

**SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019  
MEETING MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM – 7 P.M.**

*Present were Chair Andrea Miles, Clerk Christopher Geraghty, member Sarah Etelman, member Bruce Forcier, and Town Administrator Michael J. Sullivan.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Miles called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Forcier motioned to approve the draft minutes of the April 2, 2019 meeting. Etelman seconded. Four voted in favor. Geraghty abstained because he was not yet a member of the board on April 2.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / OPEN FORUM**

Forcier noted the Council on Aging is hosting an event with soup and popovers to discuss the new senior center project. Geraghty thanked board members for welcoming him to the board, groups who held candidate events, and the town clerk and election staff for their hard work.

Sullivan said the town will hold a professional development day on April 26. Town hall and the DPW will be closed all day.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Forcier motioned to approve the consent agenda which consisted of a request for a One-Day Beer & Wine Licenses by David Capriati for April 25 and June 8, 2019, request for One-Day Beer & Wine Licenses by Mark Garner for May 18, 2019, and requests for One-Day Beer & Wine Licenses by Rachel Osborn for April 27, 28, 30, & May 9, 2019. Etelman seconded. All in favor.

**ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION**

Tree Committee Chair Ted Boulais asked the Selectboard to read the 2019 Arbor Day proclamation into the minutes, a requirement of the Tree City USA application. South Hadley has been a Tree City USA for more than 25 years. Boulais said there will be an Arbor Day celebration on April 26 at 9:30 a.m. and a lilac tree will be planted in honor of Bill Bacis.

Etelman read, “Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and whereas, the holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, lower our heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products, and whereas, trees in our town increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, now therefore I, Andrea Miles, Chair of the Selectboard of the Town of South Hadley, MA, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 26, 2019 as Arbor Day in the Town of South Hadley, MA, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and further, I urge all citizens to plant and care for trees to gladden the heart

and promote the well-being of this and future generations. Dated this 16th day of April the year 2019.”

#### **PUBLIC HEARING – THE BOATHOUSE**

Miles opened the public hearing on The Boathouse’s application for a seasonal alcohol license at 7:10 p.m. and closed it at 7:12 p.m. Forcier moved to accept the license application. Etelman seconded. All in favor.

#### **RESIGNATIONS**

Forcier motioned to accept the resignation of Donna Natale from the Council on Aging. Miles seconded. All in favor.

Forcier motioned to accept the resignation of Sue Brouillette from GroSouthHadley. He thanked her for all she did for Gro and continues to do for South Hadley. Etelman seconded. All in favor.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING – THE WHISKEY BARREL**

Miles opened the public hearing on the application to transfer Cozy Oak’s Restaurant All Alcohol License to The Whiskey Barrel at 7:15 p.m. Owner David Isakson, who also owns Ebenezers, said he saw the opportunity to purchase Cozy Oaks and is renovating it as a bar and grill with a light food menu. He is hoping to open in June. Miles closed the hearing at 7:16 p.m. Etelman motioned to accept the application to transfer Cozy Oak’s Restaurant All Alcohol License to The Whiskey Barrel. Forcier seconded. All in favor.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING – DURO WEST AFRICAN CUISINE**

Miles opened the public hearing on the application for a Restaurant Beer and Wine license by Duro West African Cuisine at 7:20 p.m. Miles closed the hearing at 7:24 p.m. Etelman motioned to accept the application. Forcier seconded. All in favor.

#### **MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

Judy Gooch Dobosh said most items are on task or completed. Among her updates she urged the Selectboard to review the Historical Commission, which has not met recently, and asked the board to revive the committee or reassign its tasks. She said there is much to be done in terms of committee improvements as whole - particularly boards and committees posting minutes regularly and communication among boards. Overall, she said, the master plan timeline is on track.

#### **RATE FEE CHANGES**

Sullivan said various town departments are reviewing their rates and fees, particularly the DPW, Building Department and the Selectboard. He said South Hadley wants to remain competitive with other communities. This type of review is not something the town plans on doing every other year.

Building Commissioner David Gardner said the current fee structure is difficult, so he set out to bring the department’s fee structure more in line with other communities. A proposed increase in the commercial and industrial fees is due to the additional time and inspections those categories require. On the residential side, the project size and scope will be the criteria for any fee differences. These increases will give contractors an even number across communities.

Sullivan said early indications of bringing equity through these rate increases would suggest it’s a revenue positive move. He added what drives building department permits is construction, and cited

the new Mount Holyoke College project as an example in which MHC was charged the same permit rate as a residential construction permit.

Sullivan suggested proposed small increases in some liquor license fees to bring them more in line with other communities. The highest would be a \$200 increase.

**ATM / STM WARRANT CLOSING**

Sullivan briefly reviewed all of the articles on the special and annual town meetings.

Etelman motioned to approve the annual town meeting warrant with possible amendments from legal counsel. Forcier seconded. All in favor. Sullivan noted town counsel will not change the intent of any articles, just potentially the language.

Forcier motioned to accept the special town meeting warrant with possible amendments from legal counsel. Etelman seconded. All in favor.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Sullivan highlighted a water quality forum to be held April 27 at 10 a.m. to which the public is invited.

For the full town administrator’s report, see the April 16 Selectboard packet.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION / ADJOURN**

Etelman motioned to enter into executive session under MGL Chapter 39 subsection 32B for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining with the police union and DPW. Forcier seconded. All in favor.

**Members voted affirmatively by roll call vote as follows:**

<b>Member Forcier</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Member Etelman</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Chair Miles</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Clerk Geraghty</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Miles said the board will not return to open session. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**  
**Kristin Maher**  
**Executive Assistant to Administration**