

Minutes of Meeting – March 10, 2021; meeting called to order at 7:00pm. Present: Ed Lane; Marybeth Mitts; Dave Roche; Neal Maxymillian. Absent: Warren Archey.

MOTION by EL, seconded by DR to approve the Minutes of February 24. 4/0 vote.

Citizens Open Forum: Elliott Morss spoke in favor of the Gateways Inn liquor license which the Board will act on later in the meeting. Someone questioned the survey marks by the Cork & Hearth building and wondered if it had anything to do with the proposed marijuana shop. The Board stated that they have not hired anyone to survey there.

Consent Agenda: MOTION by EL, seconded by MM to approve a seasonal A/A Club license for Boston Symphony Orchestra d/b/a Seranak; an innholders license to LH Manager Northeast, LLC for property located at 194 Pittsfield Road; accept a donation to the Community Center; accept a donation to the Police Department; appoint Ken Fowler as an alternate member on the Historic District Commission; Appoint Clayton Hambrick to a full member of the ZBA and Clifford Snyder to an associate member. 4/0 vote.

Dog Park: Renee Rotta, 12 Oaks, stated that there are approximately 500 dogs licensed in Lenox and she would like to see a dog park created. She was aware that previous attempts had been made and wondered where it all stood. DR stated that the Town tried but couldn't find an appropriate location, but that the Town would be happy to work with them on this project. Louis Pollock, Highcrest Road, asked if a board member would be interested in working with their group. EL stated that he would be happy to. Katie Vaughan mentioned that Community Preservation funds are available for dog parks. Pam Kueber recalled that funding was placed in a prior budget and wondered if it was still available, to which the TM stated no.

LH Manager Northeast, LLC came before the Board seeking a new annual A/A Hotel license for property located at 194 Pittsfield Road. EL read the legal notice as it appeared in the newspaper. MOTION by EL, seconded by DR to open the public hearing. 4/0 vote. Attorney Jeff Lynch was present to answer any questions. He explained that there will be a complete renovation with a new registration building containing a small bar area. The proposed hours would be Monday-Thursday 11am-11pm, Friday and Saturday 9am-1am, and Sunday 9am-11pm. He described the new hotel as a boutique hotel with higher rates than currently charged. NM suggested that the Board defer taking action on this request until the project has gone before the ZBA. Attorney Lynch felt that this was not necessary. MM stated that this project will be an upgrade to the current facility. Attorney John Gobel, representing residents at 12 Oaks, submitted a letter to the Board in opposition to this application. EL questioned what they didn't like about the proposal. Attorney Gobel stated that they are adamantly opposed to outdoor entertainment, and that he would like to wait until the ZBA has reviewed the project. NM felt that the Board shouldn't vote on an application that still requires a Special Permit from the ZBA. In addition, he would like to see the site for himself. The other Board members agreed that this application should be deferred until April 21. MOTION by EL, seconded by DR to continue this public hearing until the Board's April 21 meeting.

Gateways Inn Properties, LLC came before the Board seeking a new annual A/A Hotel license for property located at 51 Walker Street. EL read the legal notice as it appeared in the newspaper. MOTION by EL, seconded by DR to open the public hearing. 4/0 vote. Attorney Michael MacDonald was present to answer any questions. He stated that the new owners plan to run the inn the same way the previous owners had. MOTION by EL, seconded by DR to close the public hearing. 4/0 vote. MOTION by EL, seconded by DR to approve an A/A Hotel license for Gateways Inn Properties, LLC for property located at 51 Walker Street. 4/0 vote.

MOTION by EL, seconded by DR to ratify the TM appointment of Colin Benner as a full-time police officer. 4/0 vote.

New Business/Liaison Reports: MM mentioned that four firms submitted their qualifications for the structural repairs at the Library. The TM is now negotiating with the firm recommended by the Permanent Building Committee. She also stated that the Affordable Housing Trust is acquiring their second home. EL stated that the Town should start thinking about outdoor dining for the summer/fall season.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Minutes Taken By: _____ Minutes Accepted By: _____
Mary Ellen Deming Clerk
Director of Administrative Services Board of Selectmen