

**Town of Bernardston
Selectboard Meeting Minutes**



Board Members

Brian J. Keir

Stanley D. Garland, Chairman

Kenneth R. Bordewieck

Minutes for the meeting of November 21, 2023

Meeting held at Bernardston Town Hall
38 Church St, Bernardston, MA 01337

Selectboard Members Present:

Stan Garland
Ken Bordewieck

Others Present:

Karen Kelly
Elena Cohen (on phone)

Stan called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

First order of business was a Zoom conference call with Elena Cohen, District Director, Senator Jo Comerford's office. Elena works on municipal and regional issues, supports applications to state grant programs from our district and is the main point of contact for our district's municipal officials. We are asking for help in finding funding for a senior housing project in Bernardston. The funding is needed for the purchase of land and new construction of a 6 to 8 unit senior housing production. Elena discussed the recent Senior Housing project in Sunderland, MA and their process. The Town of Sunderland worked closely with Rural Development Inc., a non profit arm of Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA). Gina Govoni, is the Executive Director of FCRHRA, and Rural Development Inc., and she is a great resource to have a discussion about our project. Elena noted that Sunderland did purchase the land which opened up opportunities with grants, state support and private funding. Elena stated that it could be possible that they might be able to secure an earmark in the budget for some money next spring. Other resources are the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities which offers historic tax credits that housing developments can apply for. There is also state funding available for zoning and planning. Underutilized properties analysis could be another approach. Our next step is to set up a meeting with the Selectboard, Bernardston Planning Board and Gina Govoni on how to get started with this project. Karen will contact Geoff Kravitz, Sunderland Town Administrator and discuss his experience with the Sunderland Senior Housing Project before the next meeting.

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Second item of business was the Senior Center's new and old chairs. This item was tabled and will be added to the agenda on November 29, 2023.

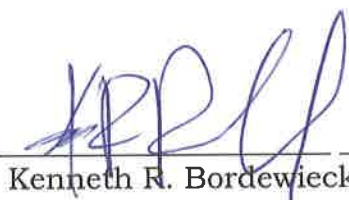
Third order of business was The Farm Table horse-driven sleigh ride route on Sunday, December 17, 2023. Ken entered a motion to approve the horse-driven sleigh ride, Stan seconded the motion and it was approved, 2 - 0.

With no further business to be discussed, Ken motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:41am. Stan seconded and the meeting adjourned.

Attested by: Karen Kelly, Interim Town Coordinator


Stanley D. Garland

, Chairman



Kenneth R. Bordewieck

Brian J. Keir