

West Barnstable Civic Association

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

West Barnstable Community Building, Route 149

I. Call to Order

Nancy Meagher, President called to order the regular meeting of the West Barnstable Civic Association at 7:05PM on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at the West Barnstable Community Building on Route 149.

II. Attendance

Nancy Meagher, Bob Stolte, Dan Dewey, Tony Lovell, Dolores Schermer, Hank Farnham, Leslie Wallace, Kris Clark, Andy Lee, Jon Britton, Marissa Caney, and Ed Jay.

III. Approval of Minutes

Approval of meeting minutes from May 4, 2021, meeting.

Dolores Schermer motioned. Bob Stolte seconded. Unanimous vote taken to approve.

IV. Councilor's Report

COVID -19 Update

The Town of Barnstable is now classified as “green” (low risk) by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The number of new positive COVID-19 cases continues to decrease for the eighth consecutive week as illustrated in the graph below (see right side). During the past fourteen days, the Health Division received 42 new positive case reports of residents of the Town of Barnstable. This calculates to an average of only three (3) positive cases per day during the past two weeks.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health reported yesterday seventy-eight percent (78%) of our eligible residents (ages 12 and older) in Barnstable County have had at least one dose of COVID -19 vaccine. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of our eligible residents (ages 12 and older) are now fully vaccinated.

Harbor Health, the Hyannis Fire Department, and the Town of Barnstable continue to partner to provide vaccinations at the Barnstable Adult Community Center (BACC) in Hyannis. These clinics are held daily Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Appointments are not necessary; walk-ins are welcome.

The public hearing of the proposed Sewer Assessment Ordinance was begun at the May 20, 2021 Town Council meeting: Order Amending Chapter 184 Sewers and Water of the General Ordinances. At that meeting, Councilor Eric Steinhilber made an amendment to the ordinance asking that the assessment per unit be reduced from \$17,000 to \$10,000, which passed. Councilor Clark made a case for those of us who will not ever get sewered but was outvoted.

Notable Changes from Original Draft:

- Lots capable of subdivision
 - Added option to defer sewer assessment until developed at 4% interest rate;
 - Upon development sewer assessment is due within 3 months.
- Added a deferred sewer assessment option for eligible elderly low-income property owners.
- Added an abatement process.
- Eliminated the System Development Charge.

Councilors Starr and Clark wrote a letter to our legislators bringing attention to household trash along the railroad tracks. An article in the Cape Cod Times appeared on the front page of the Cape Cod Times on May 6, 2021.

Councilor Clark has been in touch with Eversource representatives to address complaints about trash that has been left by the easements near the Oak Street Substation. They have pledged to have the trash out of there by the WBCA general membership meeting on May 18th, but that wasn't done well. Kris heard from Eversource's communications director today that this will be resolved.

Kris continues to remind residents to fill out an application to be appointed to a town committee, even if there are no vacancies.

Spring Walking Weekend is Friday, June 4- Sunday, June 6.

Councilor Clark attended the Centerville Memorial Day Observance, riding in Steve Wallace's WWII vintage 1942 jeep, along with Councilor Starr and Councilor Bogan.

The town is working hard to open up town buildings to in-person meetings again. It is expected that the first Town Council meeting will be at Town Hall on June 17th.

West Barnstable resident, Wendy Northcross, will be honored with the Mercy Otis Warren Woman of the Year this year at the 1717 Meetinghouse on June 2

V. Officer Reports

Treasurer – Bob Stolte

Bob reported that we raised \$9,090 for the scholarship fund. Funds were raised from 36 people, and the WBCA distributed six scholarships in the amount of \$1500 each. Bob then provided a general update of our account.

There were no bills this month.

Ed Jay motioned. Leslie Wallace seconded. Unanimous vote taken to approve the report.

Corresponding Secretary – Andy Lee

Andy sent thank you notes to sponsors and other donors for the scholarship fund, and for the General Meeting. Nancy mailed notes to several large donors, to Chief Maruca, Bill Murray, and a few Board Members for their extra efforts with setting up the May 18th meeting.

Membership – Jon Britton

Jon reported that the Family membership continues to be popular.

A question was raised about requiring WBCA membership as a pre-requisite for those who wish to apply for a scholarship. The group discussed and membership is not required, but encouraged.

VI. Old Business

a) May 18th General Membership Meeting

The General Membership meeting was well received by all. Attendance was high, and the weather was suitable for an outdoor meeting. Thank you to the WB Fire Department for the use of their AV equipment and to the volunteers who helped set-up and breakdown for the meeting.

b) Review Educational Scholarship process and Fundraising

There was a discussion of the Scholarship and related fundraising processes. It was agreed that the group would schedule a separate meeting to discuss some of the topics raised which included:

- Sending out a pitch in advance of senior year.
- A more comprehensive listing of all opportunities.
- Speaking to the various guidance counselors at schools to capture those in their junior year, so they are aware of opportunities well in advance.
- Setting up a rubric for the process.

c) Flag Day Ceremony

The Flag Day Ceremony is scheduled for Monday, June 14, 2021, 6:00 PM at Meetinghouse Farm. The event will be like past years with the Pledge of Allegiance, the singing of the National Anthem, the Police Honor Guard, and Paul Shoemaker will play Taps. The event is open to the public along with our invited guests.

d) Fourth of July Parade Update, Grand Marshall

Details on the Fourth of July Parade were provided by Bob Stolte. A permit for the event has been submitted. This year the parade will be a “floating parade” through Barnstable and West Barnstable Villages. Residents will be encouraged to decorate their homes and prizes will be awarded to three (3) homes in each Village.

The floating parade will have the usual antique cars and floats, but there will be no bicycle or pet parade this year.

Bob and Shirley Stolte were selected as this year’s Grand Marshall. Leslie Wallace motioned, Ed Jay seconded. Unanimous vote was taken to approve.

e) Village Festival Update

The Village Festival has been scheduled for August 21, 2021. The event will proceed as usual, and planning has started. The Field has been reserved.

Andy Lee will request \$500 from the Town for the festival.

VII. New Business

- a) There was a brief discussion of the next edition of the *Cornerstone*. The Festival committee will pay for the mailing which will take place in advance of the Festival.
- b) The group reviewed recent updates to the WBCA Website. Nancy has been working hard to promote events on the site, including photos. The General Membership site has Meeting Photos.
- c) We are working on acquiring a new American flag for the Village Green. Jon Britton is working with Bradford’s Hardware who has generously donated flags in the past. It was also noted that Senator Keating’s office can provide a 3’ x 5’ flag for \$10.

VIII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IX: Meeting Dates

Monday, June 14, 2021, 6:00 PM ~ Flag Day Ceremony

Sunday, July 4, 2021 ~ Parade

Tuesday, July 6, 2021, 7:00 PM ~ Board Meeting, WB Community Building

Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 7:00 PM ~ Board Meeting, WB Community Building

Saturday, August 21, 2021 ~ Village Festival

X: Adjourn

Bob Stolte motioned. Jon Britton seconded. Unanimous vote taken to adjourn at 8:35pm.

Minutes submitted by: Marissa Caney, Recording Secretary