

TOWN OF LEE
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday December 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 12/05/2023

Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve the 12/05/2023 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 the LYC is scheduled to setup the ice-skating rink at the Town Park on Saturday December 23rd. They need volunteers to help with the project. She added that the 2nd Saturday gym night is "Minute to Win It Challenge Night" at the Crossway Gym on January 13, 2024 from 5:30pm-7:00pm. The program is free but you do need to register for the event on the website. Ms. Hall stated that they had 30 participants at the December event.

Ms. Hall added that Andrew McKeever, the Community Planner with BRPC, and Mike Kline, Vice Chair of the LYC, will be meeting to discuss the State's recent release of a draft statewide digital equity plan for public comment. Mr. Kline set up the cameras and WIFI at the Lee Athletic Field, and Mr. McKeever will build upon that honing into local needs.

Gail Ceresia, 161 West Park Street, began by stating that last night was the end of the comment period for the Summary Report for Reach 5A Non-Residential Floodplains. Ms. Ceresia asked if the Select Board would be interested in asking the CCC or the EPA to have a public informational meeting about Reach 5A. Admin Brittain stated that he has a meeting set up with the EPA later this week and he'll ask how it'd be best to get information to the public.

3. General Business

a. Paint Stewardship Discussion & (possible) Resolution

Tom Irwin, 54 Central Ave in Dalton, MA, began by stating that his involvement here stems from being a member of the Dalton Waste Management Recycle Committee. He stated that there are 5.9 million tons of waste generally in MA and that number increases at least 2% every year. The ability to incinerate is only 3.2 million pounds, which is a static number. We're left with somewhere around 2.7 million tons of stuff to get rid of. We need to decrease the amount of waste and product stewardship gives us that opportunity.

Mr. Irwin stated that Paint Stewardship will save local governments money by reimbursing their costs to run paint recycling programs. It makes paint recycling easy and free for all MA residents, including those living in rural areas, and it will prevent mismanagement of unwanted paint that pollutes waterways and the environment.

Mr. Irwin pointed out that over 6000 Bills are put forward to be passed by the State every two years. When deciding what Bills will pass, it comes down to how much money

the State will save and public outcry. Paint Stewardship is small change for the State, and unfortunately not enough people are aware of this program. However, MA residents are now bringing their paint to nearby states who have this law in place. Mr. Irwin stated that they need support from municipalities to help compel this law to go through the House Ways and Means Committee, where it has stalled previously six times.

Mr. Irwin confirmed for Mr. Bailey that this program is voluntary for all businesses who sell paint. The Board agreed to have a resolution drafted to be signed at the next Select Board meeting.

b. Appointments:

▪ Community Preservation Committee - Abigail Noble

Mr. Regnier made a motion to appoint Abigail Noble to the Community Preservation Committee which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

▪ Part Time Firefighter/EMT - Gregory Kelly

Mr. Bailey made a motion to appoint Gregory Kelly as a Part Time Firefighter/EMT which Mr. Regnier seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

▪ Board of Public Works [Alternate to Full Member] - Ashley Shepardson

Mr. Bailey mentioned that this appointment is available because of the resignation of a Board of Public Works member, Gary O'Brien. He thanked Mr. O'Brien for his work with the Board of Public Works.

Mr. Regnier made a motion to appoint Ashley Shepardson as a full-time member of the Board of Public Works which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

c. Sign letter to EPA

Chairman Jones read the letter aloud that the Chairs of Select Boards from Great Barrington, Lenox, Sheffield, and Stockbridge will sign. He added that West Stockbridge is also interested in signing onto this letter or writing their own.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to have the Chair sign the letter which Mr. Regnier seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

d. One Day Alcohol License Application – Lee Fire Company

Mr. Regnier made a motion to approve the one day wine and malt license for the Lee Fire Company's Annual Christmas Party which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

e. Approval of 2023 ABCC Annual Report

Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve the 2023 ABCC Annual Report which Mr. Regnier seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

- f. Approval of 2024 Annual Alcohol License Renewals (see attached)

Mr. Regnier made a motion to approve the 2024 Annual Alcohol License Renewals which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

- g. Approval of 2024 Common Victualler, Innholder, Entertainment, Amusement Device, Class I, II, & III Auto Dealer, and Taxicab/Limo License Renewals (see attached)

Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve all 2024 Common Victualler, Innholder, Entertainment, Amusement Device, Class I, II, & III Auto Dealer, and Taxicab/Limo Licenses which Mr. Regnier seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

- h. Approval of 2024 Seasonal Population Increase

Mr. Regnier made a motion to approve the 2024 Seasonal Population Increase which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

4. Any topic the Chairman could not reasonably anticipate.

Admin Brittain confirmed for Mr. Bailey that he believes the next Hazard Waste Collection in Lee should be in May 2024.

5. Town Administrator – Budget Update

Admin Brittain stated that Lee's new Text-Alert system is up and running. Residents can text LEE to (413) 462-9254 to subscribe. It won't be as frequent as the email blast subscription.

He stated that they are finalizing the last few submittals for budgets for FY25. They expect to have a copy of the proposed budget to the Board right after the holidays and the Finance Committee will be meeting beginning in January. They are anticipating a few increases; electric will go up halfway through the year, health insurance, and education.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 2, 2024.

Mr. Regnier made a motion to adjourn at 7:51pm which Mr. Bailey seconded and was approved, 3-0.

Submitted by:



Sabrina Touhey
Exec Asst TA/BOS

Approved on: 01/02/2024