

HARDWICK SELECTBOARD MEETING

**307 Main Street
Gilbertville, MA 01031
December 11, 2023**

Attendees: Eric Vollheim (EV), Chair; Kelly Kemp (KK), Vice Chair; H. Rob Ruggles (HRR), Clerk; Nicole Parker (NP), Town Administrator; Kat Riley (KR), Manager of Whistle Stop Restaurant; Bill Zinni (BZ), Conservation Commission Chair.

Public Meeting #1 – Hazard Mitigation Plan Development

- EV introduced Jamie Caplan of Caplan Associates hired by MEMA to assist with the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan which is done approximately every 5 years to identify hazards and strategies on how to mitigate them.
- The presentation by Jamie Caplan is available for viewing on the Town's website under *Important Notices*.

EV CALLED THE SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:45 P.M.

Visitors Comments

Kat Riley noted the efforts made by the Whistle Stop to bring a train to town and create more jobs has been hampered by the Building Department. EV requested a letter be written by KR in order to have it on record and begin a paper trail. KK commended KR for stepping up.

Letter of Support for Open Space Recreation Plan

NP mentioned she needed the Selectboard to vote authorizing NP to send a letter of support pertaining to the Open Space Recreation Plan.

Motion

KK made a motion to have NP put together a letter in support of the 2003 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

East Quabbin Land Trust: Conservation Restriction on Ruggles Street

Bill Zinni presented the signed and notarized copy of the conservation restriction for 34.5 acres on the Wheelwright side along the Ware River owned by the East Quabbin Land Trust. The Conservation Commission has worked in cooperation with the Land Trust. A discussion ensued pertaining to location.

Motion

HRR made a motion to accept the conservation restriction on the property per plan book 957 page 44, Registry of Deeds.

KK seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

Annual Renewals

Liquor License Renewals:

Motion

KK made a motion to renew the following liquor licenses for 2024:

- Hardwick Crossing Inc.
- Hardwick House of Pizza Inc.
- John Samek, Hardwick Vineyard and Winery LLC
- Hardwick Rod and Gun Club Inc.
- Eagle Hill School Foundation of Massachusetts, Inc.
- Hardwick Market & Package Store
- DCTF Corp. (Old Furnace General Store)
- Mimi's Coffeehouse of Hardwick
- South Barre Rod & Gun Club
- Lost Towns Brewing Company

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

OLD BUSINESS

Affordable Cars and Class II License

NP stated the police conducted a site visit and wrote a report. The Selectboard had a copy of the report. Discussion ensued regarding the licensing and whether there should be a renewal.

Mr. Jim St. Laurent made an appeal to speak to the Selectboard regarding non-renewal Class II used car sales and repair license owned by Brian Gillespie. The author of one of the handwritten documents that was part of the package which was introduced at the previous Selectboard was present. Ms. Sue Jameson had purchased a car for her granddaughter from Affordable Cars and went on to explain the downfall of Affordable Cars. EV thanked her for appearing at the meeting and explained what the Selectboard could do.

Motion

KK made a motion not to renew Daniel Hersey, Brian Gillespie, Edward McGrew, Ashley Kulig, owners d/b/a Affordable Cars for 2024.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

Motion

KK made a motion to renew the following:

Motor Vehicle Junk License Class III for -

- Leo Tamkus d/b/a L & S Used Auto Parts
- Leo J. Ostiguy, Jr. d/b/a L.J. Ostiguy Repair

Used Car Dealer's License Class II to Buy and Sell Second-Hand Motor Vehicles for –

- Gary Gagne d/b/a Gagne's Garage
- James M. Regin, Regin's Repair
- Charles E. Lemaitre & Howard A. Lane d/b/a L & L Associates
- George A. Reilly d/b/a Motor Specialties Company

Motor Vehicle Junk License Class III for -

- Charles E. Lemaitre & Howard A. Lane d/b/a L & L Associates

EV seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

Abatement

NP stated the house at 440, 442, 444, 446 Main Street, Gilbertville has been sold.

Motion

KK made a motion to abate 440, 442, 444, 446 Main Street, Gilbertville in the amount of \$771.76.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

Other New Business

NP stated a prospective new employee for the Highway Department can start tomorrow and they would like the Selectboard to approve the recommendation of Leo Jillson.

Motion

KK made a motion to have the Highway Department hire Leo Jillson starting at \$19.40/hr. When he gets his hydraulics license at his own expense it will go up to \$20.40/hr with a start date of tomorrow, 12/12/23.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

Paige Memorial Library Vacancy

EV stated as Chair there was a meeting of the Trustees who received a letter from Jenna Garvey officially informing them there was an open seat on the Board. The Trustees received a letter from Stacy Hill asking to be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board until the next Town election where an official vote will fill the seat. The Board of Trustees is asking to conduct a joint appointment with the Selectboard at their earliest convenience so Ms. Hill can serve as an interim trustee.

The vacancy will be posted on the website to see if anyone else is interested per the Clerk's recommendation.

Matrix

NP noted the need to provide service to Spring Hill Road because Comcast isn't out there so there's no cable. NP is expecting additional information and will share that at the January Selectboard meeting. A discussion ensued.

Meeting Minutes Approval:

- November 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes as amended (EV requested minutes be amended to specify the generator was received as a gift from Eagle Hill School.)
- September 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion

KK made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 27, 2023 with the addition of the comment that EV made to the Selectboard Roundtable section.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

KK made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 26, 2022.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (2:1:0) E. Vollheim abstained.

Other Old Business

- Discussion regarding Fire Chief replacement due to retirement
 - EV stated the Selectboard will need to formally notify the State Fire Marshal. EV would like to highly recommend the Selectboard appoint Joshua Pease as an interim Fire Chief and notify the State Fire Marshal. Fire Chief Walker spoke favorably of Josh and noted Josh has completed the necessary classes and steps. A discussion ensued regarding compensation. It was decided further discussions would take place at the next meeting on January 8, 2024.

Motion

HRR made a motion to appoint Josh Pease as Interim Fire Chief.

KK seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

- EV noted there needs to be a policy regarding operation of town vehicles on private time. Selectboard will have further discussion at the January Selectboard meeting.

Town Administrator Report

- Discussion regarding new drainage work that needs to be done. NP wants Marty (Highway Dept.) to agree with the kind of drainage being proposed.
- EVIP stations have been installed and are waiting to be activated.
- NP distributed documents for signatures including Green Community Agreement, item to the Assessors from the Selectboard to instruct them to collect outstanding FY23/24 Hardwick water

and sewer bills to the real estate bills, warrants for HRR to sign when he was chair of the Selectboard.

- PEER review RFP's have been sent to 4 prospects. Due by 10:00 Wednesday, December 20, 2023. NP will present bids to the Board at the January meeting.
- NP reiterated there have been emails, cards etc. received expressing thanks for the poinsettias.

Fire Chief Ray Walker requested a letter of thanks be mailed to Frank Hanson, who is retiring, for his service in the Hardwick Fire Department.

Selectboard Round Table Discussion

EV stated the roof system at the Townhouse is being repaired. Additional repairs were needed. EV gave the go ahead to repair not to exceed \$2,000.

Adjournment

Motion

HRR made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

KK seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.