

TOWN OF STERLING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
April 20, 2017

<p><b>MEETING:</b></p>	<p>Chairman Kilcoyne called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm. Roll Call: Selectwoman Cranson - Present. Chairman Kilcoyne – present. Selectman Lane - present.</p>
<p>Minutes</p>	<p>Selectman Lane moved to approve the public minutes of April 5, 2017 as written. Selectwoman Cranson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne- Aye. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>Selectman Lane moved to approve and post the executive minutes of April 5, 2017, regarding the Dispatcher's Union, as written. Selectwoman Cranson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne- Aye. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>Selectman Lane moved to approve and post the executive minutes of April 5, 2017, regarding the Fire Department Union, as written. Selectwoman Cranson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne- Aye. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>Selectman Lane moved to approve the public minutes of April 12, 2017, as written. Selectwoman Cranson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne- Aye. Motion carried.</p>
<p>Update Wachusett Greenways</p>	<p>Colleen Abrams, Chairman of Wachusett Greenways, addressed the Board. She thanked the Board and the public for their partnership in developing and maintaining the Mass Central Rail Trail. She reported the following:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wachusett Greenways has applied for the 2017 DCR Recreational Trails Grant.</li><li>• This \$100,000.00 grant will be used, in part, to replace the deteriorating deck on the West Waushacum/Quag Bridge and to stabilize the embankments there.</li><li>• Wachusett Greenways will provide the match for the grant.</li><li>• In the last 22 years, 19 miles of trails have been established and continue to be maintained with the help of Sterling, West Boylston, Holden, Rutland, Oakham and Barre.</li></ul>
	<p>Ms Abrams stated that Wachusett Greenways is grateful to the Sterling DPW for their support, including mowing, plowing and tree removal. She advised the public that they are welcome to use the trails during daylight hours.</p>
	<p>Wachusett Greenways will celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 30<sup>th</sup>. A special gathering will take place at 10:00 at the West Boylston trail. Live music will be provided at the mill. Greenways continue to advocate for new members and contributions. The Board of Selectmen thanked Ms Abrams for her continued efforts.</p>
<p>Farmer's Market request</p>	<p>Dawn Hartnett, Chairman of the Farmers Market Co-op, requested that the Farmer's Market be allowed to use the grassy area in front of the Butterick Building on Friday afternoons from 2 - 7 pm. The Farmers Market will run from May 19<sup>th</sup> – October 21. She also requested permission to close Park Street during the Farmer's market hours of operation to ensure safety. After Discussion, Selectman Lane moved to allow the Farmers Market to use the grassy area in front of the Butterick Building and to close Park Street from 2 – 7 pm on Fridays from May 19 – October 21. Selectwoman Cranson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne- Aye. Motion carried.</p>
<p>Rugg Road St. Light request</p>	<p>The Town has received a request for a street light on Rugg Road. The Chief of Police reported that a 5 year search of the police data base did not indicate that there had been any crimes, in that area, that could be</p>

attributed to lack of lighting. Therefore, there are no public safety issues that would require additional lighting in that area. The Sterling Municipal Light Department reported that there are other homeowners on that street who are paying a monthly fee for street lights in front of their homes. After discussion, the board decided that they did not want to set a precedent. Therefore, Selectwoman Cranson moved to deny the request for a street light to be installed, at the Town's expense. The home owner may contact the SMLD and have a streetlight installed at his own expense. Selectman Lane -2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne- Aye. Motion carried.

Marijuana update

The Select Board received a letter from the Planning Board, dated April 4, in which the Planning Board requests that the Board of Selectmen rescind their letter of support for Prime Wellness. The consensus of the board follows;

- The letter of support for Prime Wellness, to the State, was signed in good faith by the former Board of Selectmen. The agreement was made with Prime Wellness prior to the passage of the new recreational marijuana law and Prime Wellness has committed a considerable amount time, effort, energy and capital to proceed with their business.
- The Board would like to receive a formal confirmation of the intentions of Prime Wellness. They would like a contract that assures the Board that Prime Wellness will abide by the specifics of the initial agreement. (Prime Wellness authorities have stated that the company is not interested in pursuing a recreational Marijuana license)
- The Board is confident that a one year moratorium, on recreational marijuana establishments, will give the Town time to implement and/or amend bylaws that will cohere with the, yet to be established, State laws and regulations.
- It is the Board's intention to be able to offer the voters the opportunity to prohibit marijuana establishments within the borders of the Town, at the fall, 2017 or 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

Selectwoman Cranson moved to respectfully decline the Planning Board's request to rescind the Board of Selectmen's letter of support for Prime Wellness for a Medical Marijuana growing facility in Sterling. Chairman Kilcoyne 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne- Aye. Motion carried.

MRPC Sewer feasibility study grant

As part of the District Local Technical Assistant Program (DELTA) the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) has indicated an interest in assisting the Economic Development Committee (EDC) by studying the feasibility of a sewer solution for the Town of Sterling. The primary areas of concern are the Industrial area, Route 12 (center of Town) and later, possibly the Lake Waushacum area. The deadline for the District Local Technical Assistant Program (DELTA) grant application was immediate so the Town Administrator signed the application, on behalf of the Board. He now requests that the Board approve the signing of that grant application. After discussion, Selectman Lane moved that the Sterling Board of Selectmen support the District Local Technical Assistance service request submitted on March 21, 2017 to the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission for a sewage services feasibility study of the future. Selectwoman Cranson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne- Aye. Motion carried.

After discussion Selectwoman Cranson moved to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the MRPC feasibility study grant application on their behalf. Selectman Lane 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne- Aye. Motion carried.

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Chocksett Crossing restrictions

The condo neighborhood near Chocksett Road has its own sewage treatment system. However, the system is "over designed" and it has been determined through the State that a Title 5 permit would be advantageous, appropriate and environmentally sound. In order to transition to a Title 5 system, the Town needed to accept further restrictions on the surrounding Conservation land as a "nitrogen sensitive" area.

After discussion with Conservation Agent Matthew Marro, it was determined that by accepting the restrictions on the property, a large number of Sterling residents will benefit and it will cost the Town nothing. Therefore, the Board of Selectmen determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to grant, with quitclaim covenants, to the Sterling Land Trust, in perpetuity and exclusively for conservation purposes, the parcel of land off Chocksett Road and recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deed Book 19639, Page 16.

Also, for the same purpose, the Board of Selectmen determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to grant, with quitclaim covenants, to the Sterling Land Trust, in perpetuity and exclusively for conservation purposes, the parcel of land on Pratts Junction Road and recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deed Book 41978, Page 381. Selectman Lane moved that the Board sign the Conservation restriction document for the Chocksett Road parcel and the Pratts Junction parcel. Selectwoman Cranson – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne- Aye. Motion carried.

Appoint Murray to ACB

After discussion Chairman Kilcoyne moved to appoint Keith Murray to the Animal Control advisory Committee, term to end June 30, 2018. Selectwoman Cranson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion Carried.

Antique License renewals

After discussion Selectwoman Cranson moved to renew the antique/junk licenses for Sterling Rare Coin, Inc., Redemption Rock Trading Post, Pratt's Junction Antiques, and Oh My Gosh Antiques. Selectman Lane 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion Carried.

TA Report

Town Administrator Report- April 20, 2017

- The STM and ATM Warrant was sent to the printers on schedule and 800 copies were delivered.
- The motions for the articles are almost finalized and have been reviewed by Town Counsel, Bond Counsel and Fin Com. These should be finalized after the Moderator's pre-town meeting on Friday and the Fin Com meeting next Monday.
- The Warrant and list of motions are the work of many in this building including the Town Accountant Fred Aponte and Treasure Collector Anne Cervantes.
- Regretfully, Anne Cervantes will be leaving the Town and the Treasure/Collector position on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for a similar position in Fitchburg. She will be missed as she has been instrumental in assisting the new Town Administrator during his transition while continuing to run the T/C office. We wish her the best in her expanded opportunity in Fitchburg.
- The TA is currently reviewing Treasure Collector job descriptions and asked the Board if they wanted to form a search committee or maybe a working committee under the Town Administrator who will report their recommendations to the Board. The TA will meet with Anne and Karen to determine what tasks can be covered 'in-house', and which ones might need an interim Treasure Collector contractor. The consensus of the board was that an advisory committee would be beneficial. The Chairman will see about putting together such a committee.
- The Library and TA are working with DE Corp to update the HVAC specs to include fresh air ventilation, dehumidifying the basement, and removal of the Stelles (hot rocks) electric heating elements from the design.
- The FY 18 budget is looking OK. The recent estimated Cherry Sheet receipts decreased almost \$100K from earlier estimates. The impact of this decrease lowers Sterling's unused tax levy and the Fin Com

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will discuss on Monday the possibility of transferring \$150,000 from the Stabilization Fund, to reduce the tax rate.

- After meeting with the Town's financial advisor, First Southwest and reviewing the potential borrowing for the \$610,000 full scope plan for the 1835 Building, it was recommended that the maximum term for this bond be 10 years. If the \$610,000.00 Article for the 1835 Town Hall is approved at the ATM and the ballot, the first year's payment will be \$79,300 with an average payment of \$71,065.
- The painter is planning to start on the 1835 Building work on Monday.
- Yesterday the region's Town Administrators met with the WRSD Admin. It looks like the school district is seeing some budget relief with small increases to Chapter 70 funds and health insurance increases a little less than initially expected. Until the State finalizes the budget, the school district is not working on any budget changes. All towns continued to represent that the current budget increase is not sustainable.
- Although the snow season is behind us, we still ended up with a town hall closure on April 10th due to a critter chewing off the insulation on the high voltage underground cable. Many thanks goes out to the Light Dept. and Tom Sparks (who retired last Friday) for their quick response
- The town is still searching for volunteers to fill committee and Board vacancies. Those vacancies can be found on-line.
- As a reminder, the deadline for applying for the Selectmen's scholarship is May 8<sup>th</sup>. Applications are available online and through the schools.

Public Session

No one spoke at public session.

Executive Session

The Executive session was tabled.

Adjourn

At 4:28pm Selectwoman Cranson moved to adjourn. Selectman Lane 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion Carried.

Materials: minutes, Greenways letter, Rugg road emails, Planning Board letter, letter to MRPC, Conservation restrictions, volunteer application, antique licenses