

**Town of Petersham Massachusetts
SELECTBOARD MINUTES
Town Hall Upper Level
1 South Main Street
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022
5:30PM**

Selectboard Members Present in Person

Nancy Allen, Chair; Rebecca Legare, Vice Chair; Annette Ermini, Clerk

Others Present in Person

Roy Nilson

Meeting Called to Order

Chair Nancy Allen called the meeting to order at 5:35pm at Town Hall Main Floor.

New Business

Review and Sign Local Election Warrant for the March 7, 2022, Annual Town Election.

Nancy noted the Selectboard is responsible for the Warrant for the Annual Town Election, and the Town Clerk oversees the Ballot and the election. The Constable posts the Warrant for public notice.

The election will be held for the following offices: Selectboard, Assessors, Board of Health, Constable, Mahar Regional School Committee, Petersham Center School Committee, Planning Board, and Trustees of the Public Library.

Annette motioned to approve and sign the Warrant for the Annual Town Election of 2022. Becky seconded. All in favor, 3-0 votes.

Review Proposed Cannabis Farm Host Community Agreement Draft.

The Selectboard reviewed a latest draft of the Host Community Agreement (HCA) for Green Original Farm, LLC, a proposed cannabis farm to be located on Glasheen Farm. This draft had been reviewed by Town Counsel. The HCA states that 1% of gross sales automatically will be provided to the town and up to 2% of gross sales will be paid via invoicing by the town for actual needs, for a total of up to a 3% fee. The Selectboard decided to have the 1% fee begin in the first year of operation rather than wait until the second year.

Nancy noted the MA Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) guidelines recommend up to 3% for the total HCA fee. She added that per the CCC, the HCA is for a five-year period and Town Counsel noted the timeframe is being questioned by towns and cities because they may have larger businesses, including retail stores with community impacts.

Becky motioned to approve the draft Host Community Agreement with the Town of Petersham and Green Origin Farm with edits and send the document to the applicant. Annette seconded. All in favor, 3-0 votes.

Review Proposed Matrix-Town of Barre Fiber Optic Network Extension MOU Agreement Draft.

The Selectboard reviewed and discussed the proposed Memorandum of Agreement for Provision of Broadband Internet Service between the Town of Barre, the Town of Petersham, and Matrix Design Group, Inc. The document was prepared by Town Counsel with Petersham's MLP Broadband Committee approving of the request by Matrix.

Nancy explained the agreement for Matrix to deliver services for 23 households in the Spring Hill neighborhood of Barre, located just beyond the Dana Road area, would incur no bills, no cost, and no risk to the Town of Petersham. It will not have any impact on our lines, speed, or access should a power-outage occur in Barre. The Selectboard also noted that regional agreements are important, so that towns may assist neighboring towns. Examples of Petersham's current regional agreements include ambulance service, mutual aid, and regional building inspector. It also was noted that in the past, the Town of Barre approved extending cable service over the town line into Petersham for residents along the border at Route 122 and Glen Valley Road.

Becky motioned to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for Provision of Broadband Internet Service between the Town of Barre, the Town of Petersham, and Matrix Design Group, Inc. Annette seconded. All in favor, 3-0 votes.

Other

The Selectboard reviewed and discussed an email from resident Roy Nilson regarding a request for an Article on the June 2022 Town Meeting Warrant to raise and appropriate \$1000 to fund the 2022 music program for the Petersham Friday Market.

Nancy noted the request is an annual occurrence from Roy. She does not recommend town funding for private enterprises because it opens the door for other non-profit entities to make requests for town funds. Nancy explained the Petersham Brass Band has a long-standing Article with \$1,800 of funding each year, that is grandfathered in, as it has received funding for decades.

Roy stated that no other non-profit comes forward to request funds from the town. He also stated the Petersham Brass Band receives funds each year and that the Petersham Friday Market is similar to the Brass Band.

The Board took no action on this request.

Review and Approve Local Business Permit Applications, As Available

No business permit applications were available for review.

Correspondence

Nancy summarized aloud the following items in the Selectboard correspondence folder:

- Email from resident Roy Nilson requesting an Article be placed on the June Town Meeting Warrant for \$1000 to support the Petersham Friday Market and up to 20 live music performances.

- Email from MassDOT–ROW Bureau re next steps in the Glen Valley Rd bridge easement process.
- Article in the *Athol Daily News*, “Baker’s \$3B Bridge Program Includes Spans in Athol, Petersham,” announcing Athol’s Main Street and Petersham’s Glen Valley Road bridge projects.
- Letter from resident Mark Ellis in support of additional, mid-week hours at the Transfer Station.
- Letter to Board of Health from PCS parent Amanda Carey of Warwick expressing her opinion that mask mandates for students should not be extended past February 28, the DESE expiration date.
- Email from MRPC re new state statute designating some municipalities as MBTA Communities (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority) and an online session on Thursday, February 17.
- Email from MRPC re next online ARPA Listening Session will be held Thursday, February 17.
- Email exchange between Nancy Allen and resident Jane Lynch-Gilbert regarding ARPA funds and processing for town projects.
- Notification and information from Community Action Pioneer Valley Older Adult Home Modification Program, to assist eligible homeowners aged 62 and older with home safety modifications to reduce risk of falling, increase accessibility, and improve the functional abilities.
- Email from MA Compact Connector Grant Alert announcing the MA Office of Travel and Tourism’s Destination Development Capital Program is now open.
- Email from MA Division of Local Services (DLS) re ARPA Bill Municipal Earmarks.

Questions from the Public and Press

Roy Nilson asked: *Why is the town funding a parking lot owned by a non-profit with ARPA funds?*

Nancy corrected Mr. Nilson, noting that no town ARPA funds are being used for private properties and that the town-owned Davenport Property parking area & signage project is on the ARPA list of possible projects and is not a privately owned property. It has been owned by the town since going into tax default in the 1980s, is open to the public, and the Town of Athol owns the other half of the property within their borders.

Roy Nilson also asked: *Why hasn’t the Selectboard notified disadvantaged families, small businesses, and nonprofits with ARPA funds to alleviate Covid-19?*

Nancy replied that the Selectboard has explained numerous times that it is working with the ARPA funds focused on town projects, on an ongoing basis, and an evolving process.

Review of Meeting Minutes, As Available

Minutes were not available for review at this time.

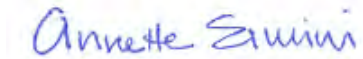
Next Meeting

The next Selectboard meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 5:30PM, and at the call of the Chair as needed.

Adjourn

Becky motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:17pm. Annette seconded. Approved with 3-0 votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Annette Ermini

Petersham Selectboard Clerk