**Town of Petersham Massachusetts**

**SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting-Town Hall Lower Level**

**1 South Main Street**

**Monday November 17, 2014 7:00PM**

**Present**: Nancy Allen, Rick Marsh, Peter George **Absent:** None.

Steven C. Boudreau-Administrative Coordinator, **Others present**: Roy Nilson, Eric Mandel-AFC, Christine Mandel, Jared Robinson-Athol Daily News, Tom Cahill, Henry Woolsey, Tim Graves, Ross France-AFC, Ann Townsend, Ellen Anderson, Chip Bull-Broadband Committee, Melissa LeVangie-Tree Warden, Bob Clark-Conservation Commission, Kevin Flynn-MRPC, Lynda Mapes, John Blum-Broadband Committee, Deb Bachrach, Shawn Mahoney-DCR Outreach Forestry Program, Charles Crowley, Thomas Gurganus-Broadband Committee, Josh Cayea, Tamara Castagnaro, Shawn Legare-Broadband Committee.

1. **Call to order**

Chairman Peter George called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. He announced the meeting was being

recorded.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

**November 3, 2014 Regular Session:** No Selectboard action taken. The approval of minutes for November 3, 2014 was deferred until next meeting at the request of the Chairman George. **November 10, 2014 Regular Session**: No Selectboard action taken .The approval of minutes for November 10, 2014 was deferred until next meeting at the request of the Chairman George. All Selectboard members agreed to the deferral of both sets of minutes.

1. **Meetings-**

**7:05PM Meeting with Melissa LeVangie RE: Wood Policy Wood Bank Proposal Comments for Town Counsel Follow Up**

Tree Warden Melissa LeVangie met with the Selectboard to review the comments made by Town Counsel Doneski on the Wood Use Policy and Wood Bank. She reviewed aloud the wood policy draft 2 as revised with comments received from all sources. Shawn Mahoney of Mass DCR from the Forestry Outreach Program was present and added support to the wood bank concept and stated that there may be some monetary support for the activity from Mass DCR. Bob Clark from the Conservation Commission was present and added his support for the wood use policy and wood bank concept. Tree Warden Melissa LeVangie stated there was still more work needed to be done on the wood use policy and the wood bank concept to refine it with final approval pending with the Selectboard at a future date.

On a motion made by Nancy Allen it was voted unanimously to accept the revised wood use draft policy 2. On a motion made by Nancy Allen it was voted unanimously to accept the revised wood bank concept.

**7:15PM Meeting with Kevin Flynn MRPC Planner CDBG Options for Town**

The Selectboard met with Kevin Flynn of Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) to discuss the FY2015 Community Development Block Grant Program options for the town. It was reported by AC Boudreau that a recent email inquiry made to the Athol Community Development Department regarding a CDBG housing rehabilitation program for Petersham homeowners revealed that there was no current program in place and available for Petersham homeowners. Kevin Flynn stated there were some programs available with CDBG funding that include Housing, Planning, Architectural Barrier Removal, Public Social Services and Infrastructure. He stated when asked that he recommends that the town should pursue a housing rehabilitation program either individually or with another nearby towns. He asked that all persons interested in a housing rehabilitation program should contact the Petersham Selectboard Office to register their interest. The MRPC fee for preparation of a CDBG application will be $3k which could be reimbursed if a CDBG grant is funded. The Selectboard asked Kevin Flynn revisit the matter with the Selectboard again at their December 1, 2014 Selectboard meeting to finalize possible town involvement in the FY2015 CDBG Grant Cycle. On a motion made by Rick Marsh it was voted unanimously to approve and authorize the chairman to sign an authorizing official form and support Petersham participation in the FY2015 CDBG Grant cycle.

**7:30PM Meeting with Chip Bull Chairman & Broadband Committee Members RE: Update on Broadband Matters in Petersham**

Chip Bull, Thomas Gurganus, Shawn Legare and John Blum of the Broadband Committee met with the Selectboard to discuss the status of the broadband initiative and the so called last mile efforts in Petersham. Chip reported that a last mile proposal is being pushed by Mass Broadband Institute (MBI)/WiredWest and that requested the last 45 towns in central/western Massachusetts underserved with high speed broadband services sign up to partially fund last mile fiber broadband cabling efforts in the towns through a town by town bonding to take advantage of the $40 Million State Technology Bond Bill approved for FY2015 by the Massachusetts Legislature. Estimates to wire the last mile broadband fiber to the all households in Petersham was noted to be $1.9 Million to $2.6 Million. Estimates for the Petersham share of the $40 Million Technology bond was noted to be $750K to $1.0 Million. Shawn Legare reviewed aloud the results of the recent town wide survey to Petersham households regarding interest in broadband services. Chip Bull noted that the Broadband Committee would be considering an alternate to the town by town bond proposal from MBI/WiredWest group with the possible development of a neighborhood network configuration paid for by the individual subscribers. The Petersham Broadband Committee will be meeting with a digital system design company in the near future to discuss what could be done to provide fiber broadband services to as many Petersham households as possible. Selectboard members were urged to attend the upcoming Petersham Broadband Committee meeting when scheduled. A Selectboard decision to declare its intention to opt in/out of the MBI/WiredWest bonding proposal is ***due by December 31, 2014***.The Selectboard asked the matter be placed on the 12/1/2014 Agenda for follow up discussion and possible response.

1. **New Business**

**RE: Signatures for Payroll and Bills Payable Warrants New Business**

The Selectboard members affixed their signatures to the bills payable as requested by the Town Accountant.

**RE: Discussion Business Certificates**

No Selectboard action was taken on Business Certificates as there were none presented for approval.

**RE: Discussion Vote to Close of Upper Town Hall December 15, 2014- March 31, 2015**

The Selectboard took no action. The matter will be placed on the next Selectboard Agenda for 12/1/2014.

**RE: Discussion Petersham Craft Fair Banner & Sign Request**

Rick Marsh motioned approval of the sign/banner request and it was voted unanimously to approve placement of signs on the common and a banner on the town hall advertising the December 6 & 7, 2014 Petersham Craft Fair.

**RE: Discussion /Approval Selectboard FY2014 Annual Report Draft**

The Selectboard took no action. The matter will be placed on the next Selectboard Agenda for 12/1/2014.

1. **Correspondence Review-**The Selectboard reviewed the following documents and correspondence

items in the central correspondence folder on the table:

Copy of Selectboard 11/17/2014 Agenda

Copy of email request from R. Wingertsman/D. Eaton Sign on Common/Banner on Town Hall Dec 6 & 7, 2014

Christmas Craft Fair

Copy of draft FY2014 Selectboard Annual Report

Copy of revised Wood Policy & Wood Bank draft 2 11/17/2014 & related Town Counsel Comments

Copy of Sample CDBG Activities form K. Flynn of MRPC

Copy of Broadband Committee Presentation Information to Selectboard for 11/17/2014

Copy of Sammis Woodworking proposal replacement finials and Weather Vane for Town Hall 11/12/2014

Copy of Grant Narrative Small Forest Outreach Initiative from Mass DCR received 11/17/2014

Copy of Notice to N. Allen from National Grid RE: Natural Gas Safety Information

Copy of letter from N. Cohen Mass IG Office RE: Soltas Energy Contract Default

Copy of letter from K&P RE: Return of Closed Matters

Copy of email from S. Mitus RE: Resume for ACO Position

Copy of letter to Athol BOS & Town Manager from Petersham Selectboard RE: Thanks for Loan of Aerial Ladder for Town Hall Emergency Repairs

Copy of MMA Notice to all Members RE: $325Million FY2015 Budget Shortfall

Copy of Town Bylaw RE: Article V Town Contracts RE: Sale of Town Owned Land with town meeting approval

Copy of MGL Chapter 40 Section 3 Towns power to hold, lease and convey property

Copy of MGL Chapter 40 Section 15A Transfer of land, procedure

Copy of letter to Selectboard 11/12/2014 RE: Bridge Inspection Report of Quaker Road/East Branch Swift River

Copy of letter to IEG/HLS RE: MOU Asbestos Abatement/Demolition Plans for Nichewaug Inn Project

Copy of Updated Notice to Employee from MIIA/Town of Petersham RE: Medical Treatment for Industrial Accidents

Copy of ZBA Notice to Abutters RE: ZBA Hearing on application for variance 11 Common Street

Copy of Notice from Mass DEP RE: Safe Water Drinking Act FY 2016 Assessment Billing Explanation

**Correspondence Action Item Follow Up:** Peter George read/summarized the contents of the Correspondence Folder aloud. No follow-up Selectboard action taken.

1. **Executive Session-Reason –** No Executive Session required**.**

1. **Next Meetings**

The next meetings of the Selectboard will be Monday December 1, 2014 7PM at Town Hall Lower Level and at the call of the Chairman as needed.

1. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Rick Marsh moved and it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Marsh, Clerk

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