

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
TUESDAY, May 16, 2017**

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Chris Boutwell, Michael Nelson, Rich Kuklewicz, Town Administrator Steven Ellis, and Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz. Kuklewicz makes introduction and announces meeting is being taped.

**Reorganization of Board**

Nelson thanked the Town for the opportunity to serve on the Board for another three years.

*Boutwell makes a motion for Rich Kuklewicz to remain the Chair, Michael Nelson the Vice-Chair, and Chris Boutwell the Secretary of the Board of Selectmen. Nelson seconded, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Approve Selectmen minutes of May 8, 2017**

*Nelson makes the motion to approve the minutes of May 8, 2017. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Board of Selectmen will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment**

None.

**Jen Audley, Montague Cultural Council**

**Montague Cultural Council Updates**

Audley gave an update on the Montague Cultural Council:

- There are currently eight members on the committee. Two are stepping down; they are hoping to get two more.
- Audley will be giving an annual report in the future.
- The Cultural Council disperses money that the Commonwealth gives each town. The Council takes applications from individuals/groups who want to do art, history, or science programs and decides whom to give small grants of \$50 to \$300 to.
- In 2017, the Council funded 23 programs including things at the library, the Shea, the park, and RiverCulture.
- The Council meets once a month to every six weeks.
- The application window is in September and closes in October. The Council goes through the applications and announces in January which ones they are going to fund.

Audley: I think the Cultural Council is doing the minimum of what we can do for the Town. When I looked at the Finance Committee's report at Town Meeting, I looked at the pie chart of the Town's budget and the slice called "Culture and Recreation" is pretty small. The lines under that slice are the libraries, Parks and Rec, Council on Aging, and Veterans. You could include our money in the Town's budget as a way of representing that arts programming is something that the Town values. I'd like to see that slice be a little bigger. Cultural councils can raise money, we can apply for grants. In some cases municipalities kick in money to cultural councils so they can do more things. So mostly I just want you to be aware that we exist and we serve the Town, and we'd be happy to do more. Anyone who is interested in becoming a cultural councilor should send a note to the Cultural Council here at Town Hall, or they can email [montaguecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:montaguecouncil@gmail.com). Our next meeting is on Sunday, May 21st, at the public safety complex in the community room at 1:00 PM.

**Bruce Hunter, FCRHRA**

**Execute Authorization to Disburse No. 3, Invoice #1.2017.25-3, Avenue A and Peskeomskut Park Pedestrian Lighting Project, Contractor: Berkshire Design Group, Inc., \$3,375.00**

*Nelson makes a motion to authorize the Disbursement No. 3, Invoice #1.2017.25-3 for the Avenue A and Peskeomskut Park Pedestrian Lighting Project to Berkshire Design Group in the amount of \$3,375.00. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye.*

**Proposed Rehabilitation of Spinner Park**

Ellis: In part because the bids came in lower than anticipated for the elimination project, we have a sum of money. It's yet to be settled finally because we don't know whether we'll encounter any change orders. We may have as

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much as a \$97,000 balance that can be redeployed for an eligible project. In reviewing several possible projects and considering eligibility and also sort of scope-of-resources match, we looked at renovating the Skinner Park area, including the curb cut that goes down to the corner where the concrete has really degraded. We want to ultimately have a plan developed. Some of the initial ideas that Walter will elaborate on next week include removing some of the flower beds and making some decisions about how we can improve the safety, appearance, and livability and comfort of seating in that area around the Spinner statue. We would not be renovating the statue itself. That's something that RiverCulture is undertaking the process of getting donations to support. On Monday we would look to use some of our program income funds that need to be done in the context of the hearing of the Board, less than \$10,000 that would be focused on creating a master plan. That would be the first step in getting ready for bid-ready plans, construction management services, etc., and a bid for construction once we have an agreed-upon concept for the park. The idea is to upgrade it, make it more accessible, make it safer, and to improve some of its foundations.

Hunter: With Community Development Block Grant Funds, we have to hold a public hearing to reprogram the funds. That reprogramming will be describing all the eligible activities that we are working on and that you might be able to use the funds for. We'll do the master plan first, a plan that will anticipate what the cost of construction and the further design will be. We'll take public comments, you'll make the final decision. This is one of the options.

**Personnel Board**

**Execute Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Montague and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274**

*Nelson makes a motion to sign the Memorandum Agreement between the Town of Montague and United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274 as presented. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved.*

*Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz, - Aye*

**Jeff Singleton**

**FRTA Discussion, Routes and Voting**

Singleton read aloud the letter from the Board to Tina Cote, Administrator of the FRTA, requesting that the FRTA Advisory Board delay a vote on their proposed route changes until Montague can hold a public hearing and public discussion. Singleton made a correction from "State law" to "Federal regulations."

Singleton raised several concerns:

- The new routes proposed seem to be moving away from getting regular service to UMass/Amherst.
- Should there be a bus going up the hill toward Sheffield and Hillcrest? Isn't that something the school district should take care of?
- There are 12 bus trips to GCC versus four to UMass.
- The FRTA needs to clarify when we hold public hearings and how we make decisions.

Ellis: I would hope that the Board would remain flexible with us getting to an agreeable point in relation to some of the critical priorities expressed in the letter and get future clarification of policies.

Singleton: I think the best thing would be if they delay the vote and have an emergency meeting in July after a public hearing.

Audley expressed concern about the language in the letter regarding serving the Gill-Montague Regional School District. The Board agreed to make a friendly amendment.

*Nelson makes the motion to advance the letter to the FTRA Advisory Board with some minor edits and a friendly amendment. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Town Administrator's Report**

**Airport Manager Search Update**

Ellis: The TF Airport Commission has selected and an offer was accepted for our new Airport Manager. His name is Bryan Camden. He has a Bachelor's Degree in business, but found his love in aviation. He has been working for

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the Orange Airport as an Assistant Manager for some period of time. He will continue to work there part-time and accept our 17-hour position. He's beginning this week. He has full understanding of aviation maintenance related to an airport, federal regulations, etc.; he has experience managing relationships and communicating with leaseholders; and he has an opportunity potentially to bring some of the ideas and practices that he's seen in action in Orange here to the airport. The airport is in the midst of an airport master plan, which the Commission is going to remain very engaged in.

**Community Development Discretionary Account**

**Close the CDD Shea Fire Suppression line, Account #225-5-184-5276 and transfer balance of \$145 into the CDD Shea Theater Line, Account #225-5-184-5240**

*Nelson makes a motion to close the Community Development Discretionary Account for the Shea Fire Suppression line, #225-5-184-5276 and transfer that balance of \$145 into the Community Development Discretionary Shea Theater Line, Account #225-5-184-5240. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Transfer \$3000 from the CDD Unallocated Account #225-5-184-5200 and transfer into the CDD Shea Theater Line, Account #225-5-184-5200 and transfer into the CDD Shea Theater Line, Account #225-5-184-5240**

*Nelson makes a motion to transfer \$3000 from the Community Development Discretionary Unallocated Account #225-5-184-5200 and transfer that amount into the Community Development Discretionary Shea Theater Line, Account #225-5-184-5240. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Jamie Pottern, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trusts**

**Execute Smith Conservation Restriction**

*Nelson makes a motion to approve the Smith Conservation Restriction at 73 Mormon Hollow Road in Montague as has been presented. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

In honor of this project, Mount Grace and all the project partners are throwing "Party in the Hollow" from 11:00 to 4:00 at the Diamond Farm on June 4th. There will be live music, local food, and art vendors. At 10:00 AM, before it starts, there's going to be a Diamond Farm Chicken Run, a 7K trail race through the Wendell State Forest. Tickets are available for \$10 until May 25th. After that, it's \$15.

**OTHER**

**Use of Public Property: Albert Cummings, Trustees Soldiers Committee, Memorial Day Parade 5/29/17, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Second Street to Avenue A to War Memorial**

*Nelson makes a motion to approve the request for a Memorial Day Parade to the Trustees Soldiers Committee on May 29th, 2017 from the time frame of 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The parade will be assembling on Second Street, going to Avenue A, and then ending at the War Memorial. Kuklewicz seconded, approved. Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain.*

**Use of Montague Center Town Common: Ann Fisk, 1st Congregational Church - Montague, Church Fair - Old Home Days, August 18 & 19, 2017, (Use: Set up, 8/11/17 until 8/22/17)**

*Nelson makes a motion to approve the use of the Montague Center Town Common to the 1st Congregational Church in Montague for their Annual Old Home Days Event, the event taking place August 18th and 19th, 2017, with set-up beginning on August 11th, 2017 and clean-up going until August 22nd, 2017. Police Chief signed off and we have their insurance on file. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye.*

**Use of Montague Center Town Common: Ann Fisk, Montague Center Fire Department, Memorial Day Observance, Sunday, May 28, 2017**

*Nelson makes a motion to approve the request for the Montague Center Town Common use for a Memorial Day Observance on Sunday, May 28, 2017 to the Montague Center Fire Department from 8:00 AM in the morning until 1:00 PM in the afternoon. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye.*

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**Father's Day Fun Fly** will be held on Father's Day, June 18 from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Come bring your children or grandchildren and friends to this great event and try your hand at flying a radio control aircraft. If you're thinking of getting a drone for Father's Day, this is the place to bring it, fly it, and ask questions. Visit their website <http://franklinrc.com/>

The next regularly scheduled Selectmen's Meeting will be held on Monday, May 22, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

**Executive Session under G.L. c.30A, §21 (a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property: JaDuke Center for the Performing Arts Economic Development Incentive Program Consideration**  
The Chair rules that doing this in open session would be detrimental to the Town's position.

*Nelson makes the motion to go into Executive Session under G.L. c.30A, §21 (a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property: JaDuke Center for the Performing Arts Economic Development Incentive Program Consideration. We will leave Executive Session only to adjourn the regular meeting. Votes may be taken. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**List of Documents and Exhibits**

- Invoice #1.2017-25-3, Avenue A & Peskeompskut park Pedestrian Lighting Project, Berkshire Design Group, Inc.
- Memorandum of Agreement between Town of Montague and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274
- Letter to FRTA regarding a request to delay proposed route changes for FRTA buses (letter never sent)
- Smith Conservation Restriction
- Use of Public Property for Memorial Day Parade
- Use of Public Property for Old Home Days, Montague Center
- Use of Public Property for Memorial Day Observance