

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**7:00pm, June 2, 2021**  
**Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket**

**Attendees**

**Select Board (SB):** William Elovirta (BE), *Chair*; Chris Swindlehurst (CS), *Vice Chair*; Michael Lavery (ML), *Clerk*

**Staff:** William Caldwell (BC), *Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert (BG), *Administrative Assistant*

**Others:** David Stuart, CBRSD School Committee – Hinsdale Representative; Bob Gross, MLP Manager

**1. Call to order**

BE called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He indicated that the SB was recording the meeting.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

BE led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Broadband Update and Select Board to discuss and possibly vote on policies and decisions relating to the Broadband Project**

MLP Manager Bob Gross provided an update and discussed the following:

- Drops are well underway and those connected are very happy with the service. Per Whip City Fiber's recommendation, the Broadband Ad Hoc Group had arranged for Raymaakers to prepare the Make-Ready for underground drops. Bob is following up with Raymaakers on a shared driveway on Family Court. Although Raymaakers has been responsive, there remains several items on the punch list.
- The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will seek Raymaakers' recommendation to address anticipated ground water at the vault located at the hut. Raymaakers remedied a similar problem in a Becket Woods vault by purchasing pedestals to allow splices and other connections to be above ground.
- Raymaakers' fees on several shared driveways on Frederick Court was significantly more than if Tri-Wire had performed the work. Raymaakers' cost vs. the cost if the town had used Tri-Wire for five drops on Family Court was between \$9,000.00 and \$10,000.00 higher. In fairness to the homeowners, the SB agreed with the Broadband Ad Hoc Group's recommendation to charge the homeowner(s) as if Tri-Wire was contracted to perform the work and the town will absorb the difference.
- Kent Lew assisted with underground work at three premises when Tri-Wire was reluctant to use existing conduit. Kent investigated the situation, and when possible, he ran the fiber through the conduit. Dan Parnell of the Broadband Ad Hoc Group had assisted Kent. Running the wire through an existing conduit is more cost effective than trenching.
- The SB was amenable to the Broadband Ad Hoc Group's recommendation to pay Kent Lew to pull fiber through the conduit.
- Bob discussed Eversource's policy that will not permit them to trim trees on property not officially recognized as a road. He anticipates that after the Broadband Ad Hoc Group discusses this matter, Bob will present a policy regarding homeowners' responsibility to pay for tree-trimming.

- Bob will discuss with the Broadband Ad Hoc Group ML's request to create a "heat" map that shows sign-ups, turns-ons, and fiber pulls. Bob offered that he can send Sertex's map (updated weekly) showing where it has run the network.
- FSAs 2, 1 and 5 are currently being worked on. The FSA 2 network has been completed.

**4. Approval of the May 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

CS moved to approve the May 19, 2021 minutes, ML 2<sup>nd</sup>: unanimous.

**5. Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).**

None.

**6. SB to Review and consider voting on appointments effective July 1, 2021:**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>End</u></b>
Kristopher Massini	Agricultural Commission	June 30, 2021
Neil Toomey	Agricultural Commission	June 30, 2021
Geri Walter	Board of Assessors	June 30, 2024
Beverly Gilbert	Board of Assessors	June 30, 2024
David Johnson	Conservation Commission	June 30, 2024
Meredyth Babcock	Conservation Commission	June 30, 2024
Henry Scarpo	Conservation Commission	June 30, 2024
Katherine Hoak	Energy Committee	June 30, 2024
Garth Klimchuk	Energy Committee	June 30, 2024
Susan Purser	Alternate Member of the Energy Committee	June 30, 2022
Steve Rosenthal	Harbor Master	June 30, 2022
Sandra Jarvis	Historical Commission	June 30, 2024
Gail Kusek	Historical Commission	June 30, 2024
John Garvey	Historical Commission	June 30, 2024
Victoria Bleier	Zoning Board of Appeals	June 30, 2024
Alvin Blake	Zoning Board of Appeals Associate Member	June 30, 2022
William Girard	Zoning Enforcement Officer	June 30, 2024

BE asked if any of the SB members wished to discuss any of the above captioned appointment listings. ML requested discussion on the Zoning Enforcement Officer's appointment and BE indicated he wishes to discuss Meredyth Babcock's (Conservation Commission) appointment

CS moved to reappoint Meredyth Babcock to the Conservation Commission through June 30, 2024, ML 2<sup>nd</sup>: Motion carried with BE opposed.

The SB tabled voting on William Girard's appointment and will invite him to attend the June 16, 2021 meeting.

CS moved to appoint the above listed appointments, not including William Girard (Zoning Enforcement Officer) and Meredyth Babcock (Conservation Commission). ML seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 7. SB to vote on the Town Administrator's recommendation to reappoint William Girard Inspector of Buildings/Trench Inspector effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024**

CS moved to approve the Town Administrator's recommendation to reappoint William Girard Inspector of Buildings/Trench Inspector effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. BE 2<sup>nd</sup>: Motion carried with ML opposed.

- 8. SB to vote on the Tax Collector's recommendation to reappoint David Shorey Deputy Tax Collector and Nina Weiler Assistant Tax Collector effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022**

ML moved to approve the Tax Collector's recommendation to reappoint David Shorey Deputy Tax Collector and Nina Weiler Assistant Tax Collector effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. CS 2<sup>nd</sup>: unanimous.

- 9. SB to vote on the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Designee appointment effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022**

ML moved to appoint William Elovirta Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Designee, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. CS 2<sup>nd</sup>: Motion carried with BE recusing himself.

- 10. Select Board to review Departmental Reports**

♦ tba

The SB reviewed the Highway Department's May 2021 Report.

- 11. Town Administrator's Report**

Below is an update of several items that BC has been working on:

- Complete Streets – Tier 2 - prioritization plan
- Pavement management
- ADA Grant: working on report
- Lease with Camp Greylock
- Benton Hill – Preliminary plans draft complete to DER
- GrowBoys – Community Outreach – can they meet in the Town Hall on June 18<sup>th</sup>? Because the Town Hall reopening plan does not allow outside groups use of meeting rooms until July 6<sup>th</sup>, the SB suggested offering use of the Pavilion adjacent to the Town Hall.
- American Recovery Plan Act – BC recommends allocating \$512,924.00 toward the Broadband project. He will discuss this with the Finance Committee.

- 12. Select Board's Comments and Announcements**

BE reported on the progress of the Maple Street Park Pavilion. The digging started today, and next week the cement slab will be poured.

ML indicated that the Esau Trail is progressing.

Per ML's suggestion, the SB will present a certificate of commendation to the town's K9 Unit (Police Officer Hunt and K9 Kain) for participation in the search and capture of a fugitive on May 26, 2021.

CS followed up on his suggestion to install a swap area at the Transfer Station. BC advised that a potential grant to purchase a storage container evaporated due to COVID-19. BE remarked that he thinks a dedicated individual would be essential to manage this function so that it does not become a dumping area for undesirable discards, nor turned into a place monopolized by a few individuals. CS will investigate how Stockbridge runs its swap shop.

**13. Any other business to come before the Board**

Following discussion with CBRSD School Committee Hinsdale Representative David Stuart, ML moved to recognize the CBRSD School Committee Member position as a designated Special Municipal Employee under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A, BE seconded: Motion carried with CS recusing himself due that David Stewart is a personal friend of his.

The SB reviewed a survey BC provided re: other municipalities' actions pertaining to Juneteenth. The SB evaluated options relating to the newly adopted state holiday Juneteenth (June 19<sup>th</sup>). Juneteenth, aka Emancipation Day, commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. ML moved to include Juneteenth, a state holiday as a paid holiday, and when Juneteenth falls on Saturday, town offices will be closed on Friday, CS seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The SB agreed with BC's recommendation that the Transfer Station will continue to operate when Juneteenth falls on Saturday.

**14. Correspondence:**

- ◆ **Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District Communication: Annual District Meeting Warrant, SFRMD Projected Operating Budget for FY2022, Proxies**  
The SB took no action on the Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District proxies.

**15. Select Board to review and sign payable warrants.**

The Select Board reviewed and signed payable warrants.

**16. Select Board to adjourn the Meeting**

ML moved to adjourn, CS 2<sup>nd</sup>: unanimous. BE adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant

Signed by:

 / June 16, 2021  
William H. Elovirta, Chairperson Date Approved

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

- 📄 Agenda Item 4: 2021.05.19 Select Board Minutes
- 📄 Agenda Item 10: Highway Department's Report
- 📄 Agenda Item 11: 2021.05.19 Town Administrator's Report, 2021, Grow Boys request to use facility
- 📄 Agenda Item 13: 2021.06.02 e-mail School Committee's request
- 📄 Agenda Item 14. Above captioned Correspondence