

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, AUG. 20, 2019
MEETING MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM – 7 P.M.**

Present were Chair Andrea Miles, Vice Chair Jeff Cyr, 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 minutes of July 9, 2019 and Aug. 14, 2019. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Etelman asked to pull out the second item on the consent agenda, which was a request for a multi-date beer & wine license for Susan Canedy on Sept.6, Oct., 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6.

Forcier motioned to approve the rest of the consent agenda, which was a one-day beer & wine license for Jacqueline Reardon on Sept. 14, 2019. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

Etelman asked if, related to the second item, the Gaylord Library was a town property. Canedy did not check off a box on the request which asks if the event is being held on town property. Sullivan said Gaylord Library is not considered town property. Etelman motioned to approve the request. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

RECYCLING AND REFUSE PROJECT

The town's contract with Republic Services expires in the spring of 2020. As a proactive measure, Sullivan said he convened a cross section of staff members who live in South Hadley or surrounding communities to discuss South Hadley's trash options. He will approach the Selectboard in September with ideas and suggestions. After this, the Selectboard can take public suggestions and questions. For any resident who wants to get a jump on suggestions or comments, email DPW Senior Clerk Kellie Lempke at klempke@southhadleyma.gov or Executive Assistant to Administration Kristin Maher at kmaher@southhadleyma.gov.

TRAFFIC SIGN AND CONTROL PROPOSAL/REPORT

Sullivan said he asked for a report to be generated by the police department about traffic areas of high concern. He noted it was not exhaustive research but specific to highly concerning areas. The report, included in the Aug. 20, 2019 Selectboard packet, pointed out the need for changing a three-way stop at North Main and West Summit streets to a four-way stop.

Sullivan also discussed Lithia Springs Road. He said the town feels it is clearly marked that there is no parking allowed on that street. Numerous citations have been given out to those not abiding by the signs.

Forcier moved the Selectboard allow a four-way stop at the intersection of North Main and West Summit streets enforceable upon installation. Etelman seconded. All in favor. Sullivan said MassDOT is OK with the stop, although they do not have jurisdiction over it. It is set to be installed by Sept. 1.

INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENTS

Sullivan said MGL requires the board take a vote to allow the town to be in municipal agreements, such as with the Pioneer Valley Bike Share, the Connecticut River Task Force or the City of Northampton to provide Sealer of Weights and Measures services. He said none of the agreements are new.

Forcier moved to accept, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 section 4A, South Hadley's commitments and responsibilities as to the inter-governmental agreements as listed above for FY 2020. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – NOV. 20, 2019

Forcier motioned to hold a Special Town Meeting on Nov. 20, 2019. Etelman seconded. All in favor. Sullivan said the primary driver of holding a special town meeting is the South Hadley Falls Redevelopment Plan which has recently been approved. The Special Town Meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the town hall auditorium.

MOBILITY DEVICE REGULATIONS

Sullivan said one concern other communities have had is not having restrictions or regulations in place regarding shared mobility devices – scooters, Segways, bikes, etc. South Hadley was recently approached by a group that wanted to drop scooters at Mount Holyoke College. Mount Holyoke was not interested. Scooters often get left on sidewalks and create hazards. In the draft regulations, Etelman noted a need to add “those” in a sentence in Section 2, Section C, Subsection 2 to read “... serve areas outside those already served by bikeshare.”

Forcier moved to establish the mobility device regulations as amended. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

LITHIA SPRINGS LOT 3 RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL

Forcier motioned to not exercise the Selectboard's right of first refusal as per the provisions of MGL Chapter 61A on the land in South Hadley known as Lot #3 Lithia Springs Road and waive the 120-day waiting period to exercise said right of first refusal. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

FIRE DISTRICT 2 PARKING REQUESTS

Fire District 2 requested three public parking spots in front of the fire station located near a fire hydrant be reserved for fire district activities. Sullivan said the Selectboard is the only town entity who has the right to manage such requests. He said the district had already installed a fire hydrant near the sidewalk and has been using the three public parking spots in front of the hydrant prior to its written request to the board.

Sullivan said residents have called and questioned why the district was selling its water to a pool business, questioned how a pool business vehicle can park in those three public spots requested

to be reserved specifically for fire district activities and fill its tank using the hydrant, and questioned the usability of the sidewalk by those of all abilities if a hose is stretched across it while a pool business fills its tank. Sullivan said the Selectboard has no governance over the district and to whom it sells its water.

Miles asked if there is a record of Fire District 2 asking the town to install the fire hydrant located in front of the three public parking spaces. Sullivan said his understanding is the town would need to be asked for such an installation, and there is no record of Fire District 2 requesting the installation of the hydrant. Miles asked if drivers who park in the public spaces in front of the hydrant have been ticketed. Sullivan said no.

Sullivan said the lines marking the town's three parking spaces near the fire station have mysteriously been removed.

Etelman said that hydrant has been located there for at least two years. Her concern is these spaces are being reserved only for Fire District 2 to sell water to a pool business.

Miles said the district is asking the board to retroactively allow the district to use three public parking spaces for fire district activities.

Cyr said when the Village Commons project was completed years ago, someone determined the required amount of parking spaces for the area based on the number of businesses, and that would have been the time to approach the town about accommodating specific fire department spaces.

Sullivan said he sent this issue to legal council for clarification on the town's options. Legal counsel is researching the issue. The Selectboard decided to table to item until legal counsel offers an opinion.

RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

Forcier motioned to accept the resignation of Simon Elliot from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

Forcier motioned to accept the resignation of Margaret Sullivan from Gro South Hadley. Etelman seconded. All in favor. Sullivan said Gro South Hadley is not an official Town of South Hadley board or committee as none of its members are appointed by the Selectboard. This letter of resignation is more of a courtesy.

Forcier motioned to appoint Ben Sabbs and Laura Friesner to the Recreation Commission with terms to end in 2023 and 2022 respectively. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

LEDGES SUMMER REPORT

IGM submitted a favorable report on the Ledges' season thus far. Management has suggested to Sullivan revenues are up significantly. Expenses are also up but by much less. Management is concerned if this trend continues they may need to look at cutting the season short or opening

later in the 2020 spring to ensure their budget balances and they remain true to their agreement to stick by their allotted budget.

Sullivan said he feels they should continue with their calendar and not end the season earlier. If the town did have to adjust its budget based on their positive revenue projections, he feels Town Meeting would be amenable to adding enough to make sure Ledges is open in the beginning of the next season. It would not be a taxation issue; it would be money coming from the additional revenue.

Forcier accepted the report as a record. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

DOG PARK UPDATE AND MOA

The Selectboard reviewed the draft memorandum of agreement between the town and the Friends of South Hadley Dog Park. Cyr expressed concern over a section describing possible snow removal: *“The Town will provide the following; limited snow removal (within five days of end of storm, only in paved parking and road to access), will assist with seasonal upkeep by way of debris removal and will support operations as municipal capacity will allow and as formally requested in writing to the Selectboard.”* He said he is not comfortable with the town using its own vehicles to not consistently but at times plow the park after town meeting agreed to no additional town funding. Sullivan said if school parking lots are not taken care of, the dog park will not be taken care of. More pressing issues would take precedent over the park. He called it a legitimate concern. Geraghty said it would be better if it was more clearly outlined when the town would sometimes be able to plow.

The Selectboard agreed to add a clause under the third paragraph, “The Town will provide the following” in which the Selectboard will review on March 30, 2020 the amount of town resources used related to limited snow removal following the first winter in which the dog park is open. Upon review, the Selectboard will determine if the town will continue to provide limited snow removal or cease the limited removal entirely.

Forcier moved to enter into the agreement with the Friends of South Hadley Dog Park as amended. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

Forcier moved to give the town administrator the authority to go forth with the construction grant application. Etelman seconded. All in favor. Sullivan said once the town receives it the Selectboard can then accept or deny it.

ST. THERESA’S AND COA AGREEMENT

Sullivan said this is a great space for what the town is attempting to do – run the senior center out of a local space. He said the parish pastor has been incredible to work with and officials have made every effort to try and accommodate whatever the town needs. Rent will be \$6,000 a month with utilities included. The senior center construction project is estimated to last 18 months. The rent will be funded from the Council on Aging budget, although the town did budget money into the construction cost for operations. Sullivan said the town would like to not have to touch that funding and put it toward the project itself.

Forcier motioned to allow the Selectboard to enter into the lease agreement between the Town of South Hadley and St. Theresa's Parish and the Diocese as presented. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

ADA REPORT

Sullivan said administration knew this report would be very difficult. There is some low hanging fruit the town should start to consider. An ADA Commission should be proposed at Town Meeting.

Etelman asked about steps taken for any new building being constructed right now being ADA compliant. Sullivan said the Center for Living and Working has been speaking to the senior center Owners Project Manager. CLW will also speak with the former OPMs on the Plains School and public library projects.

Cyr said he was surprised to see the amount of money needed to be in compliance. He was on the Plains School Building Committee and is pleased to hear CLW will talk to the Plains and library OPMs about getting those buildings up to ADA compliance.

Sullivan said it will be expensive to fix but it would not have been if it was taken care of during construction. He said Jim Mazik from CLW is going to work with the town on a priorities list.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S FY20 PBE

The Selectboard will vote on a final draft of the town administrator's performance-based evaluation at its Sept. 3 meeting.

TA REPORT

The Selectboard briefly highlighted the repointing of town hall, trash collection ideas, a September legal seminar for boards and committees, a town hall food drive, and tree issues outlined in the Town Administrator's Report. See the Aug. 20, 2019 packet for the full report.

ADJOURN

Forcier motioned to adjourn. Cyr seconded. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
Kristin Maher
Executive Assistant to Administration