

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 1/27/2021

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

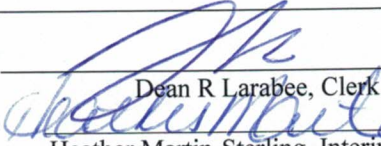
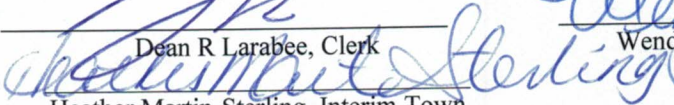
TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:00pm in the Moitoza – Pettey Hearing Room and via Zoom	
Old Business	<p>Update on Reconfiguration of Town Hall. Ms. Cochrane stated there were a few things on the list that she did not feel completely comfortable with, but suggested letting it go as is for now and then possibly revisiting it. She stated that she wants to see the office being used to its fullest capacity. Ms. Cochrane restated concerns from other departments, but did not think they were all good moves. She stated that the Department Heads had a meeting regarding the reconfiguration. Ms. Kerrie Ann Auclair, CONCOM member, stated that she wished they had the opportunity to be a part of it and believes that communication is lacking within Town Hall. Ms. Cochrane reiterated Mr. Biszko's recommendations of moving the Building Inspector's Department into the Planning Board Office. She suggested moving the Board of Health into the Building Inspector's office and moving ConCom to the Board of Health office. She also mentioned putting the Appeals Board in with the Assessors. She stated that most big offices have 2 departments in them. Ms., Cochrane stated she was in support of this plan. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that Board of Health stated they were fine to move but did not want to go in with another office. Mr. Miller stated that his goal was to have any board who is serving the public, to have a counter with a window. He also suggested making offices without window counters, have half doors cut. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that she believes this design is the most efficient and economical plan and will be the least disruptive to Town Hall business. Mr. Miller stated that there is no real urgency but want to work forward. Discussion continued. Various boards expressed their concerns regarding space issues and cabinet space. Mr. Miller stated that he likes the proposed plan but thinks they may need to look a little closer. The Board of Selectmen agreed to continue the conversation at a future meeting.</p> <p>Board to discuss Master Plan and vote of feedback to SRPEDD regarding draft Master Plan. Mr. Miller stated that the public input portion of the Master Plan has ended. He noted that the plan is still in drafting phases. He stated that there are certain items that he thinks would not pass at town meeting. Mr. Larabee stated that the Master Plan mentions creating various committees and that they may find it difficult to fill these committees. Mr. Larabee noted other mandates in the Master Plan that he had questions about. He stated that there is a lot of good in the document but other things that need work and better definitions. Discussion continued. Mr. Miller stated that anything that increases congestion residentially is not going to be received well in town. He noted that people want to offset taxation through commercial businesses that fit in the town. Mr. Miller stated that the Master Plan gives the town a road map but does not make anything a mandate. He mentioned a few of his concerns in the Master Plan that he believes will change the makeup of the town such as rental properties and specialized housing plans. Ms. Donna Leary, Master Plan Committee member, stated that it may be helpful to meet with Eric and the Master Plan Committee again to voice any other concerns that they have. Mr. Miller stated that they plan to get correspondence together for the committee requesting that certain things be changed. Mr. Miller offered having a joint meeting with the Planning Board. He stated that their goal is to keep Berkley how it is. Mr. Larabee stated that a lot of the ideas in the Master Plan don't all fit together, and as a selectman he wants to make sure what they bring forth to the community will pass. Mr. Joe Freitas stated that more growth means more kids in the school system, more people in municipal buildings, more resources and increases on taxes for public safety. He stated that they need to be careful going forward and need to be sustainable. He stated that the Finance Committee does have some concerns as money can run out quickly. Mr. Miller stated that the key to the town's survival is more commercial businesses. Mr. Larabee stated that he would like to see better definitions to give a better understanding of what the town should look like and what they would like to see. The Board of Selectmen agreed that having a joint meeting with the Planning Board would be a good idea.</p>	<p>Informational, no action needed.</p> <p>Informational, no action needed.</p>

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New Business	Board to vote and sign contract with Attorney Mark Bobrowski regarding new Zoning Bylaws. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that this contract was just a draft and that the Planning Board was meeting tomorrow to go over it. The Board of Selectmen voted to table voting and signing the contract with Attorney Mark Bobrowski regarding new Zoning Bylaws.	Cochrane motion to table, Larabee 2 nd voted
Town Administrator Report	Unforeseen by the Chairmen, the Council on Aging received \$10,752 from the Executive Elder Affairs. The Board of Selectmen voted to allow the Town Administrator, Ms. Heather Martin-Sterling, to sign the COA contract.	Cochrane motion to allow the Town Administrator to sign the contract, Larabee 2 nd voted
Adjournment	The Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn. The next meeting February 3, 2020 at 6:00pm.	Larabee motion to adjourn, Cochrane 2 nd voted


George F. Miller, Chairman


Dean R. Larabee, Clerk

Heather Martin-Sterling, Interim Town Administrator


Wendy F. Cochrane, Member