

Town of Colrain
Select Board Meeting
Remote Conference Call-in
4:30 P.M.
MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2021

Present Joe Kurland, Mike Slowinski, Thom Griffin

Others Present Greg Olchowski; Thom Griffin; Michael Herbert, Steven Herbert, Urban Growers; Will Rochowski, Michael Shuipis, MLP Manager; Robin Brooks; Belden Merims, David Nims, Colrain Historical Commission; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator.

The meeting was called to order by Joe Kurland, Chair, at 4:32 p.m.

Appointments **Michael Herbert, Urban Grown, Inc. - Host Agreement for Cannabis Cultivation**

The proposed address is 270 Greenfield Road. Urban Grown, Inc. has an active provisional license due to a site that fell through. The 182 acre site is well screened and set back from the road.

Questions:

- How many acres do you plan to have under cultivation? The maximum acreage now is just over 2 acres of actual grow space.
- Will it be outdoor cultivation? It may have some outdoor cultivation, but they plan to put up light-deprivation greenhouses, which would allow artificial light as a backup for long periods of cloudy weather.
- Employment opportunities for local people? Yes, four to five positions to begin with and up to 12.

Kevin Fox has given Michael Herbert the list of requirements: an introduction meeting with the Select Board, the required \$5,000 escrow for legal review of the host agreement (a sample copy of which was sent to Michael); and the scheduling of a community outreach meeting prior to signing the agreement. The next step would be to send us a check of \$5,000. We would then initiate getting an agreement made up by our attorney for your signature, after which you would come before the Select Board for approval.

Michael Shuipis - Broadband Update

Two (FSA 3 and 2) of the five sectors are fully built. FSA 3 & 2 have 204 and 182 dwellings, respectively. Section 3 has a 69% take rate and sector 2, 72%. All 5 sectors have a 66% take rate, so our revenue is doing well. The total number of activated homes is 217. Sector 1 will begin installing in mid-July, Sector 4, late August, and Sector 5 late September.

The overall capital budget is good with 74% spent to date. Verizon and Eversource are often not getting work done on time and occasionally have to do work twice to fix errors. As of Monday, virtually all the make-ready issues have been resolved.

Questions:

- Any word on new federal money for broadband infrastructure? The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARFA) guidance has not been officially sent out, but there is discussion that there will be money for broadband. The Town will get \$173,000 from that act. Also discussion about possible money through the infrastructure stimulus program that is far from being passed.

Belden Merims, Colrain Historical Commission - Request to expend Smith Bridge Donation Account Funds and permission to place commemorative sign on Smith Bridge

Robin Brooks, who designed the plaque and sign outside of the bridge, is here to find out how to invoice her work.

Belden Merims and David Nims are here to ask how they can access the money the town is holding for the Commission (\$23,000) to pay for the construction and posting of these signs. Belden explained some work has been done, no invoices have been issued yet and the requested estimate of cost Belden asked of Hale Signs hasn't been received. The problem is we are asked to pay a bill for work that has already been done. The SB can retroactively approve. The informational sign has to be approved by the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals so the Select Board is reticent to pay for something that has not yet been approved. The Carol Purington sign can be approved by the Select Board.

The Select Board would like approval of the sign's location from the police department so Kevin would need the dimensions, materials involved, and exact location. Belden Merims, Kevin Fox, Chief Lannon, and David Nims will meet at the bridge to see where it will go. Belden Merims will call the chief and arrange a meeting and let everyone know.

New Business Fiscal Year 2022 Select Board Meeting Schedule

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to continue meeting on 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. Thom Griffin seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

MOU:FRCOG and Colrain for Regional Energy Planning Assistance

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding regarding FRCOG and Colrain for Regional Energy Planning Assistance. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

Closing of Town Common to the public during the intersection construction project.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to formally close the town common to all activity except construction until the completion of the Village Intersection Project. Thom Griffin seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

Old Business Town Facilities Re-opening - Continued discussion

Re-opening has to wait until Greenfield Glass installs barriers at the front desk and the collector's front desk. Kevin Fox asked to schedule a meeting for June 11 because as of June 15, all boards will likely be required to meet in person to have a quorum. At this meeting the local Declaration of Emergency of 3/16/2020 can be rescinded. It was agreed to meet Thursday, 6/15, at 4:30 at the Highway Garage.

Unanticipated Animal Inspector Job Available

The position has been vacant for three years. In order to increase the salary, an amendment to the town meeting or a special town meeting. Joe Kurland can talk with Jack Cavolick, former animal inspector, to get information about the job, what work is involved, how much time is involved, and what should the salary be. Kevin Fox will contact Ceacy Henderson to see if she is interested. Discuss this further at the next meeting.

Select Board minutes of 5/11/21 and 5/18/21.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to approve the Select Board minutes of 5/11/21 and 5/18/21. Thom seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

Greg Olchowski - 96 E. Colrain Road.

Mr. Olchowski is concerned about the pulverized aggregate on East Colrain Road. He has lived here 20 years and since the pulverized concrete creates dust silicosis - irreversible lung damage.

gravel was changed to pulverized building materials. Can see the dust accumulate on the leaves and trees. The town has a responsibility to look at this material and see if this inspection, core samples, respiratory issues. Cover it or get rid of it. Joe suggests the Board of Health can get tested and Highway Dept. weigh in. Kevin will talk with Scott and revisit this next week.

MOVED:

Roll call: **all ayes.**

Town Administrator Updates

- Completed and submitted to MassWorks Grants application a \$1,000,000 grant to repave Greenfield Road to the Shelburne town line. Allow 8-10 weeks review time.
- Town meeting is the 16th. We won't rent a porta potty as Fire Depart will leave the back door open to gain access to the bathroom.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to close the meeting at 6: 40p.m. Thom Griffin seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by the Select Board

Betsy Shuipis
Administrative Assistant

Joe Kurland - Chair

Mike Slowinski

Thom Griffin

Select Board Minutes 2021-06-19

Documents

Select Board Meeting Notes