

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM – 7 P.M.
MINUTES**

Present were Members: Chair John R. Hine, Vice Chair Sarah Etelman, Clerk Bruce C. Forcier, Ira J. Brezinsky and Francis J. DeToma; Town Administrator Michael J. Sullivan.

Chair Hine called the meeting to order at 7 o'clock, noting that all members were present.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SB Member Forcier moved to approve the minutes of May 17, 2016. SB Member Etelman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

SB Member Etelman reminded folks that the artwork of Jack Barry will be on display through the end of June, at which time it will be replaced by the work of a new artist, Betsy Sheridan. Ms. Sheridan's show will be installed July 7th or 8th and will be up for the next Selectboard meeting in this room on July 12th, Mr. Sullivan added. The Selectboard meeting on June 21st is in the Town Hall auditorium, he reminded.

SB Member Etelman announced that the South Hadley Farmer's Market has begun and is on the South Hadley common every Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. She encouraged residents to visit.

Mr. Forcier offered commendation to staff at the Ledges and International Golf Maintenance (IGM). Today was the first day of the Connecticut section PGA Spring Stroke Play Tournament. Native son Adam Rainaud is leading the tournament and Chris Tallman had a very good showing. He offered congratulations to all 2016 South Hadley High School graduates.

SB Member Brezinsky echoed Mr. Forcier's comment about graduation. The ceremony was moved indoors due to weather and went off without a hitch. The speakers were fantastic, he observed. This Saturday at 5:30 p.m. WestMass Brass will hold a free concert at the South Hadley Public Library, he shared. He encouraged residents to bring a blanket, lawn chair and picnic dinner and enjoy the show.

SB Member DeToma offered commendation and thanks to all the participants in Memorial Day activities. The ceremony was moved into the high school due to the threat of rain, but everything about it was memorable. It was a very apt celebration of an important day, he remarked.

And, with regard to an article in this morning's paper about the possibility of lead being in South Hadley school water, Mr. DeToma assured residents that this is not the case. In response to parental concerns, the school superintendent has engaged a firm to do lead testing in all schools, and they all came back negative. As far as they know, there is no lead in the water in South Hadley's public schools, he confirmed.

3. RECOGNITION OF GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD RECIPIENT AND BOY SCOUT EAGLE SCOUT

Selectboard Chair John Hine publicly recognized Kylie Biron for her attainment of the Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest award for Girl Scouts in grades 6 to 8. Kylie said her Take Action project to meet the requirements of the award was to promote clean streets in Granby and to make sure kids at East Meadow School cleaned up the environment. Chair Hine also recognized Joshua Virgil McKeever for his attainment of the Eagle Scout award.

4. INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL ON AGING (COA) DIRECTOR LESLIE HENNESSEY

Mr. Sullivan introduced new Council on Aging (COA) Director Leslie Hennessey. She has lived in South Hadley for 27 years, raised three children in town and loves the community, Ms. Hennessey said. She worked for the Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) and Hospice Life Care for 11 years and served at the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill in

Western Massachusetts for about four years, she related. At the Holyoke VNA and hospice she was the coordinator of volunteers for the hospice program and also community marketing director. She is very excited about this opportunity. She observed the hot meals on wheels volunteers today, and it was like an assembly line at Ford Motor Company, she quipped. Members welcomed Hennessey to town.

5. **OPEN FORUM**

Chair Hine asked if anyone wished to address the Selectboard under open forum. **Jon E. Camp of 202 Lathrop Street** announced that Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) is about to accept delivery of its new van. The van will be on display at Town Hall prior to the Selectboard meeting on June 21st.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE REQUEST:**

- **Marilyn Ishler for Lion's Club 70th Anniversary – June 18, 2016 – Buttery Brook Park**

SB Member Forcier moved to accept the consent agenda for a One Day Beer and Wine license for Marilyn Ishler for the Lion's Club 70th Anniversary. SB Member DeToma seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

7. **APPLICANTS FOR APPOINTMENT**

COUNCIL ON AGING

Richard Matteson was present to discuss his interest in appointment to the Council on Aging. When asked why he seeks appointment, he facetiously replied, "Because I'm aging." He has lived in town for 10 years and served on the Cultural Council for the past six. His term on that board is up soon so he thought he ought to do something else. He ran against three incumbents for a seat on the Trustees of the Free Public Library but lost. He really enjoys doing things around town and has been involved with the South Hadley Chorale and children's chorus and is the minister of music of the First Congregational Church in Amherst. He has been to the senior center exactly twice. The expected increase in the senior population is one of the reasons he is interested in being involved, and he would like to work with Ms. Hennessey.

Mr. Matteson fielded question from members. He has a pretty good handle on working on boards and committees, having served as president of a large mental health board for seven years before moving to South Hadley. He is a hands on person but enjoys policy and making decisions; helping staff to accomplish those tasks that they are set out to do. He likes to be a leader, he elaborated. This seemed like a good fit to him.

SB Member DeToma referred to the complexity of services offered by the senior center, such as Meals on Wheels, referring people in need to social services and the many different programs, and the possibility of the town embarking on construction of a new facility. It sounds like he is ready for the challenge, he commented.

MUNICIPAL GOLF COMMISSION

Chris Collins was present to discuss his interest in appointment to the Golf Commission. He has a couple of friends who are in a golf league and they have been talking about it, he shared. He attended a meeting last month and sat in the background. He has been in South Hadley for six years, started golfing at the Ledges when he moved to town and has been a member for the last three years. He wanted to get involved and was on the Appropriations Committee for a few years, but his job got crazy so he had to step down. He has a pretty extensive background in athletics; he was an Athletics Director for 11 years and is a life-long educator.

Chair Hine asked if he saw any opportunities for activities at the Ledges. Jim Falco is talking about starting a program in June for beginning golfers, Mr. Collins responded. They have a really large league – 88 guys on Wednesday night. He has had a few conversations with [General Manager] Andy [Rogers] about things going on. He thinks he would have some ideas, including the possibility of using the outdoor deck a little more.

Ms. Etelman asked if he had any thoughts about what could happen in the offseason that wouldn't damage the grass.

He lives on San Souci Drive and snowshoes at the course a lot and also sees cross country skiers there. It is an amazing space even in winter as there is a lot of wildlife there.

Mr. Brezinsky pointed out that even though the vacancy is for an alternate, anytime a full member is not present the alternate can vote.

There were only five regular members present at the meeting he attended last week, Mr. Collins confirmed.

CABLE TV (CATV) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Denise Presley was present to discuss her interest in appointment to the CATV Advisory Committee. The last time she applied for appointment she withdrew because there was another candidate who she thought was much more qualified but this time she thinks she might be pretty good, she joked. For the last five months, she and four other residents have been producing a TV show for Channel 15 called "Speaking of South Hadley." They have produced four shows, two of which are currently being broadcast: a show on golf and another on water quality in South Hadley Fire Districts No. 1 and No 2. In her past life she volunteered with the Chicago cable access station, a very fun assignment. It was a larger market, and she had a little talk show. She spoke of being recognized by a little boy in a barbershop. She knows the power of cable TV and how much good can be accomplished through it, she related.

She got the idea for "Speaking of South Hadley" when she attended a public forum and noticed individuals being waved off the stage due to time constraints, Ms. Presley continued. She also worked in corporate planning and development where she was the Executive Producer of industrial video tapes. In those days, corporations would spend \$40,000 producing shows. She produced shows on fine jewelry, sump pumps, etc. She has some background in television production and loves producing these shows, she shared.

SB Member DeToma complimented her strong speaking voice and expressed his opinion that it would be foolish of them not to take advantage of her expertise.

Members mentioned the committee's role in negotiating with the cable service provider (Comcast) and also discussed the desirability of increasing student participation in cable studio activities. She has talked to Cable Studio Manager Bob Smith about the possibility of going to the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts (PVPA) school, Ms. Presley responded. One of the things that makes producing a show difficult is getting a crew together. If she could sign kids up to work on shows it would be great, she agreed.

SB Member Brezinsky voiced the opinion that Ms. Presley brings tremendous experience to a part of the job that is not written into the committee's charge. He wondered aloud if the charge could be expanded, and Mr. Sullivan said this would be up to the Selectboard's discretion.

RECREATION COMMISSION

David Mendoza was present to discuss his interest in appointment to the Recreation Commission. He expressed excitement at the opportunity, noting he has lived in South Hadley for almost 11 years and actively coached in all three seasons for seven years. He has a 6th grade son and 4th grade daughter and is a 30-year veteran and recent retiree of the Air Force. He still works for the Department of Defense (DOD) as regional director for health care for veterans, retirees and active-duty families but has much more time now and would like to be more involved in decision-making and policy.

He has a communications and public relations background and served as a squadron commander with over 100 employees in the Air Force and so thinks the position is a good fit. He was also a high school and college athlete and enjoys working with Andy Rogers and Danielle Stelma; he thinks they do a fantastic job. He said he had some ideas for expanding some of the programs.

Chair Hine asked if there are any facility issues in expanding programs.

A lot of that's been addressed, Mr. Mendoza commented. The spring season is the most challenging season, but things are moving in the right direction. With the winter sports season, the completion of the Plains Elementary School gym has added another full-sized court for basketball. He was recently elected board president of the Pioneer Valley USO, a natural fit for a retired commander and 30-year veteran of the Air Force. Working with Jim Falco, he recently booked the USO's fall golf tournament at the Ledges, and he is excited about that.

Chair Hine noted that the Selectboard will not take action on Golf and Recreation Commission appointments tonight because they have additional interviews on June 21st.

8. ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Mr. Sullivan brought to the board's attention that, according to the General Bylaw, three members need to be actively engaged in agriculture and, at present, only Dawn Archambault is. He also noted that this has not been an active committee. The member with an expiring term did not respond to indicate that she was interested in reappointment.

The Selectboard took no action on reappointment of the Agricultural Commission.

BOARD OF APPEALS

SB Member Brezinsky moved to reappoint Martha Terry to a three year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals. SB Member Forcier seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

Ms. Etelman moved to reappoint Mary Hirschel to a three-year term on the Bylaw Review Committee. Mr. Forcier seconded. Mr. Brezinsky drew attention to the fact that there is another vacancy on this board and encouraged residents to apply. Likewise, the Zoning Board of Appeals has a vacant seat. **The motion passed unanimously 5:0.**

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

SB Member Forcier moved to reappoint Schley Warren and Forest Price as Selectboard representatives to the Capital Planning Committee. SB Member Brezinsky seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

WHITING STREET FUND COMMISSION

SB Member Forcier moved to reappoint Hazel Snopek, Margaret St. Martin, Ryan S. Bagley and Pauline Casey to the Whiting Street Fund Commission. SB Member Brezinsky seconded. The motion carried 5:0.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SB Member Etelman moved to reappoint William Bacis as a member of the Conservation Commission with a term ending June 30, 2019. SB Member Brezinsky seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

COUNCIL ON AGING

SB Member Etelman moved to appoint Richard Matteson, Elaine Burke and Sarah Gmeiner to the Council on Aging to terms expiring June 30, 2019. SB Member Forcier seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

SB Member DeToma moved to reappoint Gail LePine as a member of the Historical Commission. SB Member Forcier seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

SB Member Etelman moved to reappoint Ann Eaton and Michelle Wolfe to the Master Plan Implementation Committee with terms ending June 30, 2019. SB Member Brezinsky seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

MUNICIPAL GOLF COMMISSION

SB Member DeToma moved to reappoint Jeffrey Millard and Kyle Steinbock to the Municipal Golf Commission. SB Member Brezinsky seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

SB Member Etelman moved to reappoint Richard Harris as a member of the Open Space Committee with a term ending June 30, 2021. SB Member Brezinsky seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

RECREATION COMMISSION

SB Member Forcier moved to reappoint Amy MG Foley as a member of the Recreation Commission with a term ending June 30, 2019. SB Member Etelman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE

SB Member Brezinsky moved to reappoint Frank DeToma and Gerald Judge to the Historic District Study Committee. SB Member Forcier seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

SB Member Etelman moved to reappoint Amy Foley as a member of the Board of Registrars with a term ending June 30, 2019. SB Member Forcier seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

The Selectboard took no action on reappointment of Sustainability & Energy Commission members since staff was unable to contact the chair.

Ms. Etelman moved to reappoint Desiree Smelcer, Wayne Gass and Barbara Merchant as Trustees of the Old Firehouse Museum with terms expiring June 30, 2019. Mr. Forcier seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

9. AD HOC COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENTS

Mr. Sullivan clarified that all Ad Hoc Committee appointments are for one-year terms.

SB Member Forcier moved to reappoint Eric Zahm, Dale Johnston, Stephen Fox and Denise Presley to the Cable TV Advisory Committee. SB Member Etelman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Chair Hine read the names of Bike/Walk Committee members as follows: Nancy Bozek, Keith Davis, Larry Dubois, Lucia Foley, Marilyn Gass, Margaret Jodoin, Mariann Millard, Melissa O'Brien and Linda Young. **SB Member Brezinsky moved to reappoint the members of the Bike/Walk Committee. SB Member Forcier seconded. The motion carried 5:0.**

Chair Hine read the names of GROSouth Hadley members as follows: Susan Brouillette, Wayne Desroches, Doris Dubois, Suzanne Paris, Marie Rohan, Brian Schrauf, Margaret Sullivan, Barry Waite and Kent Walsh. **SB Member Etelman moved to reappoint. SB Member Forcier seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.**

Chair Hine read the names of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC): Ted Boulais, Michael Fisher, Sharon Hart, John Higgins, Yem Lip, Ron Michalski and Veronique Blanchard Smith. **SB Member Brezinsky moved to reappoint SWAC members. SB Member Etelman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.**

SB Member Forcier moved to reappoint Luke Brunelle to the Connecticut River Channel Marking Committee to a term expiring June 30, 2019. SB Member Brezinsky seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

10. CANAL PARK COMMITTEE APPROVAL FOR VISTA PRUNING

Canal Park Committee (CPC) Chair Mitch Resnick was present to seek permission to prune vistas at Canal Park. CPC members want to improve the condition of the park and install benches in memory of Ted Belsky. He did some research and learned that they need to apply to the Conservation Commission. Since the town owns the park, they thought it prudent to seek permission before going before the commission. Lots of regulatory red tape needs to be satisfied to do

work within 200 feet of the river. Pruning vistas was approved in 2003 and 2006. Most of the vistas are in the lower part of the park which is environmentally sensitive. The CPC would like to petition the commission to move the vista up closer to the overlook. Regulations say approximately 32,000 square feet of bushes can be pruned. CPC members are going to ask to move the vista closer to the overlook without expanding the area of pruning.

The Conservation Commission may need to look to DEP and possibly the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program for permission. If they weren't changing vistas they could do the work tomorrow since there is an Order of Conditions in place allowing them to prune. Any tree that is 6" diameter at breast height can't be touched but anything smaller can be taken down, he elaborated. However, the brush is so overgrown it would need to be done professionally. The orders state no mechanical tools or implements can be used so all work has to be done by hand. Members would like to open the park and trails for residents. He is asking the Selectboard to approve filing the application, he clarified.

SB Member Forcier moved to authorize the Town Administrator to work out the details (sign the application) on behalf of the town. SB Member Etelman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Mr. Sullivan thanked Mr. Resnick and the whole committee for tending to these details.

11. DPW GRIEVANCE HEARING/SELECTBOARD DECISION

The Selectboard held a public hearing on the grievance two weeks ago and tabled action to tonight's meeting, Chair Hine reminded. He opened the floor to comments.

Based on what he heard from labor counsel, he would be in favor of denial, Mr. Forcier indicated. The town is spending good money for her advice, he pointed out. **He moved to deny the DPW grievance hearing. SB Member Etelman seconded.**

Chair Hine said he tended to agree. It seemed like the main point of the grievance was that the posting of the vacancy violated town policy, and he didn't see that. He saw no issue with the policy. **The motion carried 5:0.**

12. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE BASED EVALUATION (PBE)

He e-mailed the Town Administrator's performance evaluation to Mr. Sullivan last night with copies to all members, Chair Hine confirmed. The final version includes a compilation of all member comments. The overall evaluation was very positive, he observed. All board members felt that Mr. Sullivan had done an exceptional job and scored him as "often exceeding expectations" in all categories: communication and community relations, organizational structure, policy development, innovations and efficiencies and fiscal management.

Individual members and Mr. Sullivan exchanged mutually appreciative and complimentary remarks. The evaluation will be on the website tomorrow.

As in the past two years, members decided to have a subcommittee meet to develop the evaluation tool for next year. Mr. Brezinsky and Mr. Forcier volunteered. Chair Hine asked Mr. Sullivan to draft a list of his goals and objectives for FY 2017. The PBE tool will be on the agenda July 12th.

13. PVTA PERFORMANCE MEASURES/REQUESTS FOR BUS STOPS

Tiger Trolley ridership is very low, unfortunately making it the worst performing of all community shuttles, Mr. Sullivan reported. PVTA representatives Josh Rickman and Mary MacInnes do not want to abandon it as they think it has great potential and will become more and more valuable. They are going to change the schedule to coordinate better with the R29 and P20 routes and also kick off another campaign to try to get people to embrace it. As of now, if someone takes the shuttle to the Village Commons, he/she can either have a 25-minute lunch or a three hour and 15-minute lunch, highlighting problems with trip timing.

The good news is that X90 ridership continues to grow, and the town has been asked to consider creating some bus stops for it. The X90 comes down from Chicopee along Main Street then goes to the Holyoke Transportation Center. Creation of a bus stop in front of Town Hall would mean the loss of one parking space and a hashed area. He would support and recommend approval of this request.

The second request is to create a bus stop in front of the Beachgrounds. As proposed, it would require significant reconfiguration of the sidewalk and tree belt. He has asked PVRTA to consider moving the bus stop closer to the apartments, and Mr. Rickman is going to run some tests and come back with a proposal for the second stop. In the meantime, permanent signs will be put in for the new stops approved last year in front of the police station and John Pietras' building. For now, he asked that the Selectboard approve the bus stop closest to Town Hall.

Members asked questions and offered comments.

SB Member Etelman moved that they approve a bus stop on the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets. SB Member Forcier seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

14. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Sullivan passed out copies of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Pioneer Valley Bike Share System. He heard late today that by unanimous decision South Hadley was accepted as the fifth community to join the program, and the agreement has been revised to include South Hadley. With the proposed system, users can borrow a bike and return it to a kiosk in Springfield, Holyoke, Amherst, Northampton, Hadley or now South Hadley. It will be managed by a third party and is another way participants are trying to improve bike/pedestrian access in the Pioneer Valley. Page 8 clearly states that any appropriations/costs have to be approved by the town, and the MOU does not commit the town to any expenditures. At some point operators will be asking for money and town officials will have to decide at that time. "It's just exciting to be part of it," he suggested. He will be attending a meeting Friday at PVPC.

June 23rd South Hadley will be participating in a development conference for Western Massachusetts, he reminded.

The town received a grant yesterday for \$16,000 as part of the Commonwealth Community Compact. Funds will be used to enhance capability around electronic permitting, particularly in the field. Inspectors will be armed with tablets purchased through the grant and there will be a training component. The capability will expand at some point to enable them to swipe credit cards and give approvals. Town officials are excited and appreciate the governor's support. The grant comes as part of \$2 million awarded statewide for \$16 million in requests. He thanked Jamie Doolittle for shepherding the application.

Selectboard members agreed to participate as celebrity chefs at BATTERY Brook Park cruise nights on Friday, September 2nd – the last cruise night of the season.

Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

**LAURA KRUTZLER
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY**

EXHIBIT A

List of Documents Reviewed at June 7, 2016 Selectboard Meeting:

1. June 7, 2016 Agenda.
2. Minutes of May 17, 2016 regular Selectboard meeting.
3. Letter from Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts Inc. dated April 20, 2016 requesting congratulatory message of commendation for local recipients of Girl Scout Silver Award.
4. Invitation to Girl Scouts Gold/Silver Western MA Award Ceremony Tuesday, June 14, 2016.
5. E-mail Invitation to Kim and Kylie Biron to attend June 7, 2016 Selectboard meeting.
6. Letter from Steven P. Roberts, Troop Committee Chairman of Boy Scout Troup 303, announcing accomplishment of Eagle Scout Joshua Virgil McKeever in obtaining Boy Scouts of America's highest honor, the Eagle Scout Award.
7. E-mail acknowledgment to Steven Roberts of Eagle Scout recipient and invitation to attend June 7, 2016 Selectboard meeting.
8. One Day Beer and Wine License Application from Marilyn Ishler for the South Hadley Lion's Club for Lion's Club 70th Anniversary party at BATTERY Brook Park from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 18, 2016, together with Certificate of Insurance for liquor liability.
9. Memorandum from Laura Krutzler, Administrative Secretary, to Selectboard and Town Administrator dated June 3, 2016 with regard to Annual appointments.
10. List of FY 2017 Board and Committee Appointments/Reappointments.
11. Individual responses from committee chairs indicating which members of their committees with terms expiring June 30, 2016 are willing to accept reappointment.
12. Letter from Canal Park Committee Co-Chairs Mitch Resnick and Bill Bacis re: permission for vista pruning at Canal Park.
13. Picture of proposed bus stops in front of Town Hall and Beachgrounds Park.
14. Ridership analysis of PVRTA routes.
15. Town Administrator Report dated June 3, 2016.