

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 03/13/2024

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: Tabitha K. McCrohan, Chairwoman, Joe Freitas, Clerk

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:00 p.m. in the Moitoza – Pettey Hearing Room	
New Business	Board to reorganize. The Board voted to appoint Tabitha K. McCrohan as Chair and Joe Freitas as Clerk.	Freitas to motion to appoint, McCrohan 2 nd , voted.
Appointments (taken out of order)	Board to review and possibly appoint Kevin Partridge to the Berkley Common Committee. The Board voted to appoint.	Freitas to motion to appoint, McCrohan 2 nd , voted.
	Board to review and possibly appoint Edward D. Harmon to the Agricultural Commission. The Board voted to appoint.	Freitas to motion to appoint, McCrohan 2 nd , voted.
New Business	Board to host 8 th Grade Civics Class to discuss crosswalks and sidewalks. Principal Kimberly Hebert spoke about the project and presentation noting an ongoing need for safety. The students then presented their proposal for a safer pathway to the Common. The students noted their first step is to open and maintain a clear dialogue between the Town and their class and work to decide the best designs for a crosswalk and bridge. They intend on ensuring the design is accessible for all students of all capabilities. They offered 3 suggested designs. They noted the importance of the crosswalk and that same was their short-term goal, wherein the bridge remains a long-term goal. Chairwoman McCrohan thanked the students for their work and time and also reminded them that the project will take time and money, but that everyone is working on this. The possible opportunity of a grant was also mentioned. Clerk Freitas also thanked the students and spoke to them on keeping the faith and not letting the timeframe discourage them. The Board again thanked the students for their time and presentation.	Information Only; No Action Needed.
Appointments (taken out of order)	Board to review and possibly appoint Scott Fournier to the Berkley Common Committee. The Board voted to appoint.	Freitas to motion to appoint, McCrohan 2 nd , voted.
Public Input (taken out of order)	Erica Grady, Children's Librarian, spoke on her concern of the Town's financial stability and wanted to offer her assistance on grant writing. The Board thanked her for her willingness to help and the Town Administrator noted he would be in touch with current and future opportunities.	Information Only; No Action Needed.
New Business	Board to host discussion with Town Accountant. The Town Accountant spoke on the appropriation transfers. With her at the meeting was the first transfer, which was for the Accountant Department to transfer from the salary line to purchases. It was confirmed that the Board can voted to approve and this matter did not need to go to Town Floor. The Board approved.	Freitas to motion to approve, McCrohan 2 nd , voted.
	Board to review and possibly approve Common Use Request for the Berkley Celebrations Committee Egg Hunt on March 23, 2024, with a rain date of March 24, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Board voted to approve.	Freitas to motion to approve, McCrohan 2 nd , voted.
	Board to vote to appropriate funds to be added to the High School Stabilization Account. The Board voted to approve.	Freitas to motion to approve, McCrohan 2 nd , voted.

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Meeting Minutes	Board to approve 2024 Seasonal Liquor License Renewal for Chamberlain Farm Inc. of 12 Friend Street. The Board voted to approve the Liquor License as well as Common Victualler and Restricted Music Licenses. Board to discuss Annual Town Meeting Warrant open and close dates. The Town Administrator suggested the Warrant open at the next meeting, March 27, and further suggested keeping same open until April 24. The Town Administrator noted he would also provide a memo with all pertinent dates and other information. Board to review and approve Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2024. The Board voted to approve.	Freitas to motion to approve, McCrohan 2nd, voted. Information Only; No Action Needed.
New Business	Board to review and approve Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2024. The Board voted to approve. Board to host discussion with Eve Lippold. The Board voted to table.	Freitas to motion to approve, McCrohan 2nd, voted. Freitas to motion to table, McCrohan 2nd, voted.
Town Administrator Report	The Town Administrator asked Clerk Freitas about his vision for the Berkley Common Committee regarding size. Clerk Freitas confirmed that he wanted an off number and felt that a maximum of 11 members was sufficient. The Town Administrator also offered information regarding tax increases, noting that the DLS is available for citizens, as well. He also reminded the audience and Board of his intentions to host informational sessions, the first of which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 a.m., with a back up date of April 13. The second session is tentatively scheduled for May 4. The Town Administrator also discussed the potential of a new website, including a budget portal. He continued to discuss the IAC (Insurance Advisory Committee) and that he believes recommendations will be brought forward shortly.	Information Only; No Action Needed.
Finance Committee Update	The Town Administrator noted that the Finance Committee would be meeting on Monday, March 18 to review the budgets of the Police Department and Council on Aging.	Information Only; No Action Needed.
Public Input	Ms. Eve Lippold of 50 Plain Street East came before the board and asked for confirmation that a sound test was received. She also asked if she could come in to the Town Administrator's office to see evidence that same was received. The Town Administrator invited Ms. Lippold in after 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 14 for same.	Information Only; No Action Needed.
Adjournment	The Board voted to adjourn with the announcement of the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.	Freitas to motion to adjourn, Freitas 2nd, voted.

Tabitha K. McCrohan, Chairwoman

Joe Freitas, Clerk

Wendy F. Cochrane, Member

Matthew Chabot, Town Administrator