

Montague SELECTBOARD MEETING
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
Monday, October 4, 2021

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz (Chair), Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord, Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Board of Health members Al Cummings (Chair) and Melanie Ames Zamojski, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, FRTA Representative Jeff Singleton, and Assistant Town Planner Suzanne LoManto.

VIMEO Meeting Link: <https://vimeo.com/623001008>

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken.

Approve Minutes

Selectboard Meeting September 22 and 27, 2021

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes for September 22 and 27, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Selectboard will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment

None

Liquor License Hearing, Element Brewing Company, LLC, 16 Bridge Street, Millers Falls
Request alteration of licensed premises that would give permanent approval to the 29' x 17' (493 sq. ft) outdoor patio area to the north-east of the building that was granted temporary approval during the COVID emergency. If approved, it would connect it to the approved 26'6" x 17' patio area, 945.2 total sq. feet, adding an additional 28 seats outside; tables and seats will be built from reclaimed materials. Current location is approximately 9,300 square feet (total building) with 1100 square feet as public area. One front entrance, one side emergency exit and one rear emergency exit

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the request by Element Brewing Company, LLC, 16 Bridge Street, Millers Falls to alter the licensed premises that would give permanent approval to the 29' x 17' (493 sq. ft) outdoor patio area to the north-east of the building that was granted temporary approval during the COVID emergency. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Personnel Board

Change hire date for Roy Dennis, DPW Mechanic to 10/5/21 (was 10/12/21)

Boutwell makes the motion to change the hire date for Roy Dennis, DPW Mechanic to 10/5/21 (was 10/12/21). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Board of Health Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:40 PM; roll call taken.

Montague Board of Health

Review of Montague COVID Case Counts and Trends

- Wasiuk reports the following: Active cases from September 26 through October 2, 2021 equals 16; and from September 19 through October 2, 2021 equals 22. Cumulative cases from March 1, 2020 through October 2, 2021 equals 405. The percentage of all individuals fully vaccinated as of September 30 in Franklin County is 63%. Cumulative percentage of all individuals in Franklin County with at least one dose administered is 71%. For the week ending October 2, of the cases all 6 were non-vaccinated. The age groups are as follows: 18-35 equals 3; 50-64 equals 1; and under 17 equals 2. In addition, from June 1 through September 13, there have been no COVID deaths.
- Zamojski reports the following: Current counts for the last two weeks in Franklin County (excluding Montague, Greenfield, and Sunderland) equals 39. Greenfield has 32 over the last two weeks. Current vaccinations for Montague (excluding Franklin County) as of September 28 equals 61% for the 12-15 age group, 52% for the 16-19, 50% for the 20-29, 63% for the 30-49; 71% for the 50-64; and 81% for the 65-74.

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- Singleton asks if it would be possible to be all on the same page so that the numbers are more consistent.

Review Notice of COVID-19 Emergency Order: Indoor Mask Requirements

- Wasiuk states that businesses were given flyers to post stating that masks were required indoors .
- Ellis states that anyone that has any questions about the mask mandate can obtain information from the website.

Discuss any other needed response to COVID situation

None

Zamojski makes the motion to adjourn the Board of Health. Seconded by Cummings, unanimously approved. Zamojski - Aye, Cummings - Aye

Suzanne LoManto, Assistant Town Planner

Execute \$20,000 MassHumanities "Expand Massachusetts Stories: Grant to RiverCulture

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the \$20,000 MassHumanities "Expand Massachusetts Stories: Grant to RiverCulture and authorize the Chair to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Use of Peskeompskut Park: Alyssa Corneau, TFHS/GFMS, Musical Performance, November 114, 2021, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

- *Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Peskeompskut Park as requested by Alyssa Corneau, TFHS/GFMS, Musical Performance, November 114, 2021, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- Boutwell advises Corneau to check with the Board of Health regarding providing food.
- Kuklewicz advises Corneau to check with the DPW to make sure the power is on.

Use of Public Property: Vanessa Tierney, The Secret of Sinchanee, LLC, use of parking spaces in front of Shea Theater for limousine drop off, October 9, 2021, 6:30 PM to 11:00 PM

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the Use of Public Property as requested by Vanessa Tierney, The Secret of Sinchanee, LLC, use of parking spaces in front of Shea Theater for limousine drop off, October 9, 2021, 6:30 PM to 11:00 PM. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Jeff Singleton, FRTA Representative

FRTA Advisory Board Meeting Updates

Singleton presents and gives an overview of the FRTA Board Review's meeting. Items on the agenda were as follows: Human Services Transportation RFP Final Contract Decision; Maintenance Facility Project Update; discussion/update on the Continuing Discretionary Grant and Workforce Transportation Grant; discussion/update on Comprehensive Regional Transit Plan and Weekend Fixed Route Service; appointment of an Ad-Hoc By-law Review Committee; discussion on the Transition back to 'Normal'/Pre-COVID operations; review of FRTA/Mass DOT FY21 MOU 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Quarter Reporting; Transit Advisory Committee Updates; and FRTA updates.

Town Administrator's Report

Town Meeting Logistics

- Ellis states that all of the meeting materials have gone out.
- Paul Interlande is planning to support our sound reinforcement.
- Masks will be available; social distancing will be observed.
- Lord states that it is generally safer outside, he thinks that masks should be recommended, but not required. Kuklewicz and Boutwell agree.

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Designate Capital Improvements Committee as Reviewers of the 500 Avenue A RFP

Ellis reports that he and the Town Planner are anticipating having the results of the Phase II Environmental so that we can proceed with the RFP for the former DPW facility at 500 Avenue A in November. Ellis feels that if the Selectboard would like to designate them as reviewers of that RFP, the CIC would likely accept that responsibility at their October 20 meeting.

Update on Blue Shed Disposition

Ellis, Will Stratford, Tom Bergeron, and Ken Moran had a discussion about what the bid specs would look like for the Blue Shed disposition. One question that arose was whether the DPW would want to use the building in another location. The DPW will be seeking some quotes for the cost of relocation.

Update on CARES spending/requests

The Health Department has requested funding for extra contact tracing hours or other COVID responsibilities that the Town Nurse might have. We can spend within authority for reasonable expenses through October 29. For any contingencies thereafter, we have to make application. Ellis has submitted a letter of request around having those services for a longer period of time.

Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting

Masks

We are planning to buy several cases of procedural masks and making them available for event organizers.

5th Street Bridge bid opening

The bid opening for the 5th Street Bridge has been delayed until tomorrow afternoon.

Other/Double Poles

Boutwell expresses concern that he has not seen any work done to address double poles. Ellis states he and Bogusz will follow-up.

Executive Session: To discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation where an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the Town, pursuant to G.L. c30A, Section 21(a)(3)

- The Chair deems that having this discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.
- *Boutwell makes the motion to go into Executive Session at 7:42 PM to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation where an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the Town, pursuant to G.L. c30A, Section 21(a)(3). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*