

BOARD OF SELECTMEN VIRTUAL MEETING

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 – 7:00 PM via Zoom

PRESENT: Alan Hanson, Chair; Neal Pilson, Selectman; Roger Manzolini, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator;

GUESTS: Christian Hanson, Balderdash; Jeff Morse, Kenny Freylinghuysen;

Al opened the meeting with a request that the Governor's Directive concerning changes to the Open Meeting Law during the COVID-19 pandemic be read out. Neal accommodated that request.

Approval of Minutes of November 18 and December 2, 2020: Having reviewed the minutes and noted that changes were incorporated as requested, Neal moved that the minutes of Nov. 18th and Dec. 2nd be approved as read. He was seconded by Roger and the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Balderdash Special Permit Amendment: Danielle noted that the attorneys for Balderdash and the Town of Richmond were still working on mutually agreeable language for the permit. She suggested, therefore, that the discussion be continued to the first meeting in January so that the revised permit could be available for review and discussion. Neal moved that the public hearing be continued to the January 6, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Al. Roger commented that he regretted that the original agreement, which was only a draft, was disseminated to the public without acknowledgement of that fact. There being no further comment, the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Roger proposed that the Town create a sign that would read, "Per request of the Town of Richmond, you are asked to refrain from creating unnecessary noise while on this property." He would like to see such signs posted at the Town Beach, the Boat Ramp, Hollow Fields, Town Hall and the Library and to ask that Balderdash and Hilltop Orchards also post them on their properties. Neal asked that this discussion be continued to the January 6th meeting.

Alcohol Pour Permits for Balderdash and Hilltop Orchards: Danielle advised that the Board approve the renewals for both locations as there was no impediment to doing so. Roger moved to approve the Alcohol Pour Permits for Balderdash and Hilltop Orchards. The motion was seconded by Neal and approved by unanimous vote.

Green Burials: Danielle asked that discussion be moved to the next meeting since she was still in the process of obtaining information about green burials from Great Barrington and wished to reach out to local funeral homes for their input about additional charges. She would also like to have a conversation with Steve Parsons, Cemetery Superintendent. Roger expressed his concern that the Town be in compliance with any and all state requirements concerning green burials.

Al moved to continue the discussion of green burials to the January 6, 2021 meeting. Neal seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous vote.

Public Comment: Kenny Freylinghuysen began to explain how his enjoyment of his property at Colonial Acres is impacted by the noise from Balderdash. Danielle advised him that the discussion has been continued to the January 6th meeting, where he will have an opportunity to register his comments.

Town Administrator's Report: Danielle reported that she is continuing to hold Hazard Mitigation seminars, the next one of which is scheduled for tomorrow. The intent is to move the Plan forward with public comment, to which end there is a survey for town residents on the website.

The Dublin Road Culvert project is moving forward. Resident's signatures have been obtained so that the application can be put to the Con. Com. Danielle is hoping to be on the January 11th agenda for the Con. Com. so that bids can be obtained in February and the project can begin work in the spring. Once work begins, the road will be closed for three months. There will be no cost to the Town for this work as it is being funded under the Small Bridge Grant the Town obtained.

Concerns were expressed about the impact of closing a major road for three months. The Board members were advised that the engineers have a plan in place for detouring traffic effectively.

Selectmen's Matters: Roger raised the issue of the Hollow Fields temporary permit to expand the parking lot. That permit was to have ended Dec. 31st. He asked how the Board wished to proceed. Neal suggested continuing the permit as it has clearly eliminated the overflow parking on Perry's Peak Road. Residents objected to that idea and asked that the original decision to end the extended parking on Dec. 31st be upheld and that the Board delay any further consideration until BRPC submits a new permit request.

Roger reiterated his suggestion for signs to be posted that would read, , "Per request of the Town of Richmond, you are asked to refrain from creating unnecessary noise while on this property." He also cited the locations he thought would be appropriate for posting that sign.

The presentation of the Town Hall/Library project was given a dry run. The first public opportunity to view it will be this Saturday at 10:00 AM via Zoom. The schedule of presentations will be posted on the website and it was Neal's hope that the public attend these sessions.

There being no further business before the Board, Al moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed with a unanimous vote.

Signed:

Alan Hanson