

TOWN OF LEE
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday September 19, 2023 @ 7:00PM
Town Hall • 38 Main Street • Former Courtroom

Minutes

Members Present: Bob Jones, Gordon Bailey, Sean Regnier

Members Absent: None.

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

1. Minutes: Open Session Minutes of 09/05/2023

Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve the 09/05/2023 open session minutes as submitted which Mr. Regnier seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

2. Public Comment

Kathy Hall, Chair of the Lee Youth Commission (LYC), began by stating that all of the houses have been demolished for the Eagle Mill project, one shed is still standing, and it is an incredible project. Ms. Hall added that Founders' Weekend was successful and gave a shout out to the organizers. Ms. Hall stated that the LYC's events at the Athletic Field during Founders' Weekend included Bowie the Clown, Terry A La Berry, arts and crafts, a skateboard competition, and food and an archery area provided by the Boy Scouts. She stated that the copsicle van from Pittsfield was also a hit.

Anne Langlais, 25 Union Street, began by stating that three of Lee's residents filed an open town meeting law violation years ago that has been through court and is currently at its appeal stage. She stated that the Lenox municipality decided to interject themselves into the lawsuit on September 15th going full force against the three Lee citizens. She stated that she finds it appalling and she believes people need to be aware of it. It's sad that our neighbors will not help us, but instead will fight against us when it should be none of their business to begin with. Ms. Langlais added that she has been involved with Housatonic River Initiative (HRI) for approximately four years at this point. Ms. Langlais stated that everyone will be affected by PCB particles once the transportation begins. She stated that we need to protect the health and welfare of all Berkshire County residents and she has started a petition called "Stop the Trucks, Switch to Rails" and she read it aloud. She stated that every eight trucks could fit into one railcar and she finds it to be the best way to help protect all Berkshire County citizens. Ms. Langlais will have the petition available to sign at her jewelry shop near Joe's Diner.

4. General Business:

a) One Day Alcohol License – Boston Wine School, MA Cheese Festival

Jonathon Alsop, Boston Wine School, was present via Zoom representing the business. He stated that they will be offering 1-ounce samples to guests at the event and selling their wine for off-premise consumption.

Mr. Regnier made a motion to approve a one day wine and malt license to Boston Wine School which Mr. Bailey seconded, and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

b) One Day Alcohol License – Berkshire Cider Project, MA Cheese Festival

Katherine Hand, Berkshire Cider Project, was present via Zoom representing the business. She stated that they will be offering 1-ounce samples of their hard cider and selling their cider for off-premise consumption.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve a one day wine and malt license to Berkshire Cider Project which Mr. Regnier seconded, and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

c) Sign letter to terminate membership in Rest of River Committee

Chairman Jones began by reading the letter aloud. Mr. Bailey requested that the letter be sent to each individual Select Board member of each town involved. He added that he wanted it to be clear that Lee is not getting out of the agreement. He stated that the RoR Committee is not supposed to exist after December 31, 2023 and if the Committee decides to continue after that date, Lee will not continue membership. Mr. Bailey stated that if Lee ends up with a dump in town, we will need these funds to hire our own specialists to oversee it properly. He stated that all of the other towns have ignored Lee's pleas to even discuss the issue. Chairman Jones added that they have been in contact with the EPA and the EPA has confirmed they will continue to work with Lee individually.

Anne Langlais, 25 Union Street, stated that she would like to see her tax dollars pay another company, even at a higher rate, that is not BRPC to help with the Master Plan and any other future planning. She does not feel that BRPC has the best interest of Lee at heart.

Chairman Jones made a motion to have all Select Board members sign the letter to the RoR Committee terminating the Town of Lee's membership which Mr. Bailey seconded, and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

d) First Congregational Church of Lee Agreement

Admin Brittain stated that the parking lot and the park next to Town Hall are owned by the First Congregational Church and this agreement allows the Town of Lee to use the property while providing maintenance in return such as lawn mowing and snow plowing. He stated that there are no changes from what they've had in the past and this agreement just updates the language.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to have the Select Board members sign off on the First Congregational Church of Lee Agreement which Mr. Regnier seconded, and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

e) Master Plan Update – Sean

Mr. Regnier stated that the Master Plan Committee is at the beginning of the end, and working on packaging the document together. Once the document is created, it will be brought forward to a public hearing where the public can comment. It will then need approval from the Planning Board and Select Board. Mr. Regnier stated that the Committee has met once a month up until this point, and now they plan to meet twice a month. He stated that the meetings are held in the Former Courtroom and he encourages anyone to come participate.

f) Keno Monitor Application: Bannun & Boo and East Lee Package Store

Mr. Regnier made a motion to approve the KENO monitor application from Bannun & Boo and East Lee Package Store which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

5. Any topic the Chairman could not reasonably anticipate.

Chairman Jones stated that the Lee Youth Association (LYA) has requested to have their annual inspection fee waived. Mr. Bailey recused himself from the request.

Mr. Regnier made a motion to waive the inspection fee for the LYA which Chairman Jones seconded and was approved, 2-0. Mr. Bailey abstained from the vote.

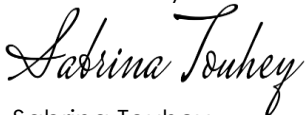
6. Town Administrator – Grant Updates, Bylaws Update

Admin Brittain stated that they heard back from the Attorney General and the last two warrant article bylaw changes were approved; Article 23 (Zoning: Dumpster Enclosures) and Article 6 (Changing Membership of Capital Outlay). He added that the MVP grant and Open Space/Land Use grant the Town received are underway and committees have been meeting monthly. The Town received a grant for the Capital Improvement Plan and that has been completed and can be found on the Town's website. Admin Brittain added that there are three bridges in progress; the Meadow Street bridge, the Mill Street bridge, and the Silver Street bridge. He stated that the Town also received a grant from MIIA for a vehicle GPS and that has been completed on DPW vehicles. There are also four pending grants he hopes to hear back on soon.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2023.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to adjourn at 7:41pm which Mr. Regnier seconded and was approved, 3-0.

Submitted by:



Sabrina Touhey
Exec Asst TA/BOS

Approved on: 10/03/2023