possibly through Town Meeting. *Upon a motion duly made by Patty Carlino and seconded by Sean Regnier and upon a roll call vote, the Board members voted unanimously to initiate the Zoning Petition to pass along to the Planning Board to hold a public hearing, to make recommendations and then to move to Town Meeting.*

AYES

David Consolati
Patty Carlino
Sean Regnier

NAYS

None

A lengthy discussion was then had regarding who was/is responsible for the property being used in such a way as the property is on the “Scenic Road” list. Matt Carlino commented that it may lie with the Building Inspector as the enforcing officer. Clare Lahey stated that what has been done is criminal. It is an eyesore on the scenic road. She asked the room, “When was this approved? Was there a hearing held for an industrial use?” Matt replied that there has not been an application for this property. The enforcement officer is the Building Commissioner. They can’t vote on anything without a hearing with a site plan. This proposal has never come to the Planning Board. David Consolati stated that he believes this work has been shut down, but Clare Lahey stated, “it was active as of yesterday”.

Attorney Graziano stated that on July 27th, the Building Inspector said this use was not in violation of the zoning bylaws. Matt Carlino said he would speak with Town Counsel. He said the application must come before the Planning Board, then the Building Commissioner.

Bob Jones, 150 Greylock Street came before the Board with questions and comments. He stated that if this company is in ongoing violation “that’s a problem”. He is personally opposed to change the zoning for one of a property. He also stated that he believes the Lahey’s have given an accurate account of the circumstances. Patty said that if and when they pass this on the Planning Board, they will look at the bylaw.

Ed Lahey urged Peg Biron to take a ride down Woodland Road and look at the desecration. This is a disgrace to a “Scenic Roadway”.

d) Town Meeting Schedule/Covid-19 Discussion - Patty Carlino suggested they put off having this discussion until the next meeting and find out what other towns are doing. David added that we need to have the discussion as to where to hold Town Meeting and how do we intend to hold it. It is tentatively scheduled for May 13th, but we may move it towards the end of May or even into June which gives us time to plan it. David suggested they decide on this at their next meeting in two weeks. Patty agreed that she would be more comfortable talking about it when Christopher Ketchen is present. Sean also agreed stating that last year’s meeting was not ideal and there would probably not be a lot of support for the same. He suggested that an outdoor setting would be a good option.

Patty asked Chris Brittain if he was comfortable doing the elections. Chris replied that he had no problem as there were no issues at the last election. Everything is already set up and there is no reason not to. The Board agreed to follow up these discussions at their next meeting on April 20, 2021.

e) Lee Youth Commission Update/Kathy Hall - Kathy Hall stated that she had a couple of reports but would hold off until the April 20th meeting. She has sent the Board members a draft of the potential community center business plan, with three (3) scenarios with a demographic profile. She also stated that the cameras at the Athletic Field are all in great working order thanks to Mike Klein and every aspect of the park is able to be viewed. The Committee and sub-committees have attended workshops with “fundraising strategies” to raise money for the “potential” community center. If anyone would like to come forward and help, information on the town’s website.

4. **Pending Business:** None.

5. **Town Administrator:** a) FY 2021 Revenue & Expense Reports – Chairman Consolati informed the Board that the Revenue & Expenses Reports for period ended March 31, 2021 are available for review in the Selectmen’s Office.

6. **Public Comments:** Erik Williams from Canna Provisions came before the Board to state his frustration with getting a response from the Town in getting a documentation of costs (actual and anticipated) on their retail dispensary. He stated that he has sent e-mails, made phone calls and has left actual notes on doors at the Town Hall, with no response. He is asking for a document for the community impact fee which is required by the State and the “Cannabis Control Commission” (CCC). He stated he is disappointed that he has reached out to multiple offices and finds this unacceptable. Chairman Consolati answered to him that he will check on this tomorrow.

Kathy Hall made a comment to the Board, that at any time, the Chairman could call a “Point of Order” as there are sometimes too many voices at one time and it gets too cumbersome.

Patty Carlino said that they would have the “Memorial Day Parade” on their next agenda to make some decisions as to what they would do this year. We will check with Jim Wilusz at the Health Department to get guidance in making this decision.

Patty Carlino read a “Thank You” note from David Carlino for the follow through of naming the road to the Elementary School “23 Chief Roosa Way” in honor of “Jeffrey Roosa” and all he has done for the town.

The letter reads as follows: *“Dear members of the Select Board and Mr. Ketchen. Thank you so much for approving 23 Chief Roosa Way. On March 19 we had a small ceremony to dedicate the road to Chief Roosa. His family, friends and other guests attended the ceremony. I think we made Chief Roosa and his family proud. Mr. Fillio from LMHS filmed the event and it will be aired on CTSB soon. Thank you again for your support. Sincerely, David Carlino”*

7. **Next Regular Meeting** - Our next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

8. **Motion to Adjourn** – *Upon a motion duly made and seconded and by roll call vote, the Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.*


AYES

NAYS

*David Consolati
Patty Carlino
Sean Regnier*

None

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