

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**



Present: Ed Boscher, Gail Gramarossa, Brenda Q. Aldrich, Nicholas O'Connor

Absent: Jen D. Turner

Call to Order: Chairman Boscher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Sign Documents:

- a) Routine documents
- b) Approval of Minutes : Mr. OConnor moved the Board accept the minutes of June 24, 2019. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

4) Appearances Before the Board:

- 7:03 p.m. – E and J Supply, LLC – Host Community Agreement: Attorney Farrington, Justin Nevins and Emory Snell were present for the appearance before the Board. They were back to review their security plan and odor control. The odor control will be discussed in greater detail with Judy Metcalf, Board of Health Director when they apply for their special permit.

The security concerns have been addressed with Chief Pronovost. They cannot be put in writing to avoid a security breach.

Ms. Gramarossa questioned whether the host agreement should include language that states E & J would ensure that the odor is not a nuisance, that the facility doesn't produce odor and not necessarily specify the type of system that they will use based on conversations with the Board of Health Director and Building Inspector. She was told that the odor from the facility does not constitute a nuisance is also part of their lease agreement. Ms. Gramarossa suggested the Host Agreement may be amended to suggest E and J will take proper action to correct any odor problems.

Mr. Brougham commented that there is another layer of protection in the draft language where the planning board can impose additional conditions. If odor becomes an area of concern the board of health can write to the planning board asking that a specific order that no odor migrate from the site. There are no residents in close proximity to where they will be located. Mr. Boscher doesn't have any specific concerns and questioned the town administrator if he had any. He has none. Cultivation is much different than retail. They will have to grow a crop before they can even think of selling. They could have elements that will challenge their growing such as moisture and pests.

There were no questions, comments or concerns from the audience in regards to this proposed cultivation facility.

Ms. Gramarossa suggested leaving the Host Agreement language as is and if they end up with a different kind of ventilation system the Board can attach an addendum to the host agreement so that their approval can be expedited and signed.

Mr. O'Connor moved to endorse the marijuana host agreement for E & J Supply, LLC. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Mr. O'Connor also commented that he had comments from Chief Pronovost that he is satisfied with the security for the facility. Mr. Boscher had also spoken to the Chief and feels comfortable moving forward. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- 7:25 p.m. – Jay Buckley, 403 Michael Sears Road – Traffic Concerns: Mr. Buckley was not available for this appearance and will be rescheduled at a later date.

5) Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Discuss Allen Street / Federal Street Intersection: This discussion has been postponed. The posting for the Board of Selectmen's agenda is posted online the Thursday prior to the Monday meeting. The Board wants to have the Chief of Police and the DPW Director present for this discussion. The Town Administrator will notify the resident, whose five children were in the car that was side-swiped at the intersection, when the discussion will be held.
- b. Review Revisions to Transfer Station Rules and Regulations: Mr. Brougham presented the details to the Board. The Director of Public Works is asking the Board to adopt these revisions to the Transfer Station. They are very insignificant changes. He referred to the changes as submitted by Mr. Williams.

Ms. Aldrich mentioned how the DPW is planning on doing a swap shop at the transfer station. Mr. Brougham commented that DPW had applied for a grant through MassDEP to build the shed.

Ms. Aldrich moved the Board approve the revisions to the Transfer Station Rules and Regulations. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- c. Appointment of Assistant Registrar of Voters for BHS: Mr. Boscher presented the details to the Board. Per the request of Ms. Toothill-Berte, Town Clerk, Ms. Aldrich moved to re-appoint Robert Hansbury as the Assistant Registrar of Voters for Belchertown High School with a term to expire March 31, 2020. Motion seconded by Ms. Gramarossa. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- d. Request from Janice McCarthy Rogers, McCarthy's Pub – Permission to Serve Outside for August 10th Event: Mr. Boscher presented the details to the Board. Janice McCarthy of McCarthy's Pub is requesting to serve food and alcohol outside under a tent on August 10th to benefit Springfield Shriners Children's Hospital. They are requesting to be able to serve outside from 11:00 a.m. through 11:00 p.m. They have always done a good job with the outside serving. Mr. O'Connor felt the times should be consistent with the times of their indoor license. Mr. Boscher was not in favor of having alcohol served outdoors until 1 or 2 am. Ms. Aldrich moved the Board approve the request from McCarthy's Pub to serve food and alcohol outside under a tent on August 10th from 11 am through 11 pm to benefit Springfield Shriners Children's hospital. Motion seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- e. Endorse PARC Grant Application: Mr. O'Connor gave a very brief introduction regarding this grant application. The grant is up to \$400,000 in reimbursements for Chestnut Hill recreation area. Kyle Thibeault, Recreation Director presented the details to the Board. He had the complete grant for the Board to review. The support letters are not included with tonight's paperwork but he has them and they have to be postmarked by July 19, 2019. He will send the letters that he has with the grant packet which is due in Boston on Thursday, July 11, 2019 by 3:00 p.m. As long as the Board signs off this evening he will make copies tomorrow and overnight it to Boston to make sure everything is there on time. The latest that we will know anything is December of this year. He reviewed the information that was required for the grant. This is the first time that Belchertown has ever applied for a PARC grant.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board authorize the Chairman of the Board to endorse the PARC Grant application. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- f. Finalize/Approval of Social Media Policy: Mr. O'Connor reminded the Board of the steps taken to finalize a social media policy. The final draft that was distributed did get some additional comments. Some of it was really good and there will be further work done on it. There were some concerns around first amendment rights and having someone identify them self as a town employee when posting personally. There is language that he wants to clean up prior to finalizing the policy. He has a call into the town of Agawam who currently uses some of the language in their policy. It should also be reviewed by town counsel prior to the Board voting on it. There were also a lot of questions about the library and he feels they should be exempt from this policy. They have their own policies, they have a community of libraries they do things with, they have third parties that they are already engaged with and they are not really a town department. All social media sites will be subject to this policy. There will be a training / approval process for using social media.

Ms. Gramarossa believes that there should be some language in the policy that describes "vendor" issue as there are some groups that do work with commercial vendors such as the cultural council. We want to show that the town isn't endorsing a product.

Once Mr. O'Connor gets feedback from the Town of Agawam he will have town counsel review the policy.

- g. Endorse Support Letter for Belchertown Cultural Council Grant: April Jasak-Bangs, Chairman of the Cultural Council briefed the Board on what they are trying to accomplish. They will be forming a non-profit called the Belchertown Cultural Alliance. They are bringing in a group of very motivated, strong people from all different community sectors. They are seeking the Board's support to apply for grants for a feasibility study for artist workshop space, co-working and maker space as well as a commercial kitchen. The grant is due on Friday, July 12, 2019. They are also looking into several other grants that have just become available. They have provided some rough numbers to the Board of community outreach and some of their own research so the Board could see how that building (6 Berkshire Avenue) could be self-sustaining. The feasibility study would give them better numbers to work with.

Ms. Gramarossa questioned who the applicant is for this grant. The Belchertown Cultural Alliance will be applying as a nonprofit group. This will allow them to take advantage of certain different types of grants.

Mr. Boscher wanted them to understand if this isn't sustainable as a business that the town cannot sustain the building, we will not keep that building open. They indicated that they understand it can't fall back to the town.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board endorse the letter of support for the Feasibility Study grant. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- h. Executive Session Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 3: Mr. O'Connor moved the Board enter executive session at the conclusion of their regular session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 3 and not to reconvene in open meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Roll call vote: O'Connor – yes, Gramarossa – yes, Aldrich – yes, Boscher – yes.
- i. Miscellaneous Matters: Ms. Aldrich commented that the Board will be holding a planning session on August 17, 2019 in the Selectmen's meeting room with a time change from 8:00 am to 6:45 am because there is an international world quilt exhibit that she will be attending.

6) Town Administrator's Report:

- The warrant article allowing the town to buy to contiguous lots to Jabish Brook Middle School – the closing for those lots happened today.
- All of the town's insurance policies are renewed at the end of June every year and that was all done prior to the start of the new fiscal year. The increase was marginal as we had a good loss/ratio last year.
- The Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust was notified that Belchertown employees had accepted the new plan. New insurance cards have been sent out to all employees using the health insurance.
- Improvements to the acoustics in the auditorium are ongoing
- Regular visits to Hampshire Housing Court regarding Sportshaven are occurring about every six weeks. The last two meetings have been non-productive as the judge has not been available. They go back to the court on July 22nd.

7) Review of Weekly Mail: Reviewed, no discussion held.

8) Individual Board Members' Reports:

Ms. Aldrich: She has a couple of meeting this week.

Ms. Gramarossa:

- She and Mr. Brougham will be attending a meeting on Thursday put on by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission regarding Municipal Vulnerability to Climate Change.
- In her day job and a program that she works with may provide some support in Belchertown. There is a regional "Drug Free Communities" project that Belchertown and the school districts are a part of. That project was awarded additional money to look at teen underage drinking and driving. It is a four year grant.

Mr. O'Connor: He had nothing to report. He hoped everyone had a good 4th of July. Congratulations to Christopher Heights on their 1-year anniversary.

Mr. Boscher: He met with the library and got their short, mid and long range vision.

9) **Questions from the Press:** None.

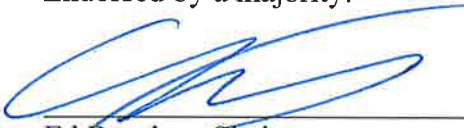
10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

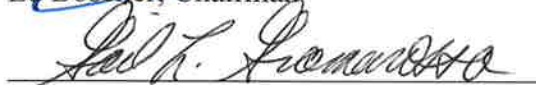
Board approved/endorsed: 7/22/19

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown


Endorsed by a majority:



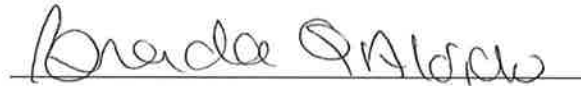
Ed Boscher, Chairman



Gail Gramarossa



Nicholas O'Connor



Brenda Q. Aldrich

(Absent)
Jen D. Turner