

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

**MINUTES OF AUGUST 23, 2022**

**Present** Mike Slowinski, Thom Griffin, Ben Eastman

**Others Present** Jane E. Johnson, Jonathan Lagreze, Michael Shuipis, Howard Phelps, Ellen Weeks, Bella Levavi, Doug MacLeay, Emily Thurber, Roger Williams, Carol Adams, Marybeth Chichester, Jim Slowinski, Greg Olchowski, Jan Ameen, Director/FCSWMD; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Slowinski at 4:30 p.m.

**Appointments Jan Ameen, Director, FCSWMD – Mattress Recycling Incentive Grant**

If Colrain accepts this grant, the town would use \$5,200 to purchase a storage trailer that holds between 35-45 mattresses. When full, Raw Materials would come to empty it. As a regional collection site, the town would accept mattresses from nonresidents. The district would manage the collection of the mattresses, the publicity, signage, and any managing issues that come up. **MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to accept the grant with a \$30 cost per mattress to be reviewed in six months with the understanding that whoever brings the mattress(es) will load it into the container with the supervision of our attendant(s). Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Jim Slowinski, Broadband Subscription Concern**

Mike Slowinski recused himself from the discussion. When Whip City pinged Mr. Slowinski’s router at 7A Adamsville Road, it showed 7A, 7B and 10 Adamsville Road off that one router. Mr. Slowinski will disconnect 7A and remain connected to 7B. The charge will remain on Mr. Slowinski’s Whip City account.

**Greg Olchowski, East Colrain Road – Dust Concerns**

Mr. Olchowski has a complaint regarding East Colrain Road since hardpack material was laid in 2019. This hardpack has caused problems for the residents with the dust. Last fall Mr. Olchowski had a sample tested at UMass where they found abnormally high amounts of calcium sulphate. Mr. Olchowski believes this adversely affects 42 homes on the road. Mr. Olchowski wants the town to remove it. The Board recommends that Mr. Olchowski contact the Board of Health.

**Zara Dowling, Research Fellow, UMASS Clean Energy Extension**

Ms. Dowling was not able to attend and will reschedule for board’s next meeting.

**New Business Approve Revised Job Description for Highway Superintendent**

Kevin Fox will draft a job description for approval at the Selectboard’s next meeting.

**Highway Superintendent Candidates Interview Process**

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to create an interview committee to hire a Highway Superintendent consisting of the direct supervisor, one member of the Selectboard or designee,

and one member of the Personnel Committee. Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**1-Day Liquor License Application – Artifact Cider Project**

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to approve the 1-Day Liquor License Application. Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously**

**Old Business Continued Discussion Regarding Police Department Staffing Needs**

With the unexpected loss of our highway superintendent, the Selectboard must put off the Police Department staffing needs for later this year.

**Unanticipated** Ms. Carol Adams, High Street, has a complaint concerning her neighbors on 10 High Street who have turkeys and chickens that roam all over her yard and front porch. The new bylaw has not gone into effect yet and the town’s present laws do not address this problem. The complaint is not a criminal offence nor is it a problem covered by a town bylaw, which means the Police and Animal Control Officer have no recourse for change.

Emily Thurber came to the board with a faux petition regarding snow removal on sidewalks with 112 signatures. Ms. Thurber is not asking for a special town meeting but is asking for a reasonable effort from the Town to clear the sidewalks. In particular, snow removal from the bridge sidewalk leading to Colrain Elementary School.

**Selectboard Minutes Approved**

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to approve the minutes of May 10, 2022, July 11, 2022, July 26, 2022, and August 9, 2022 as written. Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Town Administrator**

**Updates** No updates.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:59 p.m. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by the Select Board

Betsy Shuipis  
Administrative Assistant

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Mike Slowinski - Chair

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Thom Griffin

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Ben Eastman

Documents

Select Board Meeting Notes

Email from Jan Ameen dated July 27, 2022 to the Town Administrator re: Colrain SMRP Grant Award for a Mattress Container

Email from Rachel Smith (DEP) to the Town Administrator re: Colrain SMRP Grant for Mattress Container

Checklist for Mattress Collection Container Grant

Letter of Congratulations from Charles D. Baker, Governor and Karyn E. Polito, dated July 27, 2022

Letter from Martin Suuber, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection re : MassDEP award of \$10,000 for a mattress collection container

Email from Mike Slowinski to the Town Administrator re : 7 Adamsville Road Sharing System

Email dated August 16, 2022 from Marybeth Chichester re : UMass Community Solar Initiative Program

UMass Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment Clean Energy Extension Community Planning for Solar Toolkit

Mass Dept. Of Transportation – Highway Division, Standard Specifications for Highways and Bridges