

Leyden Select Board Meeting Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
Monday, July 22, 2024
5:30 pm

Select Board Members Present: Katherine DiMatteo, Erica Jensen, Jeffrey Baker

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, Janell Howard, Shenandoah Sluter

Katherine called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Liquor license requests

Motion: Erica moved, and Jeff seconded to approve the liquor license for an event for Shenandoah Sluter at Camp Lionel, unanimously approved.

Warrants

The Select Board signed the FY24 and FY25 warrants.

Meeting Minutes

Motion: Erica moved, and Jeff seconded to approve the 7-8-24 minutes with amendments suggested by Katherine, unanimously approved.

Motion: Erica moved, and Jeff seconded to approve the 7-15-24 minutes with the amendments suggested by Katherine, unanimously approved.

ACTION: Michele will amend the minutes as suggested by Katherine.

Penfield Trust

Motion: Erica moved, and Jeff seconded to agree and accept the agreement between the Town of Leyden and Penfield Investment Trust Agreement dated 6-25-2024 and accept the Open Space Restriction dated 7-15-2024 with Exhibit A, B, and C, unanimously approved.

The Select Board read and signed the Penfield Investment Trust and Open Space Restriction.

FY25 Appointments

Bob DePalma agreed to be on the Open Space and Recreation Committee.

Karen O'Neil, Doug Pratt, and Ann Pratt have expressed interest in being poll workers.

Motion: Erica moved, and Jeff seconded to appoint Bob DePalma for a 3 year term until 2027 as an Open Space Committee member and Karen O'Neil, Doug Pratt, and Ann Pratt as poll workers, unanimously approved.

Town Coordinator Updates

Michele talked to a few other towns about power aggregation and gave feedback from the towns:

- Not a lot of companies want to bid on small towns.
- Colonial has been very responsive and easy to work with.
- Towns will need to work directly with Colonial and not go through FRCOG.
- Residents have the option to purchase cleaner energy, it could be more expensive, but it is an option offered.
- Residents must opt out if they don't want to participate in the aggregation of town shared power.
- Bernardston said they didn't have a lot of savings and they don't have documentation of how many people went with it.
- Colonial said they won't assume they will be the aggregator.
- It seems likely that Leyden could join with the other 14 towns. It does take a while to do the plan.
- If Select Board wants to do a webinar with Colonial, then a time can be set up to meet to go over what to do to join the 14 town consortium.

ACTION: Michele will contact Colonial and set up a time for a presentation to the Select Board.

Surplus items:

- Library books and a chrome book from BOH

Motion: Erica moved, and Jeff seconded to approve as surplus the books from the library and the Board of Health chrome book which doesn't work, unanimously approved.

- The Select Board signed the surplus Property form.

Michele has training in Design and Construction Contracting and Supplies and Services Contracting and through August.

ACTION: Michele will do self-paced training online through August.

Michele chatted with some legislators who asked how Leyden is doing. Legislator apologized that Leyden didn't win the MVP again.

Bog Update:

Engineering is going to be another week because the bog is so much bigger than they thought. There is a protected species in the bog as well. New quote is \$133,000 but doesn't include soil bearing and hydraulics.

Jim McGovern is pleased to announce a nomination for the 2025 Museum and Library Services for the Robertson Memorial Library in Leyden. An application needs to be completed and sent in by September 6th; this will need to be on a Select Board Meeting agenda.

ACTION: Karin with Tom will fill out application

ACTION: Select Board will put Karin and Tom on the Select Board meeting agenda.

Select Board Updates

- Ford Explorer license Plate update - Michele mailed in the title for registration for the Ford Explorer last Thursday.
- Michele's review is on the 29th.
- Jeff sat in on the online school committee meeting:
 - New security cameras have been installed in Pioneer Valley Regional School.
 - Elementary school is putting in new swipe keys, Pioneer already has them.
 - There is discussion about moving 6th grade up to Pioneer, the School Committee voted to have this researched.
- Beavers and the Bog:
 - The MA Wildlife Regional Circuit Rider wrote to Con Com and Katherine was on that email and said he didn't see a permit come in from the Conservation Committee to allow this work to happen.
 - The Select Board had declared it an emergency and spoke with FRCOG and the Highway Department.
 - The Select Board and Highway went to the Conservation Commission and Beaver Solutions and were given verbal approval.
 - The Conservation Commission needs to give a written permit for the project because it is taking place in wetlands.
 - The MA Wildlife Manager wants written paperwork turned in instead of verbal approval.
- Katherine will be going to the 5-6 regional district agreement subcommittee meeting this week.
- Railing for the Town Hall is in progress.
- Thank you letter from Katherine to the Town Clerk for his work in the town was sent.
- Discussion on Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) changes to the Pioneer Valley Region District Agreement.

ACTION: Katherine will send thank you notes for the work donations that have been completed at the Town Hall.

ACTION: Michele will complete the Victim Impact Statement

ACTION: Janell will get the Bound Tree application signed by a Select Board member and the Fire Chief

ACTION: Janell will check with the Fire Department to see if they want to do anything for the MIIA grant.

ACTION: Michele will confirm with Ginger that September 9th at the Select Board Meeting works for the presentation of the Financial Policies.

ACTION: Katherine will email the Select Board, Michele, and Janell the emails from the MA Wildlife Manager

ACTION: Conservation Commission will need to fill out a permit and send it into the MA Wildlife Manager.

Calendar

- Open Space and Recreation Committee needs to get up and running, they need to meet and elect a chair.
- Michele's review
- Library Award

- Personnel Manual
- Victim Impact Statement

ACTION: Katherine will convene the meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Committee so a chair can be elected.

ACTION: Katherine will talk to Janell about possible dates for the Open Space Committee Meeting.

ACTION: Janell contact Gary Ponce to come to the SB meeting on 8-19-24 at 5:30pm for quarterly meeting

ACTION: Michele will ask the Assessors to join the September 30, 2024 at 5:30pm Select Board Meeting.

ACTION: Michele will send out a reminder for the 9-9-24 meeting for the Treasurer, Accountant, Tax Collector, Finance Committee, and Assessors to attend the meeting. Have them each read and comment before the meeting. Comments should be sent to Michele so the Select Board can take it into consideration.

Motion: Erica moved, and Jeff seconded to adjourn at 7:30pm

Respectively Submitted,

Janell Howard