

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2019**

PRESENT: Mr. Marc W. Richard; Chairman, Mr. Dario F. Nardi; Vice-Chairman and Mr. John Nason, Clerk

ATTENDEES: See Attached List

Opened the Meeting at 7:00 PM

Chairman Richard opened the meeting and led with the Pledge of Allegiance at this time. Ms. Colleen Montague and Mr. Michael Baril are in attendance and acknowledged their taping of this evening's meeting.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of December 18, 2018 as written made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention (Mr. Nardi)

Motion to approve the Minutes of January 2, 2019 as written made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention (Mr. Nardi)

Motion to approve the Minutes of January 14, 2019 as written made by Mr. Nason; second; Mr. Nardi – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention (Mr. Nason)

Motion to approve the Minutes of January 29, 2019 as written made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention (Mr. Richard)

Motion to approve the Minutes of February 13, 2019 as written made by Mr. Nason; second; Mr. Nardi – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention (Mr. Richard)

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received the monthly reports of the Police & Fire Chiefs and for CERT/EM for month ending January 2019. In addition, the office received the monthly reports of the Police & Fire Chiefs for month ending February 2019. - **Noted**
2. The office received notice from Dr. Kustigian that the Quaboag Regional School Committee has confirmed the appointment of Sheri Sumpter as the new Director of Finance and Operations effective January 31st. - **Noted**
3. The office has received a request from the Board of Assessors requesting that Board of Selectmen consider expanding the policy as outlined in the town's general bylaw, Article X, §15 to include real estate, personal motor vehicle excise sewer, ambulance fees, etc. – **Noted. The Board will take under consideration.**
4. CMRPC has given notice that traffic counts will be conducted on weekdays at between April and November at various locations throughout town. - **Noted**
5. Historical Commission Chair, Sylvia Buck provided a written accounting of the travels of Henry Knox's retrieval of cannons from Ft. Ticonderoga, NY to Boston which rescued the besieged City of Boston. She also provided information regarding an upcoming meeting which will be held on Wednesday, March 20th from 10 AM to 12 Noon at the John Olver Transit Center in Greenfield. The topic of discussion will be "**Adaptive Reuse of Historic Buildings**". More information can be obtained by contacting the Selectmen's Office. – **Noted**
6. The Rotary Club of the Brookfields will be hosting a pancake breakfast fundraiser at the Senior Center on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The cost is \$8.00 per adult and \$5.00 for kids 10 and under. - **Noted**
7. The Warren and West Warren Water Districts have partnered with Lowe's Home Improvement Center for Fix-A-Leak Week. This will run from March 18th through the 24th and water district residents are eligible to receive a 25% discount on plumbing supplies to fix a leak, replacement showerheads, faucets or toilets. In order to receive the discount, you must bring a copy of your water bill. – **Noted. All residents are encouraged to utilize this program.**

8. The office received notice that pending final legislative approval, the town will receive \$288,125 in Chapter 90 local transportation aid funding for FY 2020. - **Noted**
9. The Town of Palmer will be hosting a Passenger Rail Study Charrette on Saturday, March 16th from 9 AM to 12 Noon. The charrette will be facilitated by Dr. John Mullin of the Center for Economic Development at the University of Mass in Amherst. This charrette will be focused on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as they relate to the development of a Passenger Rail Stop in Palmer. - **Noted**

NOTICE OF RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL – AMENDED

In December, the Board voted to exercise its Right of First Refusal on a property located on Little Rest Road. At that meeting a vote was taken for a 37+/- acre parcel of land for a proposed solar project. The application has since been amended thus reducing the acreage down to 19+/- . With no object, the following motion was made: Motion to amended the vote taken at the December meeting to exercise the town’s right of first refusal to reflect a reduction in acreage to +/- 19 acres made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

HOST COMMUNITY AGREEMENT – HEAL, INC.

After considerable back and forth as well as patience from Heal, Inc., the Board reviewed a draft Host Community Agreement (HCA) with recommendations by Town Counsel. This document has been a working document by and between the Town (through Counsel) and Heal, Inc.’s legal counsel. Mr. Nardi stated that he is in agreement with all of the provisions that are contained within, however would like to see a greater contribution in terms of money. The statute states that towns can receive up to 3% of sales. However, in this document, Heal, Inc. proposes a flat \$100,000.00. Mrs. Acerra reminded the Board that this fee is not meant to be a revenue stream, but a tool in order to offset actual impacts. Those impacts are unknown at this time. The facility is proposing to be a cultivation facility for both medical and adult recreational marijuana. There is no retail sales proposed at this time.

All board members were in agreement to request \$100,000.00 or 2 ½ %, whichever is greater. Mrs. Acerra will notify counsel of their decision in order to see if the parties are able to come to an agreement.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion to re-appoint Kerry Schmidt and Richard Czaporowski to the Zoning Board of Appeals as presented made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

Motion to re-appoint Richard Demetrius to Conservation Commission as presented made by Mr. Nason; second; Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

COMMON VICTUALLER’S LICENSE – RyeLanders

Motion to approve the application for a Common Victualler’s License for Rye-Landers made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

USE OF GYM – SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The use of the gym at the MOB was the topic of discussion again this evening. With the spring weather fast approaching, youth sports teams are requesting to use the gym for practice until the weather is conducive for outdoor practice. Security issues were an ongoing issue last year. Recently, the board had voted to discontinue use of the gym for the time being. The Board is anticipating adding a new custodial position at the ATM in May. This person would be able to schedule their time in a manner that would allow a final walk-thru of the building. Mr. Nardi stated that the teams could use the schools. Both Mr. Richard and Mr. Nason have been advocates of using town buildings, however realize that there are security concerns. This matter will be discussed again however at this point the following motion was made: Motion to place a moratorium on the use of the gym until further notice made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign the warrants and invoices as attached made by Mr. Nason; second; Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

The office will work on getting the broken glass repaired at the Police Station. In addition, the door casing as well as the handicap entrance needs to be address. Concerns about egress was discussed.

Mr. Richard extended his thanks to members of the Fire Department EMS during his recent medical scare. He thanked Lt. Paul "PJ" Russell, FF/EMT, Jake Thompson and First Responder, Jim Gagner for their quick action that without it could have turned out to be a far different result. Chief Lavoie echoed Marc's praise towards his fine staff.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mr. Nickerson addressed the Board this evening regarding a numbers of issues. This was done however after first welcoming Marc back to the table.

1. Expressed concern over the portion of road after the bank on Old W. Brookfield Road to the Lucy Stone Bridge. – Office to contact Highway to patch the holes.
2. Concerns over vehicles exiting Old W. Brookfield Road onto Main Street. Since the downtown project, cars need to pull out almost into the travel lane in order to watch for traffic. He stated that it is an accident waiting to happen. – At this point, there isn't a lot that the town could do to rectify the situation. This design was done by engineers and was a MassDOT project.
3. Stop sign on Old W. Brookfield Road (merging onto Quaboag). This was put in place during the reconstruction of Quaboag Street. This is problematic and a local decision. The office has discussed this with PVPC and the engineers as well as Highway. Mrs. Acerra will contact Mr. Boudreau to have the sign removed.

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 19, 2019 – 7 PM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

John Nason, III, Clerk

