

Town of Colrain  
Select Board Meeting  
Remote Conference Call-in  
4:30 P.M.  
**MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2021**

**Present** Joe Kurland, Mike Slowinski, Thom Griffin

**Others Present** Christopher Craig, PVMCD; Nancy Turkle, Library Trustee, Kate Barrows, Asst. Library Director; Chelsea Jordan Makely; Library Director; Laura Slowinski, Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator.

The meeting was called to order by Joe Kurland at 4:34 p.m.

**Appointments Christopher Craig - Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD)**

There was a record-breaking outbreak of West Nile virus in 2018 and a record-breaking outbreak of EEE in 2019. PVMCD offers to member-communities surveillance, which involves setting up 2 traps in a town (1 trap attracts EEE mosquitos while the other attracts West Nile) once a week, collects them and sends them for testing to the Dept. of Health. This cost \$5,000/per year; any additional, optional service would be an added cost. Surveillance begins in early June through mid-October (\$1,000/month for 8 or 9 samples a month).

**Questions:**

- In the West Nile outbreak in 2018, there were 5,921 mosquito samples gathered in MA and 10% were positive. How many of those positives occurred in the upper Pioneer Valley? Mr. Craig does not have that data.
- What about DCR property like Catamount? Yes, PVMCD can go on state property.
- Is a pesticide license required to apply larvicides to standing water? Yes.
- When it's offered, would your program be able to avoid spraying property to organic farms? They'll use a targeted approach to mosquito habitat and not widespread, whether you are certified organic or not.

The Select Board decided to stay in the state program and not join the Pioneer Valley District, but will reconsider their program next year. Joe recommended that we start an education program to residents to reduce the risk of breeding mosquitos by getting rid of all standing water.

**New Business Approve/Sign Fiscal Year 22 Annual Town Meeting**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to approve the warrant with the exception of Article 27. Thom Griffin seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Old Business Declaration of 5/21 as William Apess Day**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved that we adopt Thom Griffin's draft of the Declaration of William Apess Day but remove "2021" in the last paragraph. Thom Griffin seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

Joe Kurland volunteered to read the proclamation on May 21. The proclamation will be posted on the Town website. Kevin will put a press release in the paper. Joe Kurland will

post the Declaration to appropriate Facebook accounts.

**FY22 Appointments**

Deletions: Remove Mike Friedlander as tree warden.

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved that we accept the existing list of appointments, with the exception of Mr. Mike Friedlander as Tree Warden, for the appointed length of time that has been amended to have a start date of July 1 for all appointees. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

The Town Clerk’s appointment letter is fine as submitted.

**Unanticipated MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved that we appoint Laura Slowinski to the Board of Registrars for a 3-year term, 7/1/21 – 6/30/24. Thom Griffin seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.** Joe Kurland made note that this is a very important position, and we are expressing our trust in the people who are on the Board of Registrars to conduct the elections with no bias.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved that we allow the Council on Aging to meet on the Town lawn on 5/24/21 at 2 p.m. Thom Griffin seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Town Administrator**

**Updates**

Updates:

- New truck is on the road.
- Site work for the carport is done and it will be delivered on 5/25.
- Meeting with the Finance Committee tomorrow and everyone is welcome.
- Shall we open the town office on 6/1 and should we remove the meeting protocol? We’ll discuss these questions with our health agent at the next meeting.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to close the meeting at 6:14 p.m. Thom Griffin seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by the Select Board

Betsy Shuipis  
Administrative Assistant

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Joe Kurland - Chair

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Mike Slowinski

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thom Griffin

## Documents

Select Board Meeting Notes

Draft of William Apess Day Declaration submitted by Chelsea Jordan-Makely

Draft of William Apess Day Declaration submitted by Thom Griffin

Town of Colrain Annual Town Meeting Warrant FY2022

List of board/committee appointees submitted by the Town Clerk

Email dated 5/13/21 from the Town Clerk to the Town Manager re: changes to wording in appointment letter

Email from Laura Slowinski to the Town Administrator stating her interest in being appointed to the Board of Registrars dated May 7, 2021