

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
Town of Charlemont
Goodnow Town Hall

October 4, 2021
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The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Select Board Chair Marguerite Willis. Select Board members Dan Girard and William Harker, along with Administrator Sarah Reynolds also attended the meeting. This meeting was conducted via telephone conference and in person pursuant to the Governor's March 12, 2020, and consistent with Gov. Baker's temporary modifications to the Open Meeting Law suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

Attendees: Kathie and Patrick Banks, Randy Crochier, FRCOG Regional Health Director James Hawkins, FRCOG Building Commissioner and David Roberts, FRCOG Local Building Inspector
Mary Ellen Banks via phone

1. Ms Willis introduced the Select Board and asked Katie and Patrick Banks to state their address for the record. Ms Banks replied 247 Zoar Road in Charlemont.
2. Ms Banks explained that her and her husband Patrick are trying to open a business at 247 Zoar Road and it has turned out to be a long and dragged out permitting process. She believes part of the problem is selective permitting and wants to know if the Town believes they are using a process that's user friendly.
3. Ms Banks stated that she received code violations from Jim Hawkins and asks if the Town had a conversation with the Building Inspector regarding code violations?
4. Administrator S Reynolds stated that the Town does not get involved with violations as the Building Inspectors and Health Director are the experts that know the codes although, the Select Board does receive a heads up from the inspectors/directors.
5. Ms Banks stated that she believed the Select Board were not informed.
6. Ms Banks suggested the Town sit down with residents and stakeholders to see if the process is user friendly and invite feedback as the Banks have had a negative experience and lost income due to delays.
7. Ms Willis stated that the Town does not control mandated regulations.
8. Mr. Harker stated that he feels the FRCOG does a good job but sometimes communications do get lost.
9. Mr. Girard stated that where he previous resided, four Towns created a Business Association to speak under one voice
10. Mr. Crochier stated he understand the frustration of the Banks. A variance was requested and appealed to the DPH which was denied.
11. Mr. Roberts stated that Building Codes need to be met.
12. Ms Banks stated she is willing to create a Business Association.

13. Ms Banks was informed that if she has concerns regarding employees the process is to write a complaint letter to the Select Board and the complaint will be discussed with the employee in an executive session.
14. Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy A. Reynolds
Executive Secretary

Approved by:
Charlemont Select Board

This document is to be considered a draft until approved and signed by the Select Board.