

Town of Colrain  
Select Board Meeting  
Remote Conference Call-in  
4:30 P.M.  
**MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2021**

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

**Others Present** Dennis DePaolo, Ture Turnbull, Matthew Allen, Wes Ritchie; Peter Brooks, Brian Cady, Bing Waldsmith, Energy Committee; Kate Barrow, MTRSC representative; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant, Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order by Mark Thibodeau at 4:30 p.m.

**Appointments** **Dennis DePaolo – Marijuana Cultivation Host Agreement**

Dennis DePaolo, Twisted Yields, would like to partner with New England Craft Cultivators (NECC). Matt Allen, NECC, spoke about his background, and his partners', in social justice and medical marijuana at the state level and their preference to work with small farm producers and crafters. The intent of this partnership is to get licensed under the NECC and, in the future, make a request to transfer that license to MASS Craft Cultivation (MACC).

**Questions:**

- Has a community outreach meeting been scheduled? They will schedule a meeting and put a notice in the Recorder.
- Are there restrictions on the amount of producers on one property? As an attorney, Wes Allen says that CCC 's main restriction when approving licenses is that one company has a maximum ability to grow 1,000 sq. feet of cannabis.
- Who will be the actual applicant? Matthew Allen, NECC.

Kevin Fox explained the host agreement process, emphasizing that holding the community outreach meeting before the Select Board is asked to sign the agreement is important.

**Colrain Energy Committee**

Peter Brooks spoke with Mark, DOER, who said they would not participate in a solar project in Colrain. Mark suggested that the committee start on the next best project, which would be the Highway Garage insulation project. Presently there is \$32,000 in the bank, allocated for the first project submitted, out of the \$129,000 total awarded. Approximately a third of the grant will be used for the garage project so the committee needs to prioritize other projects.

**Peter will re-evaluate the Energy Committee's list of town projects, and Kevin will get the garage project started.**

The Select Board thanked the Energy Committee for all their work in pursuing a solar project.

**New Business** **Preliminary COLA discussion in preparation of FY 22 budget deliberations**

Kevin Fox will contact Ellen Weeks, Chair of the Personnel Committee, to see if the members would like to add to the COLA discussion.

**Discussion of potential timing of FY 22 Annual Town Meeting**

After a brief discussion, the consensus was that a late June Annual Town Meeting date would work best. Possible dates are Saturday, June 19 or 26. Kevin will check with the town moderator.

**Request to appoint Donna Cusimano to the Cultural Council**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to appoint Donna Cusimano to the Colrain Cultural Council. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Old Business    None**

**Unanticipated Business**

Joe Kurland would like to invite Rebecca Novak, RCAP Solutions, to talk with the Select Board about waste water treatment options that were not available when the last study was done in 2014.

**Joe Kurland will ask Rebecca Novak to send Kevin Fox an email. Kevin will schedule her for the next Select Board meeting.**

**Select Board Minutes 12/8/20 and 12/22/20.**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to accept the minutes of 12/8/20. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**MOVED:** Joe Kurland moved to accept the minutes of 12/22/20. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Town Administrator Updates:**

- The tractor that was on the auction site sold for \$4,100.
- The Cares Act was extended to 12/31/21.
- Kevin sent the school district a revised recipient agreement reflecting the new dates. It was signed and returned by the superintendent.
- After many requests, Kevin has not received any back-up documentation yet from the school district needed to reimburse them for ventilation work done at the Colrain Elementary School.
- The new truck - body & plow – has been delivered and will be roadworthy soon.
- 54% of all possible residents have signed up for Broadband.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to close the meeting at 6:13 p.m. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Shuipis  
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board

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Mark Thibodeau - Chair

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Joe Kurland

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Mike Slowinski

## Documents

### Select Board Meeting Notes

Email from Dennis Depaolo dated 1/7/21 to Town Administrator re: Host Community Agreement – New England Craft Cultivators

What is New England Craft Cultivators? Document.

Email from Elizabeth Erickson, Energy Committee Chair, dated 12/17/20 to Town of Colrain Administrator re: Select Board meeting of 2/12/21

Email from Town of Colrain Administrator to Select Board dated 12/31/20 re: the pursuit of solar installation at one of two closed landfills in Colrain.

MassDEP Fact Sheet, Developing Renewable Energy Facilities on Closed Landfills

Electronic Subscriber Agreement for MassDEP and Kevin Fox.

Email from Inge Jockers, Chair, Cultural Council, dated 1/5/21, requesting confirmation of new member, Donna Cusimano