Town of Colrain

Select Board Meeting

55 Main Road/Town Office Building

6:00 P.M.

# MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2020

**Present** Mark Thibodeau, Joe Kurland, Mike Slowinski

**Others Present** Kate Barrows, Sarah O’Dell, David Nims, Jonathan Lagreze, Alice Wozniak, Dir. Of Assessing; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Asst.; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

The meeting, held remotely through conference call-in, was called to order by Mark Thibodeau, Chair, at 6 p.m.

**Appointments None**

**New Business Review of Smith Bridge Use Policy**

Discussion:

* Joe Kurland asked what makes an activity on the bridge necessitate completing the Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge Usage Request Form that the Select Board must approve. For example, a resident asked if she could hold a yoga class for 3 or 4 residents for free on rainy days. An informal activity like this would not need a form. The form is meant for formal events such as weddings, parties, etc.
* The bridge does have insurance as it’s a Town-owned property.
* Sarah O’Dell, who lives on Lyonsville Road, spoke against opening the bridge to traffic citing the problem with cars parking up and down Lyonsville Rd. Kevin advised property owners to post No Parking signs so that it can be enforced.
* Is there any town-owned land on Lyonsville Rd.? The Select Board explained that the road is maintained by the Town, but it is, in fact, private property. There is no town-owned property on Lyonsville Road.
* Joe Kurland spoke with an insurance agency about the Special Events Coverage Rider needed to use the bridge and was told that it would cost a resident at least $300. The agent also said that a homeowner’s policy may cover it.
* Jonathan Lagreze asked if there’s any need for insurance giving the example of the Avery Field in Leyden where Mr. Lagreze reports that the Town of Leyden only asks for insurance if alcohol is served. Mark Thibodeau noted that the Town has a by-law that states that alcohol is not allowed on Town property.
* Kate Barrows asked if the Town attorney would accept a waiver by the event holder to prevent liability for the Town.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to submit the Arthur A. Bridge Covered Bridge Usage Request Policy to Town Counsel for review for adequacy. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Petition Received to open the Arthur A. Smith Bridge to vehicular traffic**

David Nims supports the petition to open the bridge to traffic.

Joe Kurland spoke to an engineer at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. Joe read from a letter dated 2/12/20 that says what the Town needs to do before it can open the bridge. The Town will have 45 days to get this done before opening. The Town is allowed to put stop signs at each entrance. Joe said that the Town is NOT in danger of losing federal funding as long as the signage is maintained.

There was discussion concerning the safety of the traffic exiting the bridge, especially onto Foundry Village Rd.

Mike Slowinski recommended that the Town use the signs that were proposed by the State—the 13 ton weight limit, the height limit, and stop sign. These would be supplied and installed by the State. He also recommends the chain link that hangs so that it hits a tall truck before the truck hits the bridge.

Alice Wozniak noted that the Town of Colrain’s police chief, fire chief and highway superintendent were not in favor of opening the bridge to traffic for safety reasons. If the Board were to vote in favor of opening the bridge, what does that mean with regards to the opinions of the department heads who are in charge of public safety?

Kate Barrows recommends working out more of the details before voting and having more conversations with other town leadership cooperatively instead of steam rolling ahead.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to open the Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge to 2-way traffic and that it be posted with proper signage after discussion with the Highway Superintendent and follow the guidelines from Mass DOT. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

The Town of Colrain must notify Mass DOT within 45 days of the opening, post the bridge for 13 tons and remove the stantions.

**Draft of Proposed STM Warrant**

The change from 9/22 to 9/24 at 6 p.m. is fine for the Select Board. There will be a final proposal at the next meeting to vote on.

**Town Coordinator**

**Updates** The new server installation is complete and up and running. The Records Management Project is completed, documents all boxed, and purged documents shredded. The new truck was ordered and priced under what was budgeted and the car port was ordered.

**Unanticipated**

**Business Michael Shuipis and Kevin Fox letters of resignation from the Broadband Advisory Committee**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to accept the resignation of Michael Shuipis and Kevin Fox from the Broadband Advisory Committee.

**Supplemental funding of the school district**

Kate explained the difference in the assessment in the revised budget and the original budget; in increase in a little over $7,000 for Colrain’s portion of the operating assessment. The capital portion is the same. The reason for the increase is transportation and decreased revenues from pre-school, after school and sports programs.

**Select Board minutes of 7/28/2020**

**MOVED:** Joe moved to accept the minutes of 7/28/2020. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to close the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Joe seconded.**

Respectfully submitted, Accepted by the Select Board

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Betsy Shuipis Mark Thibodeau, Chair

Administrative Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Joe Kurland

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mike Slowinski

Documents

Select Board Meeting Notes

Email from Kevin Fox to Joe Kurland re: Kathy Steinem movement classes on the Arthur A. Bridge

Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge Policy and Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge Usage Request Form

Petition to the Town of Colrain to open Historic Arthur A. Smith Bridge to vehicular traffic with signatures.

Plan of Proposed Relocation of Lyonsville Road Plan Book 104 Page 34 Franklin Co. Registry of Deeds

MassDot letter to Scott Sullivan, Highway Superintendent, re: National Bridge Inspection Standards Bridge Rating and Posting of Lyonsville Rd/East Branch North River

Special Town Meeting Warrant FY21 Draft