

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Highway Garage, 9 Jacksonville Road
4:30 p.m.

MINUTES OF November 22, 2022

Present Mike Slowinski, Thom Griffin, Ben Eastman

Others Present Keith Barnicle, FRCOG, Joseph Slowinski, Laura Slowinski, Michael Shuipis, Ellen Weeks, Personnel Committee; Jane Johnson, Kathy Phelps, Howard Phelps, Peter Brooks, Energy Committee; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

Chair Slowinski called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Appointments Keith Barnicle, Economic Development Special Projects Planner, FRCOG, Re: Commonwealth's District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Program Priority Discussion

Mr. Barnicle is here to solicit from the Board town projects of interest for the next year. Last year the Selectboard prioritized abandoned and distressed property and inventory plan, culvert assessment, marijuana impact fee tracking and evaluation, senior service age and dementia community planning.

The following are the town projects the Selectboard are interested in: small bridges, town parking lot, and a truck escape ramp.

Joseph Slowinski – Concerns Regarding the Removal of Political Signs at 51 Main Rd. on 11/8/22

On Election Day, someone put up election signs on town property that followed the 150-foot rule. The signs were taken down sometime before the polls closed. A few residents were unhappy about the signs and brought the matter to the warden. According to Police Chief Lannon, one town video camera recorded the parking lot, but “due to the quality of the camera, distance, sun glare on windshields, and a box truck delivery”, he was unable to determine who and when the signs were removed.

Chair Slowinski agreed that stealing property is reprehensible, but the Selectboard do not enforce the law; the Police Department does. Additionally, for the Police Department to investigate a theft, the person who owned the property must report it missing.

The Selectboard agrees with Mr. Joseph Slowinski request that prior to any election, the Town will remind the residents via the Town of Colrain's website that posting election signs outside of the 150-foot rule is allowable.

Colrain Personnel Committee – Committee Activity Update for the Selectboard

Ellen Weeks' update:

The committee is at the point of making the final edit for one more review by the Personnel Committee, which will be submitted to the Selectboard for their approval. Additionally, the committee would like to draft a procedure for annual town employee

performance reviews. Job descriptions will be updated, as needed.

The Selectboard approves of the Personnel Committee writing a procedure for annual reviews. The Personnel Committee will submit an annual performance review for the Selectboard's approval.

New Business None

Old Business None

Town Administrator Updates

The Mass in Motion Agreement (\$4,230) was signed. The funding can provide for refreshments, visual aids, and members.

Administrative Assistant Betsy Shuipis's retirement date was readjusted to March 3, 2023.

With the addition of a newly purchased privacy panel, the Council on Aging foot clinic will be held at the Fire Department.

The two gantries will be installed November 28 – 29 causing traffic to be closed on Greenfield Road to one way for two days.

The Selectboard request that Steve Daby, Highway Superintendent, give them weekly reports with 2-weeks projections of what he's done for the week and what he plans for the following week.

MOVED: Ben Eastman made a motion to change December's Selectboard meetings from the 2nd and 4th Tuesday to the 1st and 3rd Tuesday (12/6 & 12/20). Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Thom Eastman moved to dissolve the meeting at 5:46 p.m. Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Shuipis
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board

Michael Slowinski - Chair

W. Thomas Griffin

Benjamin Eastman

Selectboard Meeting 2022-11-22

Documents

Selectboard Meeting Notes

Email to Town of Colrain Administrator from Keith Barnacle dated 11/7/22 re: 2023 Direct Local Technical Assistance Gant Writing Opportunity

Email to Town of Colrain Administrator dated 11/9/22 from Joseph Slowinski re: removal of political signs from 51 Main Rd.
on Election Day

Email to Ellen Weeks from Town of Colrain Administrator dated 11/16/22 re: Personnel Committee and employee review process