

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 10/28/2020

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: George F. Miller, Chairman Dean R. Larabee, Clerk Wendy F. Cochrane, Member

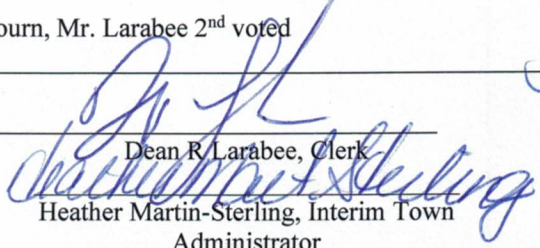
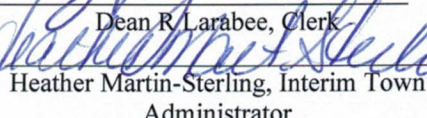
| TOPIC | | ACTION |
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| | Meeting Convened at 6:06 pm in the Council on Aging Room | |
| Minutes | <p>September 2, 2020 – Regular Session</p> <p>September 30, 2020- Regular Session</p> <p>October 14, 2020- Regular Session</p> <p>October 26, 2020- Regular Session</p> <p>October 21, 2020- Regular Session</p> | <p>Cochrane motion to approve, Larabee 2nd voted</p> <p>Cochrane motion to approve, Larabee 2nd voted</p> <p>Cochrane motion to approve with correction on page 2, Larabee 2nd voted</p> <p>Cochrane motion to approve, Larabee 2nd voted</p> <p>Cochrane motion to table, Larabee 2nd voted</p> |
| Old Business | <p>Discuss and Renewal of Historic Commission License. Mr. Miller noted that they have extended it out originally and is being extended again to December 31, 2020. Mr. Elwell Perry, President of Historical Society, stated that they wish the Board of Selectmen would make a visit. He mentioned that they have been making a big collection of Berkley history and many families have been dropping off family history. Mr. Miller stated that it was no an empty promise, the Board is just trying to get through the election and tough times. He promises to go over before the renewal expires. Mr. Perry stated that he would be more than happy to open it any time for them. Ms. Cochrane stated that the Board could go at 5:30 before a Selectmen's meeting. Ms. Marge Ghilarducci stated that she had received a letter sign from the Trustees of the Berkley Congregational Church stating that there are rooms available for people to use. Mr. Miller stated that he appreciated her bringing it to their attention, the only concern is not having any control at the church. The Board of Selectmen voted to extend the license to use town owned property to the Berkley Historical Society also known as the Old Town Hall until December 31, 2020.</p> | <p>Cochrane motion to extend license, Larabee 2nd voted</p> |
| New Business | <p>Board to review and discuss COVID-19 update and Red high risk and Council on Aging and Red high risk. Mr. Miller stated that there is high probability that Berkley will remain in Red high risk for the 3rd week in a row. According to state guidelines, if Berkley is considered high risk on Thursday, Berkley would move from Step 2 Phase 3 to Step 1 Phase 3 starting Monday, November 2nd, 2020. Mr. Miller stated that with guidance from the Board of Health and Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator feels it is in the best interest to close the Council on Aging for the next to weeks. Ms. Martin-Sterling recommended closing 2 weeks from Monday, November 2nd to November 16th. Discussion continued. Mr. Miller stated that he did not want to speak for the Board of Health and it would be best for people to reach out to them directly. Ms. Nancy Thompson asked if they would be restricting outdoor activities for the COA. Mr. Miller stated that they are only closing the use of the room. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that for outdoor activities in Step 1 Phase 3 would be 50-person limit. Discussion continued. Mr. Mike Kalif, speaking on behalf of his wife, noted that they got approval to do quilting and asking how decisions are being made. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that the Board of Selectmen decided at a previous</p> | <p>Larabee motion to close the COA for 2 weeks, Miller 2nd voted</p> |

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| | <p>meeting to open activities, the Council on Aging is supposed to vote on what they want to do and what they want open and bring that information to the Director of the COA. The Director then meets with the Town Administrator to discuss it. She stated as far as closing, in her opinion, should still follow those same protocols. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that it happened after the fact in this case. Ms. Margret Morroff, Chairmen of the COA, stated that she was told that one of the quilters was exposed and therefore aired on the side of caution. Mr. Miller stated that he agrees that there needs to be a better system. He noted that the Board of Selectmen only gets involved in extreme circumstances. Ms. Kalif asked what the process for reopening would be. Mr. Miller stated that Town Administrator would talk to the Board of Health to make a decision. He said that he is trying to get people back to normal as soon as possible. Mr. Larabee asked what the recommendations of the Board of Health were. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that she spoke with the chairmen of the Board of Health and that they are in agreeance for at least 2 weeks to close indoor activities for the Council on Aging. Ms. Cochrane asked if the Board of Health mentioned closing the Town Hall Building. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that the Board of Health chairmen mentioned that there are many surrounding Town Halls that are not open to the public and only open by appointment only. Mr. Miller stated that he believes we should continue to remain open unless there is a catastrophic change. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that the majority of positive cases are not children, they are all adults and there has been one recent death. Ms. Wendy Cochrane, speaking as a private citizen, feels that COVID is a deadly thing, but also noted that depression and loneliness can have a big impact. She stated that if the Board could or would open up, they should. She noted that it is important to keep seniors involved and to be in touch with them. Mr. Miller stated that he is a very strong advocate for opening the COA for full activities. Ms. Morroff stated that 1 activity has moved to a private studio. Mr. Larabee stated that he feels it makes more sense to open fully or close fully, not be half opened. Mr. Miller stated that he understands what Mr. Larabee is saying, but does not want to micromanage their lives and giving them, something is better than giving them nothing. Mr. Miller recommended reaching out to the Congregational Church for space. Ms. Martin-Sterling read a few comments from Zoom. She stated that Joan Blake asked if there was an open meeting to discuss the decision of the COA and quilting. The Board of Selectmen voted to close the Council on Aging for 2 weeks.</p> | |
| Town Administrator Report | <p>Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that the warrant has been sealed and will be going out in the mail tomorrow. Mr. Miller stated that he spoke with Attorney Mark Bobrowski about representing David Welk regarding the Padelford St Project. He stated that the town would save funds if they did allow him to do so regarding the appeal. He stated they talked about having Adam Costa, Town Council, to be present on the planning board. He would not be arguing matters. The Board of Selectmen voted to designate a special municipal employee position and special legal council to the Planning Board to which position is currently held by Mark Bobrowski of Blatman, Bobrowski & Haverty LLC. Mr. Miller made the finding and stated that this was not on agenda and was unanticipated by the chairmen.</p> | Larabee motion, Cochrane 2 nd voted |
| Public Input | <p>Mr. Miller mentioned as clarification, that last meeting the Town Clerk had brought information regarding the Mass General Law to their attention regarding the construction of the basketball courts. Mr. Miller stated that it was reviewed by himself and the Town Council and both agreed that construction can begin within the 20-day period. He stated that there was a mistake made in information provided to the public.</p> | Informational |
| Adjournment | <p>Ms. Cochrane motioned to adjourn, Mr. Larabee 2nd voted</p> | Cochrane motion, Larabee 2 nd voted |


George F. Miller, Chairman


Dean R. Larabee, Clerk

Heather Martin-Sterling, Interim Town Administrator


Wendy F. Cochrane, Member