

**Hardwick Board of Selectmen
Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building
307 Main Street
Hardwick, MA 01031**

Meeting Minutes March 14, 2022

Location of Meeting: Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, 307 Main St, Hardwick, MA 01031

In Attendance: Kelly Kemp, Chair, H. Robert Ruggles, Vice Chair, Julie Quink, Clerk, Nicole Parker, Town Administrator

Other Attendees: Chris Miller, Zen Acres, Rebecca Adams, Ryan Witkos, Town Clerk, Anne Barnes

Chair Motioned to open Meeting at 6:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Town Collector Position

- (NP) stated that she is working with Jessica Crawford on the Collector side and feels that she can do both the Collector and Treasurer positions and that it should be combined. Discussed the need for the new Vadar Collector module. Jessica would need an assistant.
- Town Clerk stated that that bylaw states ATM should be second Saturday in June, but Selectboard can vote to change this date.

Zen Acres

- Chris Miller, Zen Acres Board member introduced himself. Rebecca Adams, Cannabis regulatory consultant, who has been hired to assist in ensuring all regulations are complied with.
- Discussed a community host outreach meeting for all stakeholders.
- Growth of plan will be in stages indoors and outdoors, no delivery.
- Business will be conducted 8am to 10pm daily.
- Community impact fee will be 2.5% and \$20,000 a year.
- Will follow all state and Town rules, including conservational laws.

- Will need to submit to CCD a security plan together and SOP's
- No under 21's, and no loitering on the premises.
- Cannabis Control Commission is involved throughout the process.
- 360 acreages, not all will be used for growing cannabis, there will be hay and other uses of the land.
- Location of growing not yet known, but it will not be the 20-acre lot, will need to do soil samples etc.

Town Clerk

- Suggested Town Election be at the Elementary School and be during the noon to 7pm.
- Motion and seconded to hold the Annual Town Election at the Hardwick Elementary School on April 11, 2022, between the hours of 12pm and 7pm. All in Favor
- Roll call (KK) yes (HR) yes (JQ) yes.
- Warrant signed by BOS.

Ambulance Service

- Recommendation from feasibility committee to sign an agreement with West Brookfield for service.
- BOS would like to set up a meeting with all concerned and have an agreement for July 2022.
- BOS asked (NP) to confirm where Hardwick stands with Ware.

Department of Fish and Game

- Property at North Road is being purchased by Department of Fish and Game and are looking for a letter of support from the BOS.
- Motion (JQ) seconded (RH) to authorize (NP) to write a letter on behalf of the BOS in support the purchase of property by the Department of Fish and Game Map 10 Parcels 3 & 6 and Map 126 Parcels 15 and 16.
- Roll call (JQ) yes (HR) yes (KK) yes.

Recreation Department

- Eagle Hill School is sponsoring the recreation department's first Easter egg hunt.

- Motion (JQ) seconded (HR) to authorize the recreation department to hold its first annual Easter egg hunt. All in favor.
- Roll call (JQ) yes (RH) yes (KK) yes.

Old Giberville Road Project

- Change Order included under the grant to relocate catch basins.
- Motion (HR) seconded (JQ) to approve the change order for the Old Gilbertville Road project. All in favor.
- Roll call (JQ) yes (HR) yes (KK) yes.

Town Administrators Report (Directly as written by NP)

- Confidential Mediation with USDA is ongoing.
- Town audit is ongoing. Staff continues to assist with documentation
- You Tube for viewing meetings at home has been created. Supplies have been delayed. I hope to have it up and running by the end of March.
- Town Census has gone out. Please keep an eye out for it and please fill out and return. These forms are extremely important when we are considered for Grants, etc.
- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness charettes which will be at Town Hall March 24 and 31st from 5-8PM. I will give updates shortly thereafter.
- Planning Board is finalizing Solar by-law for Town Meeting. They had a meeting with a Solar zoning expert Tuesday evening.
- Tuesday, March 1, the East Quabbin Land Trust and Mass Division of Ecological Restoration had a meeting regarding the proposed Wheelwright Pond dam removal on the Ware River. It was very well attended. The Conservation Commission was also present. It seems like a good project.

Our IT contract is coming due. I will have an IFB for your review at the next meeting.

- I was contacted by FEMA. We received almost \$185,000.00 in funds. However, only \$3,092.81 was reported. In order not to have to return \$179,856.19, I have to complete a "do over" and report by line item what was spent. A time-consuming task, that is typically up to Accountants, but obviously I have no choice but to do it myself, as I shall, gladly.

- Two ABCC public hearings are scheduled for the 28th. One is for the Golf course and the other is a new convenience store.
- Vacation: I would like to request vacation April 18-22. I will have very limited service. I also request Monday, March 21 as a personal day-potentially.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:34pm.

Roll call (JQ) yes (HR) yes (KK) yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Riches

Carol L. Riches
Executive Assistant