

Stockbridge Board of Selectmen -Draft

January 21, 2021 7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Info

+1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 818 1921 3145 Passcode: 108103

Present: Lee Ann Isaacson, Jim Shands, Mark Pelletier, Lori Scott, Kirk White, Tony Caparis, Joanne Mills

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Mark left the meeting.

Kirk White began with his monthly check in to keep the town apprised of any legislative issues and to take questions. He emphasized the need for better broadband in Stockbridge and is working on that goal. He stated he will keep the Selectboard informed of any possible funding that may come up for broadband improvement. He cited funding, federal regulation and the lack of technicians as reasons for the slow progress into more remote areas. Kirk said ECFibernet is the model for expanding broadband. He stated that wireless was still an issue with the lack of cell towers and that is being worked on. He is also researching possible resources for money for the towns. Kirk said he shares information on his facebook page, Kirk White - VT State Representative. He reiterated his desire to attend one Selectboard meeting each month.

On economic development Kirk noted that the state is trying to find money for those businesses that didn't qualify for Covid assistance because they weren't open for a full year. **Action Item:** Lee Ann will connect Kirk with the Planning Commission chair.

Lee Ann read the minutes from December 30th. Jim approved. Lee Ann seconded.

Jim read the minutes from January 7th meeting and moved to accept. Lee Ann seconded.

Lee Ann read the minutes for January 12th meeting. Jim motioned to accept. Lee Ann seconded.

Lori stated there are 12 open town positions. She reviewed the candidates up for re-election, open positions and consent of candidate forms. Lori said there will be a write-in option on the ballot. Lori has put a link on the town website for town position descriptions.

There is no Road Commissioner's report.

Lori reviewed the contents of the warning, the process for moving town meeting to Australian ballot, and the meeting/voting timeline. She stated that the cards went out to the town's people regarding the procurement of absentee ballots. She shared that the governor signed legislation to allow the Selectboard to mandate a ballot be mailed to every registered voter in town.

Lori asked the Selectboard if they would approve the mailing of the town ballot and school ballot to all registered voters. Jim made the motion that Lori would mail out the ballots. Lee Ann seconded.

Action Item: Lori will mail out the ballots.

Lori presented the final draft of the town meeting warning and shared the process for last year's unused budgeted funds to transfer into this year's budget without adding to this year's tax rate.

Lori voiced her concern that the auditors hadn't started their audit yet and it was getting close to the deadline for printing the town report. Tony said he would talk to the other auditors. Lori shared the timeline for the report getting to the printer and her concern that other towns may push Stockbridge further down the list, causing a later mailing.

Joanne asked for clarification on when an article needs to have a petition. **Action Item:** Lori will check the SOS website for the answer.

Joanne asked to verify that the numbers from the SU were not going in the report. Lori replied that originally, they weren't going to be available in time but now that she had them, they would go in the report. Joanne said they are not accurate. She was concerned that inaccurate numbers would appear in the book. She asked to be able to talk to Jamie to get his verification that they are not accurate. Joanne will talk to Jamie and asked that the Selectboard be included in any correspondence. If the numbers are inaccurate, the information will be taken off the town website.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Kelly McDermott-Burns, Asst. Town Clerk
