

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Highway Garage
9 Jacksonville Road
4:30 P.M.

MINUTES OF February 22, 2022

Present Joe Kurland, Mike Slowinski, Thom Griffin

Others Present Ben Eastman, Timothy Daniels, Gail Johnston, Betty Ringwood, Dawn Brown, Mary Parsons, Jamie Hall, Howard Phelps, Kellie Smith, Donnie Brown, Donald Brown, Jonathan Lagreze, Jane Johnson, Scott Sullivan, Superintendent, Highway Dept.; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator.

The meeting was called to order by Joe Kurland, Chair, at 4:30 p.m.

Appointments Jonathan Lagreze – **Representing the Friends of Spruce It Up Colrain/Earth Day 22: 1) request for support for a used tire collection drive utilizing the town transfer station 2) request for a temporary suspension of the posted \$5 per tire for disposal 3) request for a new \$3 per tire disposal charge 4) request for the use of the town’s Highway Dept. payloader, and 5) request for consideration of imprimatur to a wider “Spruce It Up Colrain/Earth Day 22” event.**

Mr. Lagreze presented an overview of the goals of the “Spruce It Up, Colrain!” campaign as a longtime town representative of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and is asking for the Select Board’s endorsement of the endeavor.

Mr. Lagreze has volunteers to help with the event so as not to burden town employees, but the town will take ultimate responsibility for DEP compliance and permitting, as well as overages of disposal costs. He will need a loader and someone to operate it. It’s Mr. Lagreze’s opinion that the town has a surplus in the budget to pay for an employee(s) to work for this campaign. These funds can also allow the town to adjust its fees; for example, tires could be reimbursed at the town’s cost of \$3 per tire instead of the current \$5 fee.

Regarding the hundreds of tires at Flower Xpress’s building site at Shearer’s farm and on Heath Rd, Mr. Slowinski suggested putting the dumpster where the tire collections are instead of at the Transfer Station.

Mr. Slowinski asked about donations made by Flower Xpress for tire removal. Flower Xpress and the Town of Colrain are in negotiations for a Host Community Agreement; therefore, the town cannot receive donations from Flower Xpress. Mr. Lagreze insisted that there are a number of funders who all want to remain anonymous and that the Friends of the Library have agreed to handle the donations. Chair Kurland noted this activity could be seen as Flower Express trying to influence the outcome of the negotiations by a donation, and would like to hear from the town’s attorney on the matter.

Highway Superintendent Scott Sullivan joined the meeting to discuss the logistics of using the Transfer Station. The Select Board asked that Johnathan and Scott Sullivan meet to work out a plan for a higher volume of tires, trash and bulky waste, while keeping residents and volunteers safe, and bring that plan to the next Select Board meeting.

Landscaping this spring on the town common is premature. The warranty on the work done will be void if there is foot traffic during this time.

The Select Board gives their approval for the general idea of “Spruce It Up, Colrain.”

Jane Johnson – Request for a status update re: unregistered motor vehicle complaint letters.

Kevin Fox referred to the spread sheet in the packet that outlines each property’s status.

121 Adamsville Rd. – No response from Martha Caron re: certified letter sent 12/21/22

129 Adamsville Rd. – Hicks Boyden was sent certified mail 12/27/21 – no response

102 Main Rd – Robert Bolles certified mail to 2/15/22 – no response

259 Ed Clark Rd. – Mr. Culver said he would send a letter, but has not

457 Main Rd – Glenda Wood took out half of her vehicles; there was 6 and now 3.

4 Shattuckville Rd – Donald Brown has been removing vehicles from his property, but can’t say how many – maybe half of them.

13 Greenfield Rd – Ms. Tetreault has removed 3 of the 5 vehicles

For those residents who do not responded to certified mail: A police officer will hand deliver the letter. If people are making a good-faith effort we can work with them in this Non-punitive process unless there is no response to try to work it out.

Kevin will send Mr. Culver a letter (regular mail) asking for him to send a request for a special permit.

New Business Request from the MTRSD to send a support letter to Senator Adam Hinds expressing support for the MTRSD recommendations submitted to the Special Commission on Rural School Districts

Out of courtesy to Senator Comerford, the town will send the same support letter to her (cc to Senator Hinds).

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to endorse the template of the letter to Senator Hinds expressing support for the MTRSD recommendations submitted to the Special Commission on Rural School Districts and the same letter addressed to Senator Comerford. Mike Slowinski seconded.

Approved unanimously.

March 10, 2022 STM Warrant

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to approve the Special Town Warrant as printed for March 10, 2022. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Old Business Snow removal on town-owned sidewalks

Discussion will be moved to the next meeting.

FCTSD Enrollment

Discussion will be moved to the next meeting.

Unanticipated Mike Slowinski, MLP Manager, Northern Cluster of Leyden, Colrain, Charlemont, Heath and Rowe are trying to get redundancy. Four of the towns use KP Law. Attorney David Doneski would like the Select Board to say that KP Law can do one review for all four towns and share the cost among them.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved that we split the cost 4 ways for the KP Law review and send an email to Mr. Doneski saying such. Thom Griffin seconded. **Voted unanimously.**

The FCC requires verification that the broadband that is being supplied is the broadband that was contracted for. This is done by getting 50 people randomly selected amount 15 towns to consent to having a year-long sampler box 3 x 3 inches. In return, volunteers get one month free internet service.

Moved: Mike Slowinski moved to give away one months’s free internet to any Colrain residents who put a data box in their home for one year. Thom Griffin seconded. **Voted unanimously.**

Lynn Ditullio’s request to be a member of the Personnel Committee. The board would like Ms. Ditullio to come to the next meeting for an interview before she is appointed.

The Boston Tea Party Museum installation of a marker at the Chandler Hill Cemetery to honor a Colrain participant, David Lyons. Thom Griffin volunteered to represent the town for the Lyons Revolutionary War marker.

Town Administrator

Updates None

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to dissolve the meeting at 5:48 p.m. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by the Select Board

Betsy Shuipis
Administrative Assistant

Joe Kurland - Chair

Mike Slowinski

Thom Griffin

Documents

Select Board Meeting Notes

Email from Jonathan Lagreze to Kevin Fox dated 2/16/22 re: scrap tire drive & related Earth Day events

Email response from Jan Ameen, FCSWMD, to Jonathan Lagreze and Kevin Fox re: email above

Email from Jane Johnson to Kevin Fox re: update of 9 letters of complaint re: unregistered vehicles

Unregistered Motor Vehicle Complaint Log

Letter dated 2/22/22 to Senator Hinds re MTRSD to the Special Commission on Rural School Districts

Attachment to above letter re: Prioritized Recommendations DRAFT

Special Town Meeting Warrant FY22

Statement from Jonathan Lagreze to the Selectmen that was read aloud re: Spruce It Up, Colrain

Select Board Minutes 2022-02-22

Select Board Meeting Notes