

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, June 8, 2021

Hilary Weeks, Rebecca Coletta, and Patrick Williamson were present. Also in attendance: Paula King, Missy Rustemeyer, Mary Flahive-Dickson, Ellen Dupont, and Sean Sheridan. The meeting, held via conference call in accordance with Governor Baker's temporary modifications to the Open Meeting Law, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of May 11, 2021 and May 25, 2021 were accepted as submitted: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

### Host Community Agreement (HCA)

Mary Flahive-Dickson approached the Board seeking a Host Community Agreement with the Town of Plainfield. BTE, Inc., a small company established by Mary and her husband, plans to seek the required Special Permit for outdoor marijuana growing. After a short Power Point presentation, Mary offered the following information: plans are for outdoor growing on 3.24 acres on her 129 Grant Street property and selling the product wholesale. Growing will be 1/4 mile from the house. (The nearest neighbor is the property on the opposite side of the street owned by Bruce and Missy Rustemeyer.) All operations and security will be in accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mandates. Marijuana odor is detectable during the 6-week flowering stage. Mary is considering a low odor plant strain. A portable drying facility will be used.

Rebecca asked whether the company has a board of directors to which Mary replied it is only she and her husband at this time. Mary plans to hire a small group of employees using "job boards", job fairs, etc. and has a hiring diversity plan. In answer to Patrick's inquiry about the amount of product the 3.24 acreage will produce, Mary stated about 1,300 lbs. with one harvest per year.

The Power Point presentation, business plan, and articles of incorporation will be forwarded to the Board.

Hilary is expecting an HCA template from KP Law which she will forward to Mary.

Rebecca referenced a conversation with Planning Board Chair Brian Hawthorne concerning the establishment guidelines for negotiating the HCA with applicants. He also suggested applicants be advised up front that permitting could be an uphill climb as residents have expressed concerns about odor from marijuana growing.

## Reopening Plainfield

The Board discussed reopening Plainfield with Board of Health Chair Ellen Dupont who stated its time to reopen, but also expressed concerns about those who have not been vaccinated. According to an eUpdate from KP Law requiring masks and social distancing would create liabilities. It was also noted the state can shut down in the event of an outbreak. Rebecca asked about hybrid (in person and remote) meetings. Hilary noted the problems with hybrid meetings according to KP Law and is not in favor.

Patrick expressed concerns about those who want to be vaccinated and are unable to get them. Ellen stated that shouldn't be a problem at this time.

Governor Baker has announced the State of Emergency will be lifted on June 15, 2021; all emergency policies and procedures expire as of that date. Hilary moved to open the town buildings for normal use as of June 15, 2021. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes. Hilary agreed to send an email informing boards and committees and to have Mert, Jr. send a message over the Blackboard system. Virtual meetings are not allowed as of June 15, 2021.

## License Renewal

Hilary moved to renew the 2021 Class II license for James Pugliese d/b/a Orchard View Farm. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

## Other Business

Ellen Dupont informed the Board of an impending sale of 9 Mountain Street. She expressed concerns about the original Special Permit indicating 5 rooms and 2009 information indicating 7 rooms.

Hilary moved to pay KP Law invoice #131159 in the amount of \$394.85. The motion, seconded by Patrick, was unanimously approved; Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

Current Select Board tasks were discussed.

According to KP Law Attorney Doneski a Host Community Agreement can be drafted by either the Town or the applicant. The applicant knows their proposed business and financials to draft and submit an HCA which can then be negotiated with the Board. Patrick noted the Planning Board, as the issuer of Special Permits, would be in a position to offer HCA guidance due to their knowledge of the impact the proposed business would have on the Town.

Sean Sheridan, holder of an approved HCA, joined the meeting and was asked where he is in the permitting process. He stated he is currently conversing with investors. Applicants are required to go through the Special Permitting process

which includes meeting with neighbors.

IT Grant: An agreement for \$22,095.00 was signed with NOVUS Inc. to complete the Wide Area Network (WAN) for Town Buildings to be funded by CARES Act and IT Grant funds.

The approved uses of American Recovery Act funds were discussed. Kimberly will be asked about broadband; It is an approved use, but debt and interest payments are not an eligible expense. Revenue loss is also eligible.

Representative Natalie Blais' concerns for communities are: infrastructure, economic and social safety. Possible infrastructure needs for Plainfield include culverts, gravel roads, and bridges.

Patrick mentioned the consultant's Regional Emergency Services Report has been completed and will be available at an upcoming meeting.

#### Correspondence

The Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Service District has announced a new Telehealth service which allows VA healthcare enrollees the option to meet with providers by video link.

Eversource sent notice of letters sent to property owners on or adjacent to transmission Right-of -Ways where upcoming vegetation work will occur.

The Town of Windsor sent a calendar of events for their 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plans to be held beginning July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Other events are planned throughout the summer and fall. (email [Windsor250th@gmail.com](mailto:Windsor250th@gmail.com) or [ktobin@windsormass.com](mailto:ktobin@windsormass.com) for more information)

A motion to adjourn was entertained at 8:17 p.m.: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

Other mail was reviewed.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary