

Board of Selectmen/Sewer Commissioners Minutes  
Wednesday August 23, 2023  
Held at Town Hall & via Zoom

Selectmen present: Alan Hanson-Chair, Neal Pilson, Roger Manzolini

Other Participants: Danielle Fillio-Town Administrator, Angela Garrity-Town Clerk/Accountant, Dick Stover, Mr. &Mrs. McMahon, Ernie Smith-Conservation Chair, Tom Grizey-Sewer Maintenance, Ms. Susan Markowitz, Mr. Paradise ( owner of Inn at Richmond)

Mr. Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

1. Approval of the June 28,2023 Minutes.

Mr. Pilson made a motion to approve the June 28,2023 minutes, it was seconded by Mr. Hanson and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Hanson went off the agenda to ask the McMahons if they would like to speak. He stated that they can speak before the Board, but no vote could be taken since they are not on the agenda.

Mr. McMahon explained their concerns about the drainage issues and the road plowing issues that they are having with the town on their property, 401 Osceola Road. Mr. McMahon stated that he sent a letter to Ms. Fillio and emailed the letter to Mr. Pilson and Mr. Manzolini with their concerns. The letter is an attachment to these minutes. Mrs. McMahon requested that the Selectmen, Ms. Fillio and Mr. Beckwith(DPW Supervisor) do a site visit to their property to inspect the damage and drainage issues. The Selectmen stated that when Mr. Beckwith is back from medical leave a site visit will be scheduled.

2.One Day Alcohol License and One Day Special Event Permit Kenmore Hall-Wedding 8/26 4p.m.-10:00p.m.

Mr. Manzolini made a motion to approve both the one-day liquor license and the one day special event permit, it was seconded by Mr. Pilson and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

3.Paula Patterson- discussion about Trailer trucks in Richmond Shores

There was a discussion about the placement and size of the signs that the town has put up trying to get the drivers of the trailer trucks that are going to Interprint not to use the Shore Road as an access road since it isn't one and cannot take trucks of that size. The thought is that maybe the signs could be placed differently and maybe larger in size. The Board decided to wait and see if the signs that are there along with Interprint informing the truckers of the correct route is working prior to doing anything else.

4.Town Center

Mr. Manzolini stated there are no new items for approval or invoices that need to be voted on. He stated that the new road sign has been put up along with the lettering and town seal on the building. He did state that he was wondering about the mowing of the hillside since it has been seeded and the grass is growing tall. Ms. Fillio stated that it was seeded with a hydro seed that is a no mow seed. It is only supposed to be mowed once a year. She also stated that she will speak with Mr. Hammer(building

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maintenance) about it but at this time the town doesn't have the proper equipment for mowing a steep hillside.

#### 5. Short Term Rental Discussion

Ms. Fillio stated that the town does have a list of short-term rentals. The town received from the state their list of short-term rentals, it was compared to the list the was developed in our office. The lists were basically the same, there were just a couple of addresses that differed. One of the differences was related to the sale of properties. Mr. Pilson showed a photo of a home on Lenox Road that displays a vrbo rental sign. That home is one on both the state and our list. Ms. Fillio stated that she is currently working with Paul Greene(the building/zoning inspector) to write a letter to these homeowners to find out if the short-term rentals are complying with town bylaws. She stated that the Town's bylaw is very vague concerning short-term rentals, that they require a special permit. Ms. Fillio stated that several other towns don't require a special permit which is very time-consuming on the part of the resident and the town. The selectmen asked about the tax revenue from these and Ms. Fillio stated that the town is receiving the 4% tax monies. Mr. Hanson asked if there were any comments from the audience. Ms. Markowitz, who lives at Richmond Shores stated that the short-term renters end up putting their garbage out not on garbage day and that often animals get into it and make a mess. She also stated that many of them let their dogs run loose not leashed and get on her property. Mr. Gizey agreed with Ms. Markowitz about the loose dogs creating problems for the local wildlife, and that they do not know what should and should not be put into the sewer system. Mr. Pilson stated that the town cannot really enforce issues in the Shores that the Shores Association needs to take some responsibility for overseeing the problems. It was suggested that a list of dos and don'ts be compiled and distributed to renters. Mr. Stover stated he would speak to the Richmond Pond Association concerning this. Mr. Manzolini suggested that Ms. Fillio check into the bylaws of other towns to see how they are dealing with short-term rentals.

#### 6.Representation for the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Ms. Fillio stated that a representative from all Berkshire County Towns should have a representative at the meeting. Mr. Pilson stated he would attend the meeting. Mr. Pilson asked Ms. Fillio to contact the organization with his information.

#### 7.Public Comment

Mr. Stover stated that the speed sign does not display the speed of passing cars. Ms. Fillio stated that the electronic speed signs are for a state study, and they have set certain speeds that will register but that all the passing car speeds are recorded. Mr. Stover than asked about the progress on 159 Willow Road. Ms. Fillio stated the owner is working with the town and since he is the violation tickets are no longer being issued. Mr. Stover also asked about the tables and chairs that are presently stored in the Church basement. Ms. Fillio stated that she has asked BD&E if they can buy the chairs from the town and put that money into new chairs, she is waiting to hear back from the. She does not yet know about the tables. Ms. Fillio did state that the town will be taking the COA refrigerator that is in the Church basement.

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Mr. Paradis introduced himself to the board. He and his wife are now the Innkeepers at the Inn at Richmond. The members welcomed him to the community and said they are glad it is being updated and back in business, but that it is important to make sure that he is aware of all the rules and regulations if they are going to be hosting special events.

Mr. Smith spoke to the board concerning the Conservation Commissions search for a new Agent. He stated that it will be very difficult to find an agent with the Knowledge that Mr. Evans had. The members asked to be kept informed. Mr. Smith stated that the Commission can issue violation fines but really has no way of enforcing payment. He stated that other towns attach fines to their tax bills. Ms. Fillio stated that would have to be voted on at a town meeting.

8. Town Administrator Updates

1. A grant of \$55,000 was received for the Sleepy Hollow Culvert for the finalization of the design and now the town will be able to apply for another grant for the project.

2. The working boards and committees have been asked to come to the town hall and pack up their files for moving to the new building. The files that are used regularly will be stored in their new offices and the ones rarely needed will be stored in newly acquired filing cabinets placed in the basement. The new building has a designated board room for meetings for their meetings.

9. Selectmen Matters

None of the Selectmen had any issues for discussion.

10. Sewer Matters

Mr. Grizey stated everything is running smoothly, that they will be changing the oil in the generators and cutting down the shrubs around the buildings.

Mr. Hanson called for a motion to adjourn at 7:33PM. The motion was made by Mr. Pilson and seconded by Mr. Manzolini, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Signatures

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Mr. Hanson-Chair

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Date

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Mr. Pilson

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Manzolini

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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