

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall**

**Present:** Nicholas O'Connor, George D. Archible, Gail Gramarossa, Brenda Q. Aldrich

**Absent:** Ed Boscher

**Call to Order:** Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2) Sign Documents:**

- a) Warrant #1902 for July 9, 2018 was signed for \$4,344,843.42. Warrant #1854 for June 29, 2018 was signed for \$715,697.56.
- b) Routine documents
- c) Approval of Minutes: Ms. Gramarossa moved the Board accept the minutes of June 11, 2018. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.

**3) Additions to the Agenda:**

- Amend Vote to Appoint Board of Health Member to the Marijuana Host Agreement Committee: At the July 2<sup>nd</sup> Board of Health meeting they voted to appoint Dana Burton as their representative to the Marijuana Host Agreement Committee. The Board of Selectmen had appointed Judy Metcalf as the representative as there was concern about timing with various meetings coming up.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Board rescind the appointment of Judy Metcalf as the Board of Health Representative to the Marijuana Host Agreement Committee and appoint Dana Burton as the representative. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.

**4) Appearances Before the Board:** None.

**5) Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Correction to Annual Appointment of Associate Member to Zoning Board of Appeals: Mr. Archible moved to rescind the appointment of Robert Vigneault as an associate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals and appoint Wayne Versace as an associate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals – term from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- b. Appointment of Landowner Representative of Trail Stewardship Council: Ms. Gramarossa moved to re-appoint Jane Bryden as the Landowner Representative on the Trail Stewardship Council for a term July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- c. Appointment of Members to Town Common Lighting Committee: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of Gloria Fortunato, Mr. O'Connor moved to appoint Marnie Henneman and Jim Phaneuf to the Town Common Lighting Committee. Motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Mr. O'Connor amended the motion to include the term for Ms. Henneman to expire June 30, 2021. Amended motion seconded by Mr. Archible. Motion passes 4 – 0. Mr.

O'Connor amended the motion to include the term for Mr. Phaneuf to expire June 30, 2019. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.

- d. Acknowledge Planning Board Member's Resignation: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. Planning Board member Sierra Pelletier is resigning from the Planning Board effective August 1, 2018, and therefore cannot continue as the PVPC Commissioner after that date. A letter will be sent to Ms. Pelletier thanking her for her service to the Town.
- e. Joint Appointment – Planning Board's Alternate Voting Member for Special Permits: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. Per the recommendation of the Planning Board Mr. O'Connor moved to appoint Justin Rosiensi as the Alternate Voting Member for Special Permits for FY19. Motion seconded by Ms. Aldrich. Motion passes 4 – 0.
- f. Review Special Permit and Site Plan Review – Borrego Solar Systems, Inc., 400 Franklin Street: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board. There is no action for the Board to take. It is a heads-up for the Board. He has reviewed the plan and has no concerns. Board members had no concerns. He commented the Board will remand the plan back to the Planning Board for their review.
- g. Review Special Permit and Site Plan Review – BWC Scarborough Brook, LLC, Gulf Road: Mr. O'Connor presented the details to the Board indicating there is considerably more manipulation of land with this permit request. He has reviewed it and has no particular concerns.

He questioned if other Board members had concerns. Ms. Gramarossa indicated she has been contacted by a number of residents with concerns over this proposed project. She wanted it noted that she has received calls regarding this project and another proposed project. She is concerned about the level of clear cutting that is proposed. She has spoken with the new Conservation Administrator regarding the projects.

Ms. Aldrich also indicated she has received some calls. When the Planning Board holds the hearing word will have to get out that residents need to come and speak their concerns.

Mr. Archible stated the Board needs to give it back to the Planning Board for them to do their due diligence.

Mr. O'Connor opened the comments up to the residents in the audience.

Elizabeth Pols from 44 North Street was alerted to the project that has not made it into the special permit process. She is surprised that there is a second one so close together. She thought they would hear more details this evening. Syncarpha has done a presentation for the residents regarding their project but there isn't much known about the Blue Wave project. She was confused regarding the sizes of the projects.

The Town Administrator gave the information regarding the two projects. One is being proposed by Blue Wave Solar and the other is Syncarpha on Gulf Road and North Street. The Town has not received a formal site plan application for Syncarpha. The Blue Wave application has been received. He explained the

difference between alternate current (ac) and direct current (dc). It is the dc number that we need to be concerned about; solar tax pilots would be proposed on the dc current. He also commented on all of the proposed solar projects in town and how capacity works with the infrastructure.

Jean Marie Leone of 585 North Gulf Road went back through the history of town and tourism in town. She spoke of the conservation areas which are part of the view shed. The solar panel will impact the view shed plus they will impact storm water runoff. There is a lot of tourism on Gulf Road. She questions the impact the panels will have on tourism in town. Gate 8 at the Quabbin is also there. People are asking for directions to Gate 8 to go fishing. She is concerned about the impact about the power stations will have on the residential neighborhood. Storm water is going to be a huge problem. There is concern as to what happens when the solar panels break down as they age. What happens with the barium and silicone leaching from the panels? We could be polluting out water sources.

Mr. O'Connor commented he understands the concerns but that there is a process. This is a private company talking to a private land owner and it must go through the proper process. August 14<sup>th</sup> is when the Planning Board will be holding the hearing to begin this process.

Ms. Pols questioned if the Board of Health has any say in this process. It was recommended that they be consulted to see what their role is in the process.

Jay Gubrium of 369 South Gulf Road questioned the status of the Syncarpha proposal. He was told that no proposal has been received by the town. Mr. Brougham explained why all these proposals are out there. It has to do with net metering credits offered by the State's Green Energy programs. He explained the process to the residents. He also explained that the Planning Board sends the special permit applications to various town departments. They will look at all comments that come back to them.

Karen Chrisman of 76 North Street thanked the Board for listening to the concerns. She questioned if Blue Wave had no need for a pilot agreement. She was told they will but it will have to go to town meeting. She questioned that because the State is anxious to build up their renewable energy she questioned if zoning could be overridden and call this an agricultural field. Mr. Brougham stated he thought they were creatively calling it solar farming. He thinks it is a question for the Planning Board.

Ms. Gramarossa suggested that the residents submit written comments to the Planning Board in advance of the August 14<sup>th</sup> public hearing.

Paddy Lizabeth of 445 South Gulf Road questioned if the town has an oversight committee to oversee these types of facilities. The Board feels this is a good question for the Planning Board.

The Board of Selectmen will take no action and remand it back to the Planning Board for their review.

- a. Executive Session – MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 3: Ms. Gramarossa 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 Mr. O'Connor. Roll call vote: Aldrich – yes, O'Connor – yes, Archible – yes, Gramarossa – yes.
- h. Miscellaneous: None.

**6) Town Administrator's Report:**

- Last Friday he visited the Christopher Heights facility. Currently there are 15 residents. The staff will be opening the second floor this week, moving in new residents. It is absolutely beautiful. The furnishings were very well planned.
- Pride Park is also moving along. He hopes to see it opened by the end of the year.
- The trestle has been totally demolished as has the power house. The rubble is being removed.
- The contractor working on Carriage Drive was off last week. Town employees had a holiday in the middle of the week last week but are back at it today. That progress is brisk. Ms. Gramarossa questioned if anyone has been taken photographs of the various stages of work. The town administrator indicated he has taken some pictures. He is quite pleased with the progress.
- Sunday morning a water main broke on Sargent Street. We lost about 10 ft. of water out of the Park Street tank. Water was shut off quickly so the loss wasn't greater. Ms. Aldrich commented that to thank the highway department and the police department. About a week or so ago a water main broke close to her driveway and flooded her front yard. It was taken care of in no time.
- The conservation administrator notified town officials that there has been a recent bloom of green algae in Lake Metacomet. People are encouraged to stay away from it as it can cause skin irritation. It is thought that this might be because of global warming. As of now none has been seen in Lake Arcadia where the town beach is. The situation will be monitored.

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

**8) Individual Board Members' Reports:**

Mr. Archible: He toured the State School yesterday. It's a beautiful piece of property. It's exciting to see the development. Mr. O'Connor mentioned the business that moved into the former Gardening Center is doing a brisk business. They are making a lot of t-shirts for residents in town. They do a lot for bands around the country and they are doing a lot of work out of that facility.

Ms. Gramarossa: Thanked the Belchertown Opioid Awareness Task Force for the vigil that they held. There were about 75 – 80 people on the common to support those struggling with addition as well as those lost.

She thanked the conservation administrator for the time she spent with her. Ms. Gramarossa will be attending the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission training that they are doing for local licensing authorities. She is meeting with the groups that she is the liaison for to better understand how things work.

Mr. O'Connor: He was on vacation last week. A week from Friday is the second Food Truck Event (July 20<sup>th</sup>). It is being co-sponsored with the Recreation Department who will follow the Food Truck event with a movie.

Ms. Aldrich: Congratulated the Belchertown Police Department and Fire Department for their second annual Blood Drive.

9) **Questions from the Press:** Steve Hill from the *Sentinel* questioned if the Board will send comments back to the Planning Board regarding the special permit for the solar farm. Mr. O'Connor confirmed that comments will be sent to the Planning Board and the Town Planner.


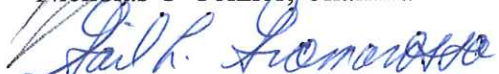
10) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

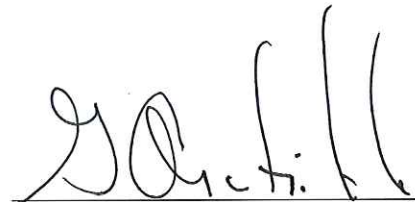

Minutes submitted by Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator

Board approved/endorsed: July 23, 2018

Board of Selectmen - Town of Belchertown

Endorsed by a majority:

  
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Nicholas O'Connor, Chairman  
  
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Gail Gramarossa

  
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George D. Archible  
  
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Brenda Q. Aldrich

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Ed Boscher (absent on 7/9/2018)