

Selectmen's Meeting
May 6, 2019
4:00 pm

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in the meeting room of Town Hall. Members present were: Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman, Arthur Smadbeck and Michael J. Donaroma. Also present was Town Administrator James Hagerty.

At 4:00pm Ms. Serpa opened the meeting and the first item on the agenda which was a public hearing for a new aquaculture lease for Scott Castro in the Middle Flats area North of Eel Pond for approximately 2 acres known as lot MF7. Mr. Castro was present as well as Shellfish Warden Warren Gaines and Shellfish Committee Members Les Baynes and Ryan Smith.

Ms. Serpa read the notice. There being no public comment or correspondence she then closed the hearing.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to approve the new lease. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then moved on to the next item which was a public hearing for the transfer of the aquaculture lease of lot KB1 in Katama from Joe Smith to Julia Smith. Julia Smith was present.

Ms. Serpa read the notice aloud. There being no public comment or correspondence she then closed the hearing.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to approve the transfer. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then addressed the request of the Shellfish Committee to change all aquaculture leases from 3 years to 5 years.

Mr. Baynes stated that the change would make the lease holders more eligible for grants.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to make the change. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then opened the next item on the agenda which was a public hearing to change the vehicle cash round trip fare on the Chappy Ferry from \$12 to \$13. Present for the hearing were owners Peter Wells and Sally Snipes. Also present were Chappy Residents John and Dorothy Dropick. Ms. Serpa read the notice aloud.

Mr. Wells stated that it was a one dollar increase to the round trip cash rate for car and driver. He stated that there has been a drop in vehicle traffic and there hasn't been a rate increase for 11 years.

Mrs. Dropick stated that she would like the financials reviewed for the ferry and all rate categories looked at and reviewed.

Mr. Dropick stated that he would like the Board to ensure that there are financial reserves set aside in case of emergency. It is the Board's responsibility to ensure they provide safe and reliable transport.

Ms. Serpa responded that Town Council has reviewed the financials.

Mrs. Dropick wanted to know if the book rate was going to change reflective on the cash rate changing.

Ms. Serpa responded that they were addressing the request before them only. There being no further comment or correspondence, she closed the hearing.

Mr. Donaroma moved to approve the rate change. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then addressed the request of the 5th Grade to have a fundraiser flea market and car wash on June 2, 2019. Present was Julie Russell.

Ms. Russell stated that they would also like to have a bake sale on the same day and have a sale in the mini park during pink and green weekend. She stated that they have spoken with the Board of Trade and would coordinate with the pet events so they wouldn't be there at the same time.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to approved the 5th grade requests. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then addressed the next item on the agenda which was the VTA Drivers request to speak with the Board about their negotiations with the union. There was a group of drivers present. Speaking for them were Rich Townes and Andre Bonnell.

Mr. Townes gave an overview of the negotiations so far and stated that they have now stalled and there are no further negotiations planned. The town's representative to the VTA Board, Louis Paciello has been very open and listened and tried to help. The other board members do not want to talk to them. They are stuck with creating the bargaining unit. They've already had a strike vote. The drivers are having an informational meeting on May 19th at the High School.

After some discussion, Mr. Smadbeck asked what the drivers want from the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Townes requested a letter about the impact of the strike to encourage negotiations.

The Board was going to discuss the situation with Mr. Paciello and get all sides of the situation and then may send a letter.

Ms. Serpa then addressed Mr. Andy Herr who was requesting to decorate a piano and put it in front of Rosewater on the patio on S. Summer St. as an art installation. Also present was Julia Celeste, owner of Rosewater.

Mr. Herr stated he would like to decorate a small upright piano and have it available for the public to play. He would adhere to any hours the Board set.

Ms. Celeste stated that she supported the project, but did not want to anger her neighbors in any way.

Mr. Herr stated that this piano is a bit quieter than a typical concert piano.

After some discussion about hours, Mr. Donaroma moved to approve the art installation with the restriction of hours from noon – 5pm for the summer and will be revisited if there are any complaints. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then recognized Ms. Julia Celeste for the next item on the agenda which was a request to put out recycling barrels on Main St.

Ms. Celeste stated that there would be 5 barrels. They would match the barrels that were there, but be blue. This would be a pilot program to encourage recycling and Rosewater would be paying for the barrels.

There was discussion about how the Highway Department would separate the trash from the recycling and how much trouble that would be.

Ms. Celeste responded that she had spoken with Interim Superintendent Alan deBettencourt and he was open to the pilot program and seeing how it works out.

Mr. Donaroma moved to allow the pilot recycling program and to ask Mr. deBettencourt and Don Hatch from MVRD to come to the next meeting and talk about recycling. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

The Board then approved the following items:

A Block the Street Permit for Associated Roofing at 2 Dock St.

An Innholder's License for the Harbor View Hotel

One Day Liquor Licenses for Donaroma's and The Vineyard Trust

Yard Sales for: Eleanor Corfield at 14 Bold Meadow Rd.; Gertrude Williams at 276 Edg/VH Rd. and John Stasiuk at 11 3rd St.

The Board then approved the minutes for: 4/01, 4/08, 04/22 & 4/29.

Commitments for the Harbormaster Department.

The Board then appointed Maria Ventura and Mark Hess to the Affordable Housing Trust as Affordable Housing Committee Representatives, Cari Williamson and Julia Celeste to the Historic District Commission; and Geri Conover as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Ms. Serpa then recognized Mr. Jonathan Chatinover from Simpson's Lane.

Mr. Chatinover stated he had some questions about the money for the Short Term Rentals if he could ask.

Ms. Serpa responded that they would do their best.

Mr. Chatinover asked if the money for the short term rentals was paid to the state and then came to the town? He then asked, if that was so, was it separated when it came in? Could they tell what the revenue from the new tax was?

Mr. Smadbeck responded that it does come from the state and that it is all in one amount with the hotels so they will not know the impact for a couple of years. They will need to see some consistency to be able to tell what the true difference is.

At 5:03 PM Mr. Smadbeck moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Serpa seconded. Unanimous

Approved:

Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman

Arthur Smadbeck

Michael J. Donaroma
Board of Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose
Assistant