

APPROVED ON 6/21/22

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – June 7, 2022

Present: Sean Regnier, Chair, Bob Jones and Gordon Bailey, Board of Selectmen.

Also Present: Christopher Brittain, Town Administrator

Chairperson, Sean Regnier 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 May 17, 2022.*

2. **Public Hearings:** None.

3. **Public Comments:** Kathy Hall came before the Board and Congratulated the graduates from St. Mary's School and the Lee School District. Also congratulations to all our sports teams!!! The Lee Youth Commission will be winding down the Wednesday after school program tomorrow and will be talking more about community-oriented family events in the coming months and for next school year. A HUGE THANK YOU TO JANET WARNER, OUR CO-CHAIR, FOR ORGANIZING THIS EVENT.

Free WiFi is all set at the athletic field. A huge thank you to Mike Kline from the Lee Youth Commission for doing the installation. A sign is posted with information to log in.

We are patiently awaiting the new play structures to be built and will soon be looking for volunteers to spread safety surfacing at the playgrounds. Please stay tuned.

In addition, the Lee Youth Commission will be discussing two options for more programs at our playgrounds. One is a fitness/wellness area, and the other is a Natural Playground. The commission will be working with Chris Brittain and Peter Hofman respectively on these options.

The conversation will continue with community center ideas with the direction of the Select Board.

Reservations for the use of the pavilion at the athletic field are filling up quickly. Please call the DPW at 243-5520 to reserve a space.

South Berkshire Kids is at the Lee Athletic Field every Wednesday until August 10 at 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. This is a parent/child free-based playgroup program for children ages 2 to 5.

4. **General Business:** a) DEP Grant – Peter Hofman – Valerie Bluhm came before the Board for Peter Hofman to ask the Select Board members to give the Lee Greener Gateway Committee approval to apply for the Small-Scale Initiative Grant in the amount of \$750.00 as they have done in the past. Valerie also offered that the amount may be doubled in the future. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to approve the request for the Lee Greener Gateway Committee to apply for the Small Scale Initiative Grant in the amount of \$750.00 or for any other amount they may be eligible for.*

b) Common Victualer License – New England Wraps - *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to grant a Common Victualer License to Chasing Dreams, LLC d/b/a New England Wraps located at 236 Main Street, Lee, MA 01201.*

c) Todd Tyer – Wastewater Request - Todd Tyer came before the Board to request the access road to the Wastewater Treatment Plant to be re-named for Al Zerbato who is retiring this year after 35+ years with the town. He would like the street to be named “Al Zerbato Way”. Al started in the wastewater plant and went on in later years as the “Superintendent of Public Works”. We thank Al for his many years of service.

d) Thaddeus Kubis (Lee Chamber of Commerce – Executive Director – Introduction / Permits for Founder’s Day Parade and Fireworks – Mr. Kubis introduced himself as the new director of the Chamber of Commerce and is asking for the Board’s approval for the Founder’s Day Parade and Fireworks. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to approve any and all permits for the Founder’s Day Parade and Fireworks.*

e) BRTA – Lee Designee Appointee – Andrea Wadsworth - *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to appoint Andrea Wadsworth as the Town of Lee Designee for FY23 to the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board.*

f) Request from Mark Michaud – Waiver of Tent Permit Fee for 715 Devon Road - *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to waive the Tent Permit Fee for 715 Devon Road.*

g) Rest of River – Lee Designee - Following a brief discussion and *after a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to appoint Bob Jones as the Lee Designee.*

Bob graciously accepted this appointment and a discussion was had regarding the site visit with the EPA for the Rest of River will be made by each Board member separately. Ann Langlais questioned this and was informed that it is done in this way in order to not violate any Open Meeting Law.

h) Rest of River – Discussion of Public Forum - Tim Gray came before the Board saying he needs to talk about this; he says we are at a junction and are going to court - the Rest of River

(ROR) is suing them – he says the clean-up of the river is bad and it is not going to work. The river is going to be contaminated forever.

He also said he is concerned about Patty (Carlino) going back to ROR. The ROR treats Housatonic River Initiative (HRI) like they are terrible people. The group has been fighting for 30 years to get it right. G.E. intends to oppose. The Berkshire Regional Planning Committee (BRPC) meeting Minutes have been very illusive to getting their minutes, but they have finally got them and he reads that “they (BRCP) want to raid the money the town has to use for legal fees to sue HRI. The ROR has been working for a long time....this is not new....its in their minutes. He said that HRI has been working on a plan for 30 years to get the clean up right. The people the town picked has not gotten it right and the town was a part of it. HRI knows more about PCB's than anybody – the EPA doesn't know what they're doing.

HRI is fighting and would like the town to be on their side. He stated that they have the best pro-bono lawyers from Boston. They are the best on the east coast. The bottom line is...there is a chance to work together, but it will take courage. We might be able to stop this thing. There is also another plan with the potential to stop this and you'll find out about it. Perhaps you should “roll the dice and see what happens”. He would like the Board to come to the final conclusion that HRI is a positive thing. They are very bright people. Their Board of Directors are very smart and they are such a resource. The bottom line is “do we want a dump?”.

He believes this will come back to haunt us. There is another community that took the deal and years later, the dump is full and the money is gone.

He also informed the Board that news out of Boston is that GE is on the hook for dumping in the ocean. They need a place to put it. They just bought more land and keep building. G.E. has to own the property they dump in which is probably what led to the ocean dumping.

Ann Langlais came before the Board and provided them with a Housatonic River Initiative handout listing some of their HRI Accomplishments. She also states that she read on their Minutes on the GE website it states that Tom Matuszko announced in Executive Session a motion made by R. Wood and seconded by C. Rumbold and approved by a 5-0 roll call vote to adopt the following: “Pursuant to the Intergovernmental Agreement – Section B, ROR authorizes, by a 5-0 roll call vote, the establishment of administering the ROR monetary fund in the amount of 1.5 million to be funded upon receipt of funds in an escrow account established pursuant to a February, 2020 Escrow Agreement to pay for all legal or consulting fees and costs incurred by the ROR Committee in the administrative review and related work issued by the EPA for the remedial work in the Housatonic River that BRPC by authorized as the agent for the fund”.

i) Discussion of receiving updated from other boards/committees/organizations – Chris explained that we need people to volunteer for boards/committees/organization with the Town. We need as many people as possible. Perhaps we can have Chairs of committees come in to a Select Board meeting to discuss what their Board actually does. We also need people to run for Planning, Conservation, Zoning Boards, etc. Some of the Boards available are Cultural Council, Agricultural Council, Youth Commission, Greener Gateway, LYA, Chamber, etc. If anyone is interest in any of these Boards, they can contact the Town Hall. Town Administrator Chris

Brittain has attended meetings. He will add a draft of board members on the next agenda. He commented that the Town of Lee's website has a sign up for notifications.

Steve Handel suggested perhaps a monthly/quarterly newsletter. It would only need to be a one-page sheet. He also wanted to know if there was anywhere on the website that collects e-mail addresses. Chris Brittain stated that we do not collect e-mail addresses.

Ann Langlais came before the Board to comment on the people using the backside of Laurel Lake -Edith Wharton area. There has been trash thrown all over, people speeding on the roadway, etc. The Board will look into this and perhaps we can use temporary speedbumps.

j) Community Center – next steps? – Kathy Hall came before the Board to discuss what the next steps are for the “potential” community center. Do they continue to pursue this and how would they move forward? She stated that she realized the money involved was too much. She also realized the location was not ideal. People wanted something more central to the town and schools. What would be the appropriate time to move forward? What would people want? Basketball, meeting rooms, functions, pool, etc. They need to figure this out and take each and explain why this is “beneficial” to the Town and why it would make a difference. They need a better understanding of the factual information. They also need to look at non town owned land (perhaps the Greylock Mill area?). She stated that she understands that Lee also needs a public safety area and the money needed for that. She is looking for people interest in talking to her about this and where the sources of funds would come from. What's available? She will keep on looking for spots available.

5. Pending Business: None

6. Town Administrator - a) The Revenue and Expense Reports for the period ended May 31, 2022 in the Selectmen's Office for their review.

b) Chris also wanted to highlight some Town Halls news:

On Monday (6/13/22) a new employee, Samantha Lovett will start as our new DPW Clerical Assistant. Alan Zerbato's last day will be Friday, June 10th. Congratulations Al!

The Board of Public Works has announced that the State will be re-stamping a number of the crosswalks that have received negative feedback from the residents of those streets. We had asked that they just repaint them as the pattern that was there was very noisy whenever a vehicle drove over it and the residents on those streets were complaining. The State has determined that they will re-stamp them in a different “less noisy” pattern. Time will tell.

Gordon Bailey thanked Chris for making sure that the Town Meeting video was on the Town's website. He also stated that it would be great to have an educational video that explains how the Town works.

7. Next Regular Meeting - Our next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 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 9:50 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