

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, July 19, 2023
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

Select Board (SB): William Elovirta (BE), *Chair*; Chris Swindlehurst (CS), *Vice-Chair*; Jeff Piemont (JP), *Clerk*

Staff: Katherine A. Warden (KW), Town Administrator; Beverly Gilbert (BG), Administrative Assistant;

Remote: Robin Mathiesen, Town Clerk

Dreamaway Lodge Restaurant Inc. Remote: Andy McDowell, and Scott Levy

1. The Chairperson will call the Select Board meeting to order.

BE called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

BE led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the 7/5/2023 and 7/13/2023 Meeting Minutes

CS moved to approve the 7/5/2023 and 7/13/2023 minutes, JP 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

4. The Dreamaway Lodge Restaurant LLC Licenses:

- **SB to vote to approve Transfer of Six Day (Monday through Saturday) and Sunday Entertainment Licenses from Dream Away Inc. d/b/a Dream Away Lodge to The Dream Away Lodge Restaurant LLC effective through December 31, 2023**
- **SB vote to issue a Common Victuallers License effective July 19, 2023 through December 31, 2023**

JP's motion included:

- 1) to approve the Transfer of the Six Day (Monday through Saturday) and Sunday Entertainment Licenses from Dream Away Inc., d/b/a Dream Away Lodge to The Dream Away Lodge Restaurant LLC effective through December 31, 2023
- 2) to issue a Common Victuallers License to The Dreamaway Lodge Restaurant LLC.

CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

5. Select Board to review and vote on One-Day Wine & Beer Permit Application Wandering Star Brewery, Chris Post, July 29th, Fire Station Pavilion

CS moved to issue a One Day Wine & Beer Permit Application to Wandering Star Brewery (Chris Post) for the Fire Department's fundraising event at the Fire Station Pavilion on July 29th, 2023, JP 2nd: Motion carried unanimously. CS stated that although he is a Firefighter, he has no personal financial interest in this event.

6. Select Board to review Departmental Reports

- **Police Department Statistics through July 17, 2023**
 - **Animal Control – May and June 2023**

- **Highway Superintendent – June 2023**
- **Others tba**

In addition to the above captioned, the SB reviewed the Ambulance Department's June 2023 report. JP inquired about some of the Police Department's line items which were missing a portion of the description (cut-off). KW will ask the Police Chief if it is possible to reformat the Police Department's reports so that all words on the line items appear.

7. Town Administrator's Report

- KW Met with MEMA and filed a preliminary storm damage report (\$1,000,000). This includes 500 collective personnel hours: Town Administrator, and the Fire, Highway and Police Departments; and estimated repair costs: \$2,000 beach, \$20,000 Leonhardt Road, \$880,000 Benton Hill Road. KW stated although the Commonwealth will likely not be eligible for FEMA for the recent storm, it is hoped and anticipated that the Governor of the Commonwealth will submit a disaster aid bill to the Legislature.
- Werden Rd bridge project started last week
- McNerney Rd project started today
- Awaiting update from KP Law about Esau's Heel Trail
- Issue with porta potty at the North Becket Park. Due to a complaint from the neighbor, KW discussed the potential to relocate the porta potty. The SB advised that for various factors (concrete pad cost \$700, location of the brook, location of the school's septic system, other areas not drivable), it would not be feasible to relocate the porta potty. KW will contact White Wolf to convey the importance to regularly service the porta potty, and to ask White Wolf if they can install a charcoal filter. BE suggested the town may consider creating a barrier to hide the rear visibility of the porta potty if the problem persists.
- Zoom Meeting with the Otis TA and JB Consulting about working with Becket to determine the next steps to consider a shared Ambulance Squad.
- Paul Mark and Smitty Pignatelli will be at an open legislative chat in Washington next Tuesday 10:30-12:00. Washington invites Becket to attend.

8. Select Board's Comments and Announcements

JP initiated discussion about recent issues at the Transfer Station.

BE did not see construction ahead/road closure signs on Route 8 for the McNerney Road Construction Project. Tonight KW will contact NE Paving to address this. KW advised that MassDOT relocated their digital signs (McNerney Road Construction) on Route 8 to areas up North due to storm related road closures. There is one MassDOT sign remaining on Route 20 (Werden Road construction).

The SB agreed with CS's suggestion to add to the scope of the McNerney Road Project by extending roadwork, with at least a top coat, from the intersection of McNerney and Brooker Hill Roads to the Washington Town Line. KW will research the appropriate avenues to accomplish this.

9. Any other business to come before the Board

The SB reviewed and approved the ad to recruit members for the Bylaw Review Committee. BG will send the SB the portion of the town's bylaw listing the charge of the Bylaw Review Committee.

BE indicated that a resident inquired about a 45 day public comment period for Eversource roadside cutting. Based on when he served as Highway Superintendent, it is his understanding Eversource does not have a 45 day public comment period for tree cutting related to maintaining electrical lines. KW reported that she reached out to Michael Stranieri, Arborist for Eversource Energy. Mr. Stranieri is familiar with this issue and he explained that Eversource does not have a 45 day public comment period. He indicated that Eversource provides the town with a map and vegetation management plan, and sends its contractors to every house to obtain written permission to sign off on what they do want and what they do not want done. However, permission is not required if the vegetation falls within the right of way. KW indicated that the arborist conveyed the resident is welcome to contact him.

- Tba
- None

The SB reviewed and signed the payable warrants.

JP moved to adjourn the meeting, CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously. At 7:57pm, BE adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

William H. Elovirta, Chair / August 2, 2023
Date Approved

- Agenda
- Town Administrator's Report
- July 5 and 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Bylaw Review Committee Member recruitment ad
- Departmental reports listed agenda item 8