

Minutes of Meeting – March 29, 2023; meeting called to order at 6:00pm. Present: Ed Lane; Dave Roche; Neal Maxymillian; Marybeth Mitts. Absent: Warren Archey.

MOTION by MM, seconded by NM to approve the Minutes of March 15. 4/0 vote.

Citizens Open Forum: Sonya Bykofsky mentioned that many people unable to attend town meetings have reached out to her about the ability to vote at the town meetings. She stated that the Town needs to make reasonable accommodations for these individuals. Courtney Gilardi informed the Board about a forum to be held on March 30 regarding the proper siting of cell towers, and asked that the members try to attend.

Consent Agenda: DR placed a hold on both items. He stated that he wants the Town to go into the allocation of the opioid settlement funds with their eyes open as leadership of these groups changes. The TM explained that the vote tonight is only to participate in the settlement, and not to allocate any funding. DR then asked MM to explain about the proposed craft fair in the park. She stated that this craft fair is in place of the Church on the Hill fair, and that another group is simply going to run it. MOTION by MM, seconded by NM to approve the Town's participation in the opioid settlement funds; the use of Lilac Park by the Chamber on 7/14-16 for a craft fair. 4/0 vote.

Planning Board Presentation: Tom Delasco, chairman of the Planning Board, made a presentation to the Board regarding their proposed wireless facilities bylaw for the upcoming May Annual Town Meeting. He stated that the vote at the previous town meeting was so close, the Planning Board felt it necessary to tweak the bylaw and bring it back to the voters. He went on to state that the unreliable, non-existent cell service in town is dangerous, and that the new bylaw will bring local control. He reminded everyone that the Board will be holding a public hearing on April 4. DR stated that in a medical emergency, time saves lives and it is imperative that people have the ability to utilize their cell phones to call for help. EL stated that during the recent storm many people were stranded in their homes with no way to connect to others. NM agreed with both comments, and added that students needing to be picked up after school need the ability to call someone when they need a ride home. MM stated that the Planning Board has held 59 meetings regarding this issue, and that they have done everything possible to create a protective bylaw. The Board thanked the Planning Board for all their time and effort that went into creating this bylaw.

The TM briefly updated the Board on the FY24 budget, stating that the School budget is now at 4.3%. NM mentioned that previously the school budget was a line item in the budget, and wondered if we should consider using that format again. Specifically, he suggested year to year comparisons and the impact to the levy limit. MM stated that additional information regarding the school budget is available at their public hearing, and feels that it is a good idea to present this information at the town meeting. The Board agreed.

By roll call, DR, MM, NM and EL voted to go into Executive Session at 6:31pm to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation.

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