

Stockbridge Board of Selectmen -Draft

January 7, 2021 7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Info: 1 929 205 6099 **Meeting ID:** 826 2377 0066 **Passcode:** 998193

Present: Mark Pelletier, Lee Ann Isaacson, Jim Shands, Lori Scott, Joanne Mills, Dick and Julia Gelgauda

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00pm

Jim read the minutes of last meeting. Mark made a motion to accept with one correction. Jim seconded. Minutes were approved.

Road Commissioner Report: The meeting at Applied Animations to view land for purchase was rescheduled. **Action Item:** Dave and the SB will meet at the garage at 8:00am on 1/12.

Dave submitted a grant for new roadwork signs.

Road Access Permit Costs—Dave checked fees in Pittsfield (\$10) and Bethel (\$125). Lee Ann pointed out that Stockbridge fee is \$57 but is not being collected. Mark made a motion to start collecting the fee.

Lee Ann seconded **Action Item:** Road Access fees of \$57 will be collected from now on.

Public Communication: Joanne shared her concern over the article that was presented to the School Board for Stockbridge to be able to nominate and vote for their own board members. The article was rewritten and reviewed by lawyers, but the School Board wants to look at the legality of it. Joanne's observation is that the School Board does not want Stockbridge to select board members. She suggested this information be part of the presentation to the town. Joanne then shared her concern that the budget numbers did not reflect changes in students due to COVID-19. Joanne advised that some progress has been made and reiterated the need for the town to have a voice in who represents them. She stated that ending the merger would be difficult but the work being done by the committee could delay or eliminate the need to separate.

The Selectboard discussed the letter and pictures from the Gelgaudas concerning a property in town that is posing an environmental and maintenance issue. The board agreed this is a zoning issue and the state should be notified of the environmental issue. The Gelgaudas were invited to add comments. Dick said all was in the letter and they thanked the board for addressing the issue. **Action Item:** Lee Ann will research complaint and write a letter as Zoning Administrator.

The Board moved on to the informational meeting timeline. Lori asked if the school information should be in the town report. Discussion ensued. The decision was made to leave the school information out of the town report. **Action Item:** Jim will contact Ethan Bowen and Jamie Kinnarney.

Other Business: Lori brought up the lawsuit against some VT towns and their clerks. The suit was brought by a Connecticut title insurance company over access to town offices during COVID-19. The Board is concerned about the lawsuit setting a precedent that out of state companies can override town officials. The Board agreed to write a letter protesting the lawsuit. **Action Items:** Lori will send the petition to Jim. Jim will write the letter.

Lori relayed her conversation with the town's lawyer regarding articles for the budget. **Action Item:** Jim will add explanation on articles to the Selectboard Report for the Town Report.

Lori asked for input from Dave on mowing to put in the budget. The Selectboard agreed the roadsides would be mowed twice.

Jim asked for an addition to the Road Commissioner's Report to describe the location of work that was done. **Action Item:** Dave will add the information.

Selectboard reviewed and signed orders.

Lori asked the Selectboard for a final review of the budget. She stated that the town has received a grant from the state to redo the Hazard Mitigation Plan. **Action Item:** Lori will investigate further.

Discussion over the process for nominations and the informational meeting ensued.

Jim made the motion to adjourn. Lee Ann seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.

Kelly McDermott-Burns, Asst. Town Clerk
