

APPROVED ON 7/20/21

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING – June 15, 2021

The Chair, Patty Carlino called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Christopher Ketchen, CAO, Chair Patty Carlino, Sean Regnier and Bob Jones, Board of Selectmen.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to approve the open session Minutes of May 18, 2021 and June 1, 2021.*
2. **Public Hearings:** None.
3. **General Business:**
  - a) **Marcia Slaminsky – Railroad “Quiet Zones”** - Marcia Slaminsky came before the Board to ask them to look in the Railroad “Quiet Zones”. She explained that she lives on Laurel Avenue and has notice that the train horns sound louder than the 96 – 110 decibels required at a Railroad Crossing. There are two railroad crossings distinguished at quiet zones. One at Main Street/West Center Street and one at West Park Street/Marble Street. Patty said she would look into what is required and will get back to the Board with information. On another note, Marcia asked who was responsible for maintaining the grass for the properties in front of the Eagle Mill. She noted that the landscaping looks awful.
  - b) **Josh Cohen – Entertainment License** – Josh Cohen (Moe’s Tavern”) came before the Board to request an Entertainment License for Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> for a recording solo acoustic artist to play at Moe’s from 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to grant an Entertainment License for a solo acoustic artist to play at Moe’s Tavern on Thursday, June 24, 2021 from 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM.*
  - c) **Steve Schmitter – Evening Star Lodge – 1 Day Beer & Wine License** - *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to grant a One Day Beer & Wine License to the Evening Star Lodge (Masonic Lodge) for their yearly gathering to be held on Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM.*
  - d) **Board of Assessors – Re-appointment of Karen Avalor (3 year term)** - *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to re-appoint Karen Avalor, to the Board of Assessors for the customary 3 year term.*

e) Temporary Sign Permit - Tom Finnegan / Knights of Columbus – Road Toll - *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to grant a Temporary Sign Permit to Tom Finnegan for the Knights of Columbus Road Toll.*

f) Lee Youth Commission – Kathy Hall - Kathy Hall came before the Board with her update on the “Potential” Community Center – first she thanked the people that helped out on Saturday morning cleaning the parking lot on Marble Street. She gave an outline of what has been discussed in past meetings regarding the “potential” Community Center 1. Finding a good location in Lee 2. What are requirements for a Community Center would entail regarding building, amenities, etc. 3. Price – Estimated conceptual budget 4. Feasibility Study – survey/results 5. Demographic profile 6. Business Plan. 7. Can the Town afford this and where would the money come from.

g) Bob Jones – Rest of River – Settlement Agreement - Select Board member, Bob Jones read a narrative regarding the PCB Dump that he wrote, to the rest of the Board and those in attendance at the meeting. *(See copy attached and made a part of these minutes.)*

Attendees at the meeting had quite a lot to say in response to this; things got very heated and many were quite upset and angry at how everything had transpired. Mr. Jones commented that “this battle must be fought” and Sean responded that “it may be a bad decision to go down that road; the EPA makes the rules”. Bob stated that the process that got us here, was flawed and wrong – the people had no say and after a lengthy back and forth townspeople in attendance offered their opinions.

Tim Gray came before the Board “We have to fight for our river....the mediation was not proper...The Selectmen at town meeting were suddenly “river experts”...you people know nothing...in Hudson, the EPA cleanup did not work...This Deal is terrible, the river will be contaminated forever...this is nowhere near the best option...the agreement needs a re-vamp on everything”.

Sean Regnier asked Tim to tell us what is the best plan for the river; Tim replied, “take more out! Fight for our river

More townspeople came forward in opposition of the dump (Monica Ryan, Janice Braim, John Coty, Ann Langlais Neil Clarke, Gail Ceresia, James Castegnaro. They were focused what the repercussions would be if we backed out of the agreement.

Janet Warner asked to come before the Board to ask a few questions. She wanted to know what Matt Pawa says right now. Patty replied that everything is in the courts at this point. She commented that if we were to pull out that we could lose all control and wondered if there was a procedural option to table the motion and come up with answers. Perhaps Jeremiah Pollard could advise. Patty replied that we will take these comments under advisement.

Select Board member Bob Jones stated that we are talking about Articles 10 and 16 and that transparency was lacking. We should pass this motion and move forward. Where do we stand? Sean Regnier replied that he can’t second the motion as the language is specific. Patty Carlino stated she is not comfortable passing the motion tonight. “The Motion dies on the floor”.

4. **Pending Business:** None.

5. **Town Administrator** - a) Discussion – The Mount – Letter of Interest for 135 Laurel Lake Crossroad – Annual Town Meeting Article 16 - CAO Christopher Ketchen informed the Board that the Select Boards of Lee and Lenox received a letter from Susan Wissler, Executive Director of The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home to formerly express their interest in acquiring from the two towns the farmhouse and lot at 135 Laurel Lake Cross Road, Lee, MA that is currently part of Edith Wharton park. This parcel, and the farmhouse sited on it (as well as the rest of Edith Wharton Park) were part of the estate that Edith Wharton designed and built in 1902 and that have an interest in seeing the farmhouse preserved and restored. Understanding that the property is subject to Article 97 protection, they confirm that it would be their intention for the parcel to continue to be used for the benefit of the public and other land conservation purposes. We would preserve and restore the farmhouse's exterior and rehabilitate the interior for uses yet to be determined with one option under consideration being housing for their "writers-in-residence" program. Public access to the parcel would be maintained under the Conservation Commissions of both Lee and Lenox. The conveyance would be at an agreed upon purchase price and subject to any requisite Town and State approvals.

What is the benefit to Lee and Lenox? CAO Christopher Ketchen stated the benefit to the towns is that neither Town is willing to invest taxpayer dollars to this property. The Mount will do that. DeeDee Consolati stated that this is visionary for the towns. Chris said we have a willing restorer and this will take Article 97 land off the rolls which has to be substituted and Lenox will do that. Patty stated that anything that helps Lenox, will also help Lee in the long run. The Mount will make the property more pleasant. Monica Ryan (a member of "The Mount") liked that it is "dog friendly" and their use of the property will be in perpetuity. This will enhance our neighbors and neighborhoods.

b) Appointment – Hunter Roosa – Patrolman - At the recommendation of Police Chief, Craig Desantis, CAO Christopher Ketchen is asking the Select Board to accept this recommendation and promote Hunter Roosa from Reserve Officer to Patrolman. Mr. Roosa will still pursue his degree and he is in line for the next academy. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of Police Chief Craig Desantis and promote Hunter Roosa to Patrolman. Congratulation and Welcome, Hunter.*

c) Classification Compensation Schedule - CAO, Christopher Ketchen presented the Board with the FY22 Salary Ranges. These are not the exact amounts that staff earns. Actual earnings are on an experience and merit-based system. We have to establish ranges (mid – max ranges have shifted and salaries fall within the ranges-there is 5% within the ranges). Within the next year we will be doing a full revaluation of the classification ranges. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to approve the Classification Compensation Schedule as presented.*

6. Public Comments - Kathy Hall came before the Board and extended a "thank you" to the Police Department and their dedication to keeping the Athletic Field safe. Their use of cameras and diligence in checking the cameras has made a huge difference.


7. **Next Regular Meeting** - Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 7:00 PM. This will be after our Town Meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at the Lee High School Football Field.

Patty extended a Congratulations for our graduates!

The Board also extends their condolences to DPW Superintendent, Alan Zerbato and his brother, for the loss of their mother.

8. **Motion to Adjourn** -*Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 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