

TOWN OF STERLING
Select Board Meeting
January 20, 2021

MEETING:	Chair Cranson, called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Roll Call: Chair Cranson – Present. Select member Sonnenberg – Participated remotely. Select member Kilcoyne – Present. Also present were Town Administrator, Kellie Hebert, Operations Manager/Accountant, Fred Aponte and Senior Executive Assistant, Kama Jayne.
Minutes	Select member Kilcoyne moved to approve the public minutes of January 6, 2021. Select member Sonnenberg 2 nd . Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion Carried.
Conservation Update	<p>Conservation Agent, Matt Marro, gave the following update:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. He is currently doing grant research for Culvert replacement - 2 areas under consideration (near Memorial Park and Greenland Road).2. Implementation of 3 forest cutting plans:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hall Ave, (will be selectively harvested to promote bird habitat)• Park Street, (will be “clean cut” harvested. Wood that is not desirable lumber will be left in rear parking lot for residents to take as firewood)• Hardscrabble Road (continuation of larger harvesting project)3. Evaluation of 40 B application for wetland alterations proposed by the applicant. (Study of impact to wetlands on Chase Hill Road)4. Research for site assignment requirements and logistics for a Town Compost facility. (Currently location under consideration is behind the Police Station. Conservation will continue to work with DPW to establish a waste stream management plan)5. Development of open space land use policy. (Agent continues to work on formulation of a formal policy tailored to the needs of Sterling)6. Implementation of handicap accessible trail grant and grant for placement of accessible picnic tables on town properties.7. Update on engineering evaluation for the rehabilitation of drainage and roadways at the town beach at Hall Ave and Swett Hill Road. (Continues to work with Whitman and Bingham to establish plans for retention basins, vortex separators and appropriate drainage. Draft should be ready in February)8. Participation as an instructor for Mass Envirothon in cooperation with DCR. (Will teach a Zoom class to children regarding wetlands)9. Updates on items prior to COVID-19: (Continues to work on Aquifer protection zone study and the Earth removal by law update.) <p>The Board thanked Mr. Marro for the update and for his accomplishments in all of these areas.</p>

Select Board Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2021

BOH Covid Update

Chair Martin of the Board of Health reported the following;

Current Covid - 19 information may be accessed at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-information-for-local-boards-of-health> or at the [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) website under COVID INTERACTIVE DASHBOARD.

The vaccination timeline reflects the priorities of protecting the most vulnerable, maintaining health care system capacity, addressing inequities in health care access and Covid-19 burden. Therefore, the vaccines will be distributed as follows :

Phase One **December – February (in order of Priority)**

- All Healthcare workers doing direct and covid-facing care
- Long Term Care Facilities
- First Responders
- Congregate care settings
- Home-based healthcare workers
- Healthcare workers doing non-covid –facing care

Phase Two **February – April (in order of Priority)**

- Those with 2+ comorbidities and/or age 75+with high risk for Covid-19 complications
- Early education and K-12 workers
- Transit
- Grocery
- Utility
- Food
- Agriculture
- Sanitation
- Public works and public health worker
- Adults age 65+
- Individuals with one comorbidity

April – June

General Public

The Board of Health will establish a vaccination site in town and the vaccination schedule will be made available to the public via multiple sources, including website, the senior center and the local newspaper. The BOH will have an update at the next Select Board meeting.

Groundwater Protection Bylaw

After discussion, Select member Kilcoyne moved to request that the Planning Board hold a Public Hearing for review of the proposed amendments to Groundwater Protection Bylaw, which will be considered at Town Meeting. Select member Sonnenberg 2nd. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion Carried.

Appointments

Postponed.

Scholarship Funding

After discussion, Selectman Cranson moved to use \$1000.00 from the Maria Houghton fund and \$500.00 from the Iaccabucci Fund to offer (3) \$500.00 scholarships to Sterling High School seniors, who wish to further their education. Selectwoman Sonnenberg 2nd. Selectman Cranson – Aye. Selectwoman Sonnenberg – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried.

The scholarship applications are due by April 15th, 2021. The application will be sent to the High Schools and posted on the website. Todd Chapman, from the Finance Committee, Select member Kilcoyne and a Deacon from the Church will consider all applications in order to determine their recommendations to the Board.

TA Report

	<p>FY22 Budget Packages: FY 22 budget packets will be distributed tomorrow. A Budget Kick-Off Meeting for all Department Heads will be held next week.</p> <p>Wachusett Regional School Committee: The WRSC met for a budget round-table. Another meeting will be held next week. Select member Kilcoyne, Todd Chapman, Chair of the Finance Committee, and I will continue to attend the meetings.</p> <p>Building Inspector: The Building Commissioner's last day in the office was yesterday. However, she will help coordinate final inspections and wrap up special projects such as the FY22 Budget Request and the Annual Town Report.</p> <p>Work Session: A Working Session was held yesterday at 4:00pm to discuss preliminary plans for the hiring process and transition plan for the Building Department. We discussed a few proposals and I am gathering more detailed information for our next meeting.</p> <p>Window Installation: Approximately 20 windows were replaced in this building over the weekend. Work was completed on Monday, January 18th.</p> <p>Massachusetts Cultural Council Capital Grant Program: Working with members of the 1835 Town Hall Committee. A grant request was submitted to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for a Capital Grant proposal to expand the capacity of the building, augment the heating via mini-splits, add acoustical features and enhance the cable capability of the building with recording and broadcasting equipment. We should thank Christine McCarthy and Arden for assistance with the grant submission and the narrative.</p> <p>Compact Community Regionalization Grant: I am working on details to prepare a potential application to form a Regional Building Inspection Services Collaborative.</p> <p>Community Compact Program: As we close up last year's grant for the Master Plan, we are accepting new proposals for the next grant opportunity. Ideas welcome.</p> <p>District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Grant: The MRPC has announced availability of new DLTA grant. The Town Planner Dominica and I will meet tomorrow to discuss the options.</p>
PSAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nomination papers are available at the Clerk's Office. Available positions are online.• Interviews for the Recreation Director Position will begin on January 28th.• Kudos to Christine McCarthy and Carol Stuart-Grinkas for taking the lead on the Cultural Council grant for the 1835.
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An occupancy permit has been granted to the 1835 Town Hall building. Covid protocol is preventing the use of the building for programming. <p>At 7:36 Select member Kilcoyne moved to adjourn the meeting. Select member Sonnenberg 2nd. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Motion carried.</p> <p>Materials: Agenda, Minutes, 61A release, volunteer applications, scholarship available funds, Covid info., Conservation doc., TA report</p>