

**Town of Petersham Massachusetts
SELECTBOARD MINUTES
Town Hall Upper Level
1 South Main Street
and Via Remote
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022
5:30PM**

Selectboard Members

Nancy Allen, Chair; Annette Ermini, Clerk; Rebecca Legare, Vice Chair (present until 6:45pm, departing due to a family commitment)

Public Present

Roy Nilson

Meeting Called to Order

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

New Business

Review and Accept Resignations from the Cemetery Commission and Police Dept. Officer.

The Selectboard reviewed correspondence from the Cemetery Commission regarding resignations from Commission members Debra Bachrach, Lynn Shaw, and Sheila Youd.

Becky motioned to accept the notice of resignations with regrets from the Petersham Cemetery Commission of the above-named people, effective April 14, 2022, April 15, 2022, and May 1, 2022, respectively. Annette seconded. All in favor, 3-0 votes. The Selectboard noted all the ongoing work and accomplishments of the Cemetery Commission and expressed their grateful thanks for the work of the departing Commission members.

The Selectboard received correspondence from Police Chief Peter Buck and Part-time Officer Jason Lichtenberger regarding Jason's notice of resignation, effective May 1, 2022.

Annette motioned to accept the notice of resignation with regrets from Part-time Officer Jason Lichtenberger, effective May 1, 2022. Becky seconded. All in favor, 3-0 votes. Officer Lichtenberger served the town for 16 years under three different Police Chiefs. The Board expressed their sincere thanks for Jason's service to the community.

Review and Approve Appointments to the Cemetery Commission as Requested by the Commission.

The Selectboard reviewed correspondence from the Cemetery Commission with nominations for three new Commission members to replace the above-mentioned resigning members.

Becky motioned to appoint the following residents to the Cemetery Commission effective May 1, 2022—John Ewing, Linda Everett, and Pam Barnes Chevalier. Annette seconded. All in favor, 3-0 votes.

Review Process and Dates for a Community Roadside Clean-up Day(s).

The Selectboard reviewed correspondence from Annette Ermini and resident Daphne Slocombe regarding interest in a town-wide roadside clean-up. The Board was supportive and generally discussed ideas about how to proceed. Annette will follow up with Highway Superintendent, Greg Waid, to coordinate logistics, as well as publicize and arrange for trash bag pick-up locations. The clean-up will be a voluntary, self-directed effort with tentative dates of Sunday, May 22 through Saturday, May 28, 2022. It was noted that some residents had done roadside clean ups around town on recent Earth Day, the Board is grateful for their community efforts.

Review and Approve Request for Banner & Signs for Cultural Council Art Show To be Held on May 20–22.

The Selectboard reviewed a request for the Petersham Cultural Council to display a banner and signage promoting the Council's upcoming Art Show on May 20-22.

Becky motioned for the Selectboard's approval of hanging a banner and placing signage in the usual public locations for the Cultural Council's Art Show to be held May 20-22. Annette seconded. All in favor, 3-0 votes.

Review and Approve Local Business Permit Applications, as Available.

The Selectboard reviewed three local business permit applications for approval, as outlined below.

Becky motioned to renew the business permit of Laura Silva of 270 Tom Swamp Road, Psychotherapy, effective through April 26, 2025. Annette seconded. All in favor, 3-0 votes.

Becky motioned to renew the business permit of Petersham Lumber Company, William Edward Pajak, 15 Old East Street, Machine Shop effective through April 26, 2025. Annette seconded. All in favor, 3-0 votes.

Becky motioned to renew the business permit of The Lone Oak Press, 16 Oliver Street, Publisher/Printer of fine press books, effective through April 26, 2025. Annette seconded. All in favor, 3-0 votes.

Correspondence

Nancy and Annette each invoked the Rule of Necessity as abutters of the Nichewaug Inn and Academy and to hold a quorum for discussion. Becky also invoked the Rule of Necessity to hold a quorum for discussion of the Nichewaug Inn and Academy.

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

- ☒ Thank you letter from the Council on Aging to the Selectboard regarding first responders Sean and Becky Legare, and Chief Peter Buck, who responded to a fall after a COA yoga class.
- ☒ Copy of Capital Improvement Planning Committee Capital Project Request Form for FY 2023 regarding the Nichewaug Inn and Academy Building Removal/Demolition in the amount of \$721,000.
- ☒ Selectboard e-mail notice to Stamford Wrecking Company providing notification of postponement of demolition of the Nichewaug Inn and Academy Building.

- ☒ Letters from Police Chief Peter Buck and Part-time Officer Jason Lichtenberger announcing Jason's resignation effective May 1, 2022.
- ☒ Memo from the Cemetery Commission announcing the retirement of Lynn Shaw, Debra Bachrach, and Glenede Albertine from the Commission. The memo also nominated three residents to take their positions—John Ewing, Linda Everett, and Pam Barnes Chevalier.
- ☒ Resignation letters from Cemetery Commission members Debra Bachrach, Lynn Shaw, and Sheila Youd.
- ☒ Business license renewal applications from Laura Silva, M.A., Lic MHC, Petersham Lumber Co., and The Lone Oak Press.
- ☒ Email from Cultural Council requesting permission to hang a banner on the Town Hall for the May 20-22 Art Show.
- ☒ Email from Board of Health with notification of approval of well application for a building lot on Glen Valley Road.
- ☒ Email correspondence from Annette Ermini and Daphne Slocombe regarding trash pick-up along roadsides in Petersham.
- ☒ Notification from the Mass. Dept. of Revenue of Petersham's Free Cash Certification in the amount of \$138,669.
- ☒ Copy of signed Reserve Fund Transfer Request Form previously approved by Selectboard and AFC in the amount of \$925 for unexpected repairs to the Police Dept. cruiser.
- ☒ Animal Control Officer's Call Log Summary for March 2022.
- ☒ Email from Open Space and Recreation Committee regarding a working group of members of the Open Space and Recreation Committee and the Conservation Commission formed to update the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Their first meeting takes place on April 19.
- ☒ Email from Nancy Allen providing a 10-year summary review of Petersham's financial history for the Mahar Regional School District education budget. Of significant note, is the 10-year average—including FY 2023—yields just a 1.9% increase when compiled together.
- ☒ Email from WhiteWater, Inc. with the Public Water System Annual Statistical Report for the Petersham Town Hall.
- ☒ Email from Lucas McDiarmid, Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs Director for the Office of Sen. Anne Gobi stating the meeting with Sen. Comerford's team is postponed until May.
- ☒ Email from Sue Ellen Mowcomber with route map for the Equestrian Leg of the upcoming NEECA and Athol YMCA Triathlon on June 11, 2022. It was noted that NEECA is to work with the Police Chief on event details.

- ☒ Email from CMRPC notifying that the FDA granted a three-month shelf-life extension for the iHealth Covid-19 Test Kits purchased by regional towns including Petersham. Three months will be added to the expiration date printed on the town's kits. Becky explained that manufacturers will continue to monitor their tests for effectiveness and seek approval to update the expiration dates.
- ☒ Letter from MassDEP regarding the annual Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant Application. Grants are available for mattress recycling assistance, pay-as-you-throw program assistance, recycling and food waste collection carts, mercury collection sheds, regional small-scale initiatives, and the Recycling Dividends Program.
- ☒ Notice from town insurer Mass. Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) announcing annual additional participation credit. The credit is available July 1, the dividend is available April 14. Nancy noted that Petersham typically uses ours to go towards paying the new fiscal year invoice.
- ☒ Email from MIIA with general information regarding eligible use of ARPA funds.
- ☒ Notification from MIIA Risk Management with a virtual training program, “Introduction to Walking/Working Surfaces,” held on May 10.
- ☒ Information from Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC), regarding MassTrails Spring 2022 Grants with May 16 application deadline; notice will be shared to Conservation Commission and Open Space & Recreation Committee.
- ☒ Email from MRPC regarding draft amendments of the FY 2022-2026 Montachusett Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- ☒ Email from MRPC regarding the EPA’s Clean School Bus Program, which provides \$5 billion over the next five years to replace school buses with low- and zero-emission school buses.
- ☒ Email from MRPC regarding a pre-Application Webinar for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program.
- ☒ Email from U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration regarding an upcoming Innovation Exchange Webinar, “Unmanned Aerial Systems” on April 21.
- ☒ Email from Franklin Regional Transit Authority regarding a Virtual Public Listening Session concerning Human Service Transportation on May 16.
- ☒ Email from MassDEP regarding a virtual briefing on State Revolving Fund Federal Infrastructure Funding.
- ☒ Email from MA Office on Disability regarding Community Access Monitor (CAM) training on June 8 and 15.
- ☒ Email from Dept. of Local Services April 21, 2022 edition of *City & Town Newsletter*.

Questions from the Public and Press

No questions were asked at the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Review prior Meeting Minutes, as available.

Becky motioned to open discussion of minutes for the Selectboard meeting for Tuesday, April 12, 2022. Nancy seconded. Becky made some suggestions for edits. The Minutes were put on hold; Annette will amend and the Selectboard will review at the next meeting.

Other Business

Becky noted the Petersham Fire Dept. had to be at the Center School for 4.5 hours for a fire watch due to an annual fire alarm and sprinkler system test. She reported the test failed and a pipe or valve leaked in the fourth-grade classroom, causing the school to close-down the main valve, thereby disabling the sprinkler system. Because the system was down, the Fire Dept. had to be present during the morning for a fire watch. The school is handling the repairs.

Next Meeting

The next regular Selectboard meeting is Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 5:30pm, and at the call of the Chair, as needed.

Adjourn

Annette motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:52pm. Nancy seconded. Approved with 2-0 votes, due to Becky's departure at 6:45pm due to a prior personal commitment.

Respectfully submitted,



Annette Ermini
Petersham Selectboard Clerk