

**Town of Bernardston
Selectboard Meeting Minutes**



Board Members

Brian J. Keir

Kenneth R. Bordewieck, Chairman

Brian Hervieux

Minutes for the meeting of May 15, 2024

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

Selectboard Members Present:

Ken Bordewieck
Brian Keir
Brian Hervieux

Others Present:

See sign-in roster

Ken called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Warrants

Ken motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$51,413.28. Brian seconded and the motion was approved 3-0. Ken motioned to approve the Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$139,179.03. Brian seconded and the motion was approved 3-0.

Minutes

Ken motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 1, 2024 and the Special Meeting on May 8, 2024. Brian seconded and the motion was approved 3-0.

Calendar and Announcements

Ken read the calendar and announcements as presented on the attached agenda.

Citizen Concerns: None

Appointments:

-Kathy Willar, Citizen Petition - Article 33: **Kathy Willar did not appear before the Selectboard as scheduled.** Kathy Willar was the Primary Article Sponsor of the citizen petition requesting the lowering of property taxes. Article 33 was read, moved and seconded but after a lengthy discussion on the floor, a motion to pass over the Article was put to a Voice Vote and the Moderator declared it approved unanimously to pass over. It was explained by the Town

(continued on next page)

Selectboard Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2024
(continued)

Counsel that the Article was written in such a way as to make it non-binding, meaning it had no legal or binding force. A recommendation was given by previous Selectboard Chairman, Stanley Garland, who suggested creating a committee to look into ways we can lower our property taxes.

-Matt Aversa, Bernardston Senior Center Men's Group: Matt Aversa proposed a plan to beautify the pond area in the center of Town (behind Cushman Library). A speaker from the Franklin County Conservation District came to speak to the men's group about pollinators which gave way to the idea of a pollinator garden around the pond. Matt received a grant that will pay for pollinating plants and flowers, but he wanted to bring the idea to the Selectboard first. The Selectboard asked Matt to come back with a sketch and budget for the project.

New Business

-FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending - Bernardston Fire Station: Ken started the discussion by providing an update on the status of the USDA Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS). On Wednesday, May 8th, the Town Administrator and Chairman Bordewieck took a call with Ms. Anne Correia, Area Director, Southern New England, Rural Development, USDA about the CDS of \$1,000,000 for the Bernardston Fire Station. Ms. Correia is recommending that we utilize the funds to purchase the property that will house the new fire station and she added that it will be the easiest path forward. Ms. Correia suggested that the seller continue with the necessary improvements of the property, so the Town can have a habitable move-in space upon closing. Ms. Correia stated that this would be the best way to use these funds. If the Town agrees, USDA will formulate an application that does not involve construction. The Selectboard and the Fire Station Building Committee agreed with Ms. Correia's recommendation and the Town Administrator will notify the USDA that the Town would like to proceed with completing an application for the \$1,000,000 that does not include construction.

-Special Legislation Letters - Senator Comerford and Representative Blais: There are two letters for signature by the Selectboard asking Representative Natalie Blais and Senator Jo Comerford to respectfully petition the General Court for special legislation to allow the Selectboard to appoint an associate member to the Bernardston Board of Health to serve as a voting member when a full-time member is incapacitated or unable to act due to conflict, etc. Our Annual Town Meeting unanimously approved Article 30 which authorized the Selectboard to make this request.

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes

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(continued)

Brian Keir made a motion to motion to approve and sign the letters as written. Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

-Cushman Park Usage Agreement: Ken made a motion to approve the Cushman Park Public Facility Use Application for the Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony on May 27th from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Brian Keir seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

-Pratt Field Usage Agreement: Ken made a motion to approve the Pratt Field Public Facility Use Application for the Gas Engine Show, on May 24th thru May 26th. Brian Keir seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

-Time off request: Ken made a motion to approve the Time Off Request for an employee. Brian Keir seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

Old Business:

GameTime - School Playground Funding: The Town Administrator received an email from Conor Gammond, GameTime Design Consultant. Conor acknowledged our application for the recent grant offering and he would like to speak to the Selectboard. The Town Administrator recommended speaking with Conor first to see if there is a feasible way forward. Ken made a motion for the Town Administrator to engage with Mr. Gammond. Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

Town Administrator Report: as read by the Town Administrator

Other Business Unknown at time of posting

-EV Charging Station Proposals: Brian Keir, member of the Green Committee, discussed proposals the Green Committee received for two EV charging stations. Brian Keir introduced the proposals from Livingston Charge Point. Livingston Charge Point approached the Town about installing two EV Charging Stations. The two locations are at the gravel parking lot west of the Fire Station. The total cost of the project is \$438,000 and a grant would pay for the entire cost of the project for five years. There would be a recurring cost for the power after five years. The Town could make a little money off of the EV service parking by establishing a fee. The Selectboard will have to consider the benefits of having this service in the Town. Will it benefit our local businesses economically? The Green Committee still needs to discuss the project with the Highway Operations & Facility Superintendent, Brian Miner. A recommendation was made by Brian Hervieux to add a dog waste dispenser to the proposed site. He also asked about the fee. It was explained by Brian Keir that the charge point would generate a quarterly check to the Town from

(continued on next page)

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

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(continued)

Eversource. It was clarified by Jane Dutcher, Eversource would pay the electric bill for the first five years. Ken brought up that the Town is still considering what to do with the gravel parking area, so to put EV charging stations there may not be wise. Brian Keir stated that he would go back to the Green Committee for more information so the Selectboard tabled the idea.

-Website Marketing Mail-out: The Town Administrator is requesting the use of ARPA funds to pay for the materials and mail service to send out a brochure to every resident in the Town, announcing the new website and all it has to offer at a cost of \$2000.00 and to add information on the Special Election.

Brian Keir made a motion to approve the use of ARPA funds to support a mail-out to the Town residents announcing the new website and the Special Election on June 25, 2025. Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

-Appointment of Bernardston Summer Camp Counselors and Counselors in Training: Brian Keir made a motion to approve the appointment order, as written, but to include the counselors in training, for the FY24 Bernardston Summer Camp Program, effective May 15, 2024. Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

-More Shuffleboards at Cushman Park: The Town Administrator informed the Selectboard that there is an interest to add more shuffleboards to Cushman Park. The way forward is to have a preliminary meeting with the Cushman Hall Committee, Highway Operations & Maintenance Department, Town Administrator and the parties interested in more shuffleboards to discuss the idea and possible way forward.

Adjourn

Brian Keir made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

Attested by: Karen Kelly, Town Administrator


_____, Chairman
Kenneth R. Bordewieck



Brian Keir



Brian Hervieux



BERNARDSTON SELECTBOARD - MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Meeting Date: 5/15/2024

Meeting Time: 6:00 AM/PM

Name

Address

Phone / Email

Jane White
Math Averca
TOM NEWTON
Carl

Jim Lamm
75 South St # 23
26 HARTWELL ST.

matthewmsw99@gmail.com
413 648-5235

Town of Bernardston
Selectboard Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 6:00PM



Bernardston Town Hall, 38 Church Street, Bernardston MA

Board Members

Brian J. Keir

Kenneth R. Bordewieck, Chairman

Brian Hervieux

Call to Order – 6:00pm

Warrants: Payroll and Vendor; weeks ending May 11, 2024

Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting May 1, 2024; Special Meeting May 8, 2024

Calendar & Announcements

-Gas Engine Show, Flea Market & Craft Fair, May 24th, 25th & 26th, Pratt Field, 257 South Street in Bernardston. The Bernardston Gas Engine Show is held every Memorial weekend, and it is the largest fundraiser of the year for the United Church of Bernardston.

-Bernardston Senior Center Open House, Friday, May 31st & Saturday, June 1st. Stop by our open house, sign up for membership and learn about all of the Senior Center programs and services. Details of the event are posted on the Town website homepage.

-1st Annual 5K Hop (5K Race & Walk), Saturday, June 8th @9:00am, Pratt Field. Registration details are available on the Town website at townofbernardston.org.

Citizens Concerns

Appointments

-Kathy Willar, ATM Article 33 passover - next steps

-Matt Aversa, Bernardston Senior Center Men's Group, proposes a plan to beautify the pond area behind Cushman Library

New Business

-FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending - Bernardston Fire Station

-Special Legislation Letters - Senator Comerford and Representative Blais

-Cushman Park Usage Agreement

-Pratt Field Usage Agreement

-Time off request

Old Business

-GameTime - School Playground Funding

Town Administrator Report

Other Business Unknown at time of posting

Adjourn

This meeting was posted on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 2:15 pm

Dear Karen,

We would like to propose a plan to beautify the pond area in the center of town.

I have contacted the Franklin County Conservation District following a talk given to the Bernardston Senior Center Men's Group. We had Tom Sullivan give a talk on pollinators and a member wondered if we could do something with the town pond.

Tom was very enthusiastic and thought that the spot would make a good place to introduce pollinator plants both to encourage the preservation of native plants and pollinators such as bees.

Tom was able to secure a grant for the design of an area around the pond and is aware of the need to keep maintenance low. He has suggested shrubs and plants that would require little maintenance and a ground cover that would prevent weeds.

Other towns in the area (Greenfield, Montague and Irving) have taken advantage of the expertise and enthusiasm of the Franklin County Conservation District to encourage the propagation of native plants and to encourage pollinators to return to our area. I have attached a copy of a front page article in the Montague Reporter as an example of the work being done in other towns.

I am approaching you to see the feasibility of going forward with this project. If approval is given, I will work with Tom Sullivan to provide more details and a plan for the area.

Sincerely,



Matt Aversa

The Montague Reporter

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THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE REPORTER

THE VOICE OF THE HILL TOWNS

APRIL 18, 2024

'Stepping Stones' Sought For Pollinating Insects



"I went outside this morning to check on spring flowers, and heard a buzzing noise," Montague Center reader Sally Pick reports. "I looked up at the cherry tree, and it was loaded with honeybees from local hives!"

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE - "It's absolutely beautiful, when you allow bees to come into your life, and into your yard," says Ella Ingraham.

A few years ago, Ingraham went to the Nasami native plant nursery in Whately to buy some pollinator-friendly plants for her backyard in the Hill neighborhood of Turners Falls. She had been following a discussion about efforts to support native pollinating insects - an essential, but vulnerable, element in each region's ecology - and attended presentations on the issue hosted by Greening Greenfield.

But nothing prepared her for what happened next.

"I planted these plants in my yard - I thought, you know, this is

a good thing to do - but when they bloomed, it was just mind-blowing," she says. "There were so many pollinators on those plants! After that I was like, okay, the front yard's going."

This time, Ingraham enlisted the services of Tom Sullivan, a pollinator habitat designer who lives in the Patch. Sullivan cooked up a specialized habitat, and Ingraham gushes to describe it: a rare bee balm; fox; tiny penstemons; tall, purple ironweed; a number of "lovely" grasses, Virginia bluebells, a creeping aster.

Sullivan also recruited her into a small but burgeoning movement to spread pollinator-friendly habitat across the map. The pair worked on a proposal to convert a

AINSWORTH AT LARGE

Meisner Bids Adieu To Politics



Alex Meisner leans against his Dodge Charger before his next-to-last selectboard meeting outside the Northfield town hall on Tuesday. His license plate reads XPRJUS. "I submitted it to the RAV" as a joke and they gave it to me," he said.

By CHIP AINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD - Alex Meisner has decided not to seek a third term on the Northfield selectboard. "A lot's changed in six years, and I've done what I feel I can do with the position," Meisner said in a telephone interview.

The 30-year-old Meisner was born in Northampton and raised in Enshampton and Holyoke. He moved to Northfield more than a

decade ago and climbed the socio-economic ladder, from the Bee Hive to a kindly gent's home near the post office, to a duplex off the south end of Main Street.

He works at the sheriff's office and has a wife Haleigh and two infant children, Jackson and Madelyn. As they grow, he fears he may have to look at the town in the rear-view mirror.

"Eventually we'll have to get a see AT LARGE page A4

Montague Receives 354 Applications For Mural Job

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS - A call issued this winter for a muralist to paint the side of the town-owned Shea Theater received 354 applicants, and the selection committee has offered the job to one and is waiting for a signed contract before announcing the winner.

According to town planner Maureen Pollock, consultants Common Wealth Murals winnowed the pool down to 48 candidates with prior experience working on walls the scale of the Shea - roughly 3,000 square feet - and the Shea Mural Steering Group met several times and interviewed their top-choice applicant before voting unanimously to offer them the job.

The town of Montague is offering the muralist \$15,000, plus room, board, transportation, and supplies, to spend time consulting with local residents, developing a design, and then creating the artwork on the theater's northwest brick wall.

"It's pretty amazing," Pollock said. "We hope to do other mural projects - in other areas downtown, and in other places throughout the town of Montague."

The goal of a public mural has been discussed at town hall for several years. A mural policy was developed and approved in 2020, guidelines for a mural program were issued in 2021, and in 2023 the selectboard approved a project for the Shea that would use a state Commonwealth Places grant and matching funds from the town's federal American Rescue Plan Act allocation.

"This is something that is going to change the downtown," assistant town planner Suzanne LoManto told the Reporter. "I'd like to publicly thank the jurors for putting their time aside... It's no joke, and everybody is taking it really seriously."

Pollock said she and LoManto were joined on the steering group

Very Little Competition In Local Town Elections

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY - Local election season is upon us in Western Massachusetts, so we have been reviewing how many races in our main coverage towns - Montague, Gill, Erving, Wendell, and Leverett - will be competitive. The answer is, not many. In four of the five towns, for example, the incumbent selectboard member whose term expires this year is the only candidate for the position.

The notable exception is Leverett, which has a unique system of voting for town offices at its annual town meeting. There the selectboard incumbent, Melissa Colbert, says she will not stand for re-election, though as of this writing there is only one announced candidate to replace her.

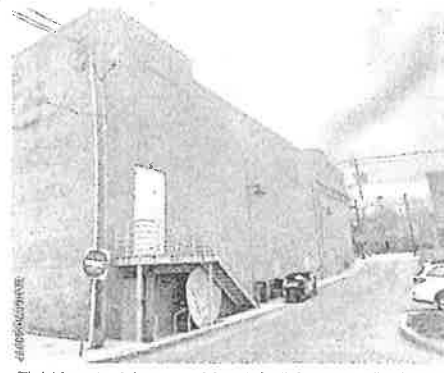
Local elections occasionally see contests for other elected boards and committees - the planning board, library trustees, board of assessors,



Leverett finance committee member Jed Pruniansky has offered to stand for selectboard as Melissa Colbert has announced she will not seek re-election.

and board of health, to name a few. Voters also frequently see blank spaces on the ballot for these positions, when no one has "pulled papers" and collected signatures to fill

see ELECTIONS page A5



The brick exterior of the town-owned theater is described as a "gateway" to the village.

by Shea Theater Arts Center vice president Josh Goldman and managing director Linda Tardif, one-time Turners Falls RiverCulture director Lisa Davol, UMass academic dean Leo Hwang, and Second Street

business owners Richie Richardson of FAB and Peter Chillon of Nova Motorcycles.

"Peter is a graphic designer - that's really helpful," she added.

see MURAL page A2

High School Sports: Packed Schedules

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS - On Thursday and Friday last week, it rained for two days straight, forcing more postponements and stacking up games for this week. The Franklin Tech and Turners Falls High School softball programs weathered the storm, and both remain undefeated. A trip to Turners Falls did not end well for the Blackstone Valley Beavers.

In baseball, Turners sandwiched two wins around a close loss to perennial favorites Pioneer.

The Turners/Tech hybrid tennis teams played some close matches but are still riding winless streaks, and the co-op track teams were outplayed by Frontier, but improved their performance over last year.

Girls' Track
Frontier 134 - TFHS 11

On Monday the parking lot at Turners Falls High School was packed. Along with the 50-plus athletes on Frontier's girls' track team came carloads of fans. Not to mention the huge contingent of boys from Frontier and their entourage. With lanes filled with Red Hawks, see SPORTS page A4



Franklin Tech's Makayla Fournier competes in the 100m high hurdles at the Turners Falls High School hybrid track team hosted Frontier Regional last Monday.

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Editorial & One Letter	A2	The Montague Caption	B2
We Go to Mount Pleasant	A2	Montague Police Log Highlights	B3
Local Briefs	A3	10, 20, and 150 Years Ago This Week	B4
Eye on News	A3	MLM/MC Panel Exp.	B5
Want Along the River, Old French	B1	Establis Lattis	B5
First Book: To Find a Country	B1	Our Monthly Kids' Page	B6
Second Book: To Find the Country	B1	Area's Finest Simmer Cakes	B7
Two More Chances to Remember That Snob	B2	Four Comics	B7

POLLINATORS from page A1
 native-but-mowed corner lot at the nearby Sheffield Elementary School into habitat, which they pitched to school administrators Ingraham describes as interested but busy. From there helped launch a new initiative, the Montague Pollinator Action Group.

The MPAG has been meeting monthly at Montague town hall, under the wing of town planner Maureen Pollock; this Thursday afternoon marks its third meeting. The group provides a venue where the town's pollination enthusiasts can coordinate strategy, recommend priority public parcels for planting, and draw in more volunteers to help with the effort.

They are not starting from scratch. In 2017 the state Department of Agricultural Resources published the *Massachusetts Pollinator Protection Plan*, outlining threats, resources, and some basic action steps. Planners at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments took the ball and ran with it, producing in 2021 a much more in-depth *Regional Pollinator Action Plan for Franklin County* and working with eight local towns, including Montague, to produce specific action plans at the local level.

"I just came to [Pollock] with the thought that maybe we could do something," says Sullivan. "She told me, 'Well, why don't you start a group? We need it!'"

"The action plan has two broad strategies," Pete Wackemagel, a local landscape designer who has joined MPAG at the ground floor, explains of the document. "It talks about there being pollinator corridors, and pollinator stepping stones. The corridor strategy is that there are these larger habitat blocks — for example, the Connecticut River — that are basically going across the whole town. 'Stepping stones' refers to creating very small areas of pollinator habitat that would, taken together, form these sort of

discontinuous corridors."

According to Sullivan, different pollinating insects have different needs for how closely clustered these small stands of host plants would need to be in order to effectively build habitat. "It's 500 feet for the smallest bees, up to a mile for bumblebees," he tells the *Reporter*.

"Bumblebees live in colonies, they can fly up to a mile, and they're large, so they do a lot of pollinating of our crops — but there are seven families of native bees, five major ones... 90% of the bees are solitary, and of those, 70% nest in the ground. It's like they're invisible to us."



Corridors and stepping stones, illustrated in Montague's pollinator action plan.

So far 20 local residents have come to MPAG meetings, and the group is working on prioritizing potential projects on town-owned land. Rising to the top of the stack, with the possibility of shovels in soil as early as this spring, is the Highland Cemetery in Millers Falls, where the cemetery commission recently opened a new area for green burials.

Annie Levine, who has already scrutinized the town's public lands twice — first with the Great Falls Apple Corps, for spots to grow edible plants, and more recently as a cemetery commissioner, scouting for future graveyards — has thrown her lot in with the MPAG as well.

"I thought it would make sense for me to come in with my knowledge of spaces, and offer what I had," she says. Cemeteries, in particular, might be a good strategic direction to go in building stepping stones between corridors.

"The town really doesn't own too much land that's throughout the whole geography of the town," she says. "There's random parcels in the Plains, there's one really funny parcel by Cabot Camp... The cemeteries are one space where there's actually bits that are town-owned throughout the villages."

Levine says there are already plans for a garden at the foot of a sign showing the path to the green burial plot at Highland, funds are still earmarked to plant it, and the cemetery commission has already voted, "pending an approved plan of action," to make it pollinator-friendly habitat.

Ingraham and Sullivan are focused on the Sheffield project, meanwhile, and Wackemagel has been in talks with the parks and recreation department for parcels at Unity Park. As they hash out the list of priorities, all say new members are welcome to get involved.

"A real range of people have been coming," Ingraham reports. "Mothers and children, people around my neighborhood who are either planting or thinking about planting..."

While determining the best sites for "stepping stones" may be tricky, the town does have strong corridors to build from: the river that winds around it, and the pitch pine and scrub oak habitat at its heart — the Montague Plains.

UMass Amherst conservation scientist Joan Milam, who has "identified more bees than anyone in the state," Sullivan says, has identified the Plains as the location of the single highest diversity of bees in Massachusetts. "We have got to run with that. Those species that are there have got to be something we're really thinking about in a serious way."

Tip of the week...

When approaching an emergency vehicle stopped on a multi-lane highway, pull over to the left and keep at least one lane between you and the emergency vehicle to ensure their safety and yours.



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For now, despite feeling the wind of policymakers and planners beneath their wings, MPAG's main challenge may be in convincing some of their fellow townspeople that native, pollinator-friendly plants are a practical and aesthetically sound option for public property.

"Maureen is very interested in having them look neat, and somewhat together," says Sullivan. "The early pollinator habitats had very big plants that would just flop over into the sidewalks, or be kind of messy-looking. They often didn't have got any attention beyond the initial planting, so they'd look kind of grubby."

"She's trying to avoid that, so design is going to be a big part of this whole thing — and the other part is connecting money for maintenance, or at least volunteers who will maintain it."

According to Levine, who also serves on the tree committee, there is an unwritten rule in Montague that property owners may plant gardens in the tree belt in front of

their homes — as long as they are aware the public works department may one day need to dig them up. "I find a lot of people didn't know it was a possibility," she says.

On the Hill, Ingraham gushes about a neighbor who planted a species of primrose in her yard and tree belt and has attracted brilliant pink primrose moths. "It's amazing — they just need a place, they need their host plants," she says.

"I planted these really tall goldenrod — they were four and a half feet tall when they reached their full height," Ingraham continues. "My grandchildren were using like a forest. They could just go through them, and nobody ever got stung! But there were just pollinators everywhere. These little wasps, big wasps, every kind of bees... It became very exciting."

Anyone interested in learning more about the Montague Pollinator Action Group is encouraged to email Sullivan at sullivan08@csld.edu.

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*



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Subject **RE: FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending- Town of Bernardston**
From Correia, Anne - RD, MA <anne.correia@usda.gov>
To Karen Kelly <bos@townofbernardston.org>
Cc Ken Bordewieck <ken.bordewieck@comcast.net>
Date 2024-05-09 09:38



Sounds good.

Anne Correia

Area Director
Southern New England, Rural Development
Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island
United States Department of Agriculture
8 Thatcher Lane
Wareham, MA 02571
Phone: 774.678.7242 | Fax: 855.596.7672
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/ct-ma-ri>

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We are committed to our customers but may be out in the field to work with our rural communities. We encourage you to make an appointment prior to visiting the office.

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From: Karen Kelly <bos@townofbernardston.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 9:30 AM
: Correia, Anne - RD, MA <anne.correia@usda.gov>
Cc: Ken Bordewieck <ken.bordewieck@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending- Town of Bernardston

Good morning, Anne!

Your recommendation will be presented at the next regular Selectboard open meeting on May 15th. I will get back to you on the outcome of that discussion/decision next week!

Thank you very much!

Karen A. Kelly

Town Administrator
Town of Bernardston
38 Church St., PO Box 504
Bernardston, MA 01337
Phone: 413-648-5401

On 2024-05-09 09:17, Correia, Anne - RD, MA wrote:

Ok, the legislature language states " Bernard Fire Station."

None of the information clearly defines, if the funds are to be used for acquisition, construction, equipment. I think likely it is input generically to allocate funds with the only intended purpose to have an adequate new space to house the fire station as the final outcome.

In terms of the paperwork, I think utilizing CDS funds for the acquisition of the property that will house the new fire station, will be the easiest path. I think if you can negotiate to have any necessary improvements completed by the seller and have a habitable move in space upon closing/acquisition would be the best way to utilize these funds..

I would look at this as 2 separate projects. 1 for purchase of the space/property to house the new station, allowing CDS funds to be used toward this.

The 2nd CDS unrelated project which will not include CDS funds would be for specialized fire safety equipment & to make necessary improvements for fire safety measures..

If you agree with this, I will formulate on an application that does not involve construction.

Please let me know if you have any questions, & if this can be complete don your end?

Anne Correia

Area Director

Southern New England, Rural Development

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island

United States Department of Agriculture

8 Thatcher Lane

Wareham, MA 02571

Phone: 774.678.7242 | Fax: 855.596.7672

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/ct-ma-ri>

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We are committed to our customers but may be out in the field to work with our rural communities. We encourage you to make an appointment prior to visiting the office.

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From: Correia, Anne - RD, MA
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 11:45 AM
To: Karen Kelly <bos@townofbernardston.org>
Subject: FW: FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending- Town of Bernardston

This looks very vague to me. At no point is it written that you are building a new construction building. I will work on obtaining the language as established in the legislature.

Anne Correia

Area Director

Southern New England, Rural Development

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island

United States Department of Agriculture

8 Thatcher Lane

Wareham, MA 02571

Phone: 774.678.7242 | Fax: 855.596.7672

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/ct-ma-ri>

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From: Niedzielski, Jon <Jon.Niedzielski@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Correia, Anne - RD, MA <anne.correia@usda.gov>
Cc: Gardner-Levine, Koby <Koby.Gardner-Levine@mail.house.gov>; Swords, John <John.Swords@mail.house.gov>; Karen Kelly <bos@townofbernardston.org>
Subject: RE: FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending- Town of Bernardston

Hello again. Attached is a Word version of the original request that was submitted into our FY24 request portal along with a letter of support prepared by the then Selectboard. Hope this helps.

Best,

Jon

Jon Niedzielski
District Director
Congressman James P. McGovern (MA02)
Cell: 202-480-5928

From: Niedzielski, Jon <Jon.Niedzielski@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 11:03:41 AM
To: Correia, Anne - RD, MA <anne.correia@usda.gov>
Cc: Gardner-Levine, Koby <Koby.Gardner-Levine@mail.house.gov>; Swords, John <John.Swords@mail.house.gov>; Karen Kelly <bos@townofbernardston.org>
Subject: RE: FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending- Town of Bernardston

Hello, Anne. Happy to share what we have. Will pull that together for you shortly.

Best,

Jon

Jon Niedzielski
District Director
Congressman James P. McGovern (MA02)
Cell: 202-480-5928

From: Correia, Anne - RD, MA <anne.correia@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 10:59:26 AM
To: Niedzielski, Jon <Jon.Niedzielski@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Gardner-Levine, Koby <Koby.Gardner-Levine@mail.house.gov>; Swords, John <John.Swords@mail.house.gov>; Karen Kelly <bos@townofbernardston.org>
Subject: FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending- Town of Bernardston

Hi Jon,

I'm hoping all is well. I am hoping that you can assist. I met with Karen Kelly (CC'd here) from the Town of Bernardston this morning regarding their Fire Station project, and will be assisting her in developing the FY24 CF grant application with USDA.

We were hoping that you could provide Karen & I a copy of whatever was submitted in regards to this project. Having a background of the original submission will be helpful in developing this application. Karen was not involved in the original submission & has been unable to locate any document regarding that submission.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Please let Karen & I know if you have any questions.

Anne Correia

Area Director

Southern New England, Rural Development

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island

United States Department of Agriculture

8 Thatcher Lane

Wareham, MA 02571

Phone: 774.678.7242 | Fax: 855.596.7672

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From: Niedzielski, Jon <Jon.Niedzielski@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 9:57 AM

To: Soares, Scott - RD, MA <Scott.Soares@usda.gov>

Cc: Correia, Anne - RD, MA <anne.correia@usda.gov>; Garipey, Elizabeth - RD, MA <liz.garipey@usda.gov>; Gardner-Levine, Koby <Koby.Gardner-Levine@mail.house.gov>; Swords, John <John.Swords@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RE: FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending

Thanks, Scott. Just back from a sunny week in Florida and feeling refreshed! And so glad to see that both tranches of the FY24 budget have passed (us legislative branch folks were in the second tranche from last week). Thanks again!

Here are the contact details:

Deerfield – Tim Hilchey, Select Board, 917-930-4291, THilchey@town.deerfield.ma.us; Kayce Warren, Town Administrator, 413-665-1400 x105, townadmin@town.deerfield.ma.us

Double Edge Theatre – Adam Bright, Producing Executive Director, 413-628-0277 x201, cell: 413-768-7150, adam@doubleedgetheatre.org

Goshen – Dawn Scaparotti, Town Administrator, cell: 413-537-5474, 413-268-8236 x301, selectboard@goshen-ma.us

Bernardston – Karen Kelly, Town Administrator, 413-648-5401, bos@townofbernardston.org

Hilltown CDC – Dave Christopolis, Executive Director, 413-296-4536 x118, davec@hilltowncdc.org

From: Soares, Scott - RD, MA <Scott.Soaresh@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 9:07 AM

To: Niedzielski, Jon <Jon.Niedzielski@mail.house.gov>

Cc: Correia, Anne - RD, MA <anne.correia@usda.gov>; Garipey, Elizabeth - RD, MA <liz.garipey@usda.gov>

Subject: FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending

Hello Jon,

Hoping this note finds you well! We were grateful to see passage of our FY24 budget and breathing a little easier thanks to no more CRs (at least this year!) As you're likely aware, with passage of the budget we also received a list of CDS projects (24 in total across CT, MA and RI) that included recipients in MA that identified Congressman McGovern as sponsor. I've extracted and included that list below FYI.

As you're aware, we will need to work with the recipients to develop an application that though not competitive will be important for tracking, obligation of the funds and monitoring the projects. From our correspondence it was great to learn that that the Congressman has already contacted the recipients. For accuracy it would be helpful if you could share the points of contact for the projects for our follow up. To note, our national office program staff will be hosting a webinar on 4/4 that your office is welcome to attend but we are also hoping to get word to the recipients in the event they would like to join the webinar live and in the event that it is not recorded.

We're hoping to make initial contact with in the next month with all CDs recipients, if any questions or you need more information in the meantime, please don't hesitate to let me know. I've copied Anne Correia our MA Area Director who will serve as our POC for initial development of these projects. I've also copied Liz Gariepy, our Deputy State Director for her awareness and whom you can also reach to with any questions.

Thanks again for your continued support and consideration. We'll look forward to our continue work with you and your constituents!

Best,
Scott

Scott J. Soares
State Director

Southern New England Rural Development

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island

United States Department of Agriculture

State Office

451 West Street, Suite 2

Amherst, MA 01002

Phone: 413.253.4301 | Cell: 413.237.0072

www.rd.usda.gov/ct-ma-ri

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Subject **GameTime - School Playground Funding up to \$125k!**
From Conor Gammond <cgammond@mrcrec.com>
To Bernardston Selectboard <bos@townofbernardston.org>
Date 2024-05-02 14:10



Hi Bernardston Selectboard,

I hope this email finds you well. The reason for the email today is to share with you and your team regarding GameTime offerings for a new school playground. It is to my knowledge that you had applied for the recent grant funding offering, and I'd like to speak with you further on potentially utilizing the savings. Can we schedule a quick 30-minute meeting to discuss more? If you have any initial questions, I'm available as a resource working out of Foxborough and our site consultations are free of charge...

GameTime's 2024 School Funding Program - **Savings up to \$125k on these 18 eligible systems through May 29th!**

Enriching Childhood Through Play[®]

All the best,
Conor Gammond
MRC/GameTime Design Consultant
732.796.8496
www.mrcrec.com



Subject **Fwd: Proposals**
From Brian Keir <brkeir@msn.com>
Karen Kelly <bos@townofbernardston.org>
Date 2024-05-12 17:17



- Outlook-A blue tex.png(~13 KB)
- Town of Bernardston - Senior Center.pdf(~420 KB)
- Town of Bernardston - 12 Church Street.pdf(~420 KB)

Karen

Can I add an agenda item to Wednesday selectboard meeting on behalf of the Green Committee? I would like to speak about the attached proposal the Green Committee received in regards to EV charges for the town of Bernardston. Questions please let me know. Thanks

Brian

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: greencommittee@townofbernardston.org
Date: May 9, 2024 at 8:26:35 AM EDT
To: Brian Keir <brkeir@msn.com>, Jane Dutcher <jdutcher55@hotmail.com>, clayton cardin <discpizzaman@gmail.com>, Frank Ribeiro <8hoeshop@comcast.net>
Cc: Bernardston Selectboard <bos@townofbernardston.org>
Subject: **Fwd: Proposals**

Good Morning All,

See attached proposals from Livingston Energy for both the Senior Center and 12 Church St. We already decided that the Senior Center would not be a good location. I am away on vacation next week. Brian, will you be providing this information to the Selectboard at next week's meeting?

Chris

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Proposals
Date: 2024-05-08 08:25
From: Rebecca Swatt <rswatt@lynkwell.com>
To: "greencommittee@townofbernardston.org" <greencommittee@townofbernardston.org>

Good morning Christina,

It was good chatting with all of you yesterday!

I've attached the proposals for both the Senior Center and the lot next to the fire station which according to Google Maps is 12 Church Street. They both include two dual port 180kW stations, 5 years of software, a 5-year labor warranty and the installation and activation of the stations. The second page is what we send to the utility and the third page indicates this project will cost the town \$0. Please ignore the yellow box detailing the hardware deposit as it does not apply to municipalities.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Best,
Becca

Rebecca Swatt

Account Executive

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w. www.solution.energy

a. 2345 Maxon Rd Ext Suite 1, Schenectady, NY 12308

o. (518) 691-3806

e. Rswatt@solution.energy



Lykwell

Outlook-A blue tex.png
~13 KB



LIVINGSTON
CHARGE PORT

EV Charging Station Proposal



5/8/2024

Client Name: Town of Bernardston
Client Site: 12 Church Street, Bernardston, MA 01337
Utility: Eversource



EV Charging Station Proposal

Item & Scope	Qty	Price	Years	Total Amount
180 kW DCFC Level 3 180kW, 10" Display, Dual Gun with 300A CCS1, 15ft Cables, LAN + Wi-Fi + 4G, RS485, ISO15118, Energy Star, UL Listed, 5 Year Warranty Included. Cable Management Included	2	\$80,000.00		\$160,000
Annual Software License Include standart management platform with reporting, driver mobile app, customer support, OTA updates, and mobile data plan.	4	\$300.00	5 Years	\$6,000
Labor Warranty 5 Year Labor Warranty on charging equipment. Priority technical and on-site response.	2	\$3,215.00	5 Years	\$32,150
Infrastructure Installation Site Engineering, design and installation. May include required infrastructure upgrades including new service, transformers, panels, meters, millbanks, electrical wiring, and more. Sire work may include excavation, trenching, road & walkway work.	Std.	\$240,000.00		\$240,000
Total Project Value				\$438,150.00
<i>Estimated Utility Funding Discount (Subject to Program Approval)</i>				\$ (320,000.00)
<i>Client Portion - Infrastructure Installation</i>				\$0.00
<i>Client Portion- Stations & Accessories</i>				\$118,150.00
Final Project Cost Acknowledgment				\$118,150.00

Client Signature

Date

Electric Utility Provider and Account #

DBA

EIN

Utility Account Number, DBA (If applicable), and EIN are Required

5/8/2024

Client Name: Town of Bernardston

Client Site: 20 Church Street, Bernardston, MA 01337

Utility: Eversource



Limited Time Offer

Total Project Value	\$ 438,150
Potential Utility Funding Discount (Subject to Utility Approval)	\$ (320,000)
Livingston Promo (If Applicable)	\$ (118,150.00)
Client out of Pocket Cost	\$ -
	\$ -



Deposit required for project in the amount of 25,000. This amount will be returned in FULL following receipt of Utility Incentives. Deposit will be due upon receipt of Utility Approval Letter, and not prior.

No Utility, or any CIAC Costs (Cost in aid of Construction) administered by the Utility are included in this proposal. Any additional costs from the utility will be considered passed through costs. Utility expects to cover these costs fully. In the event the utility will not cover all costs, and Livingston must request additional funding from customer to make project viable, Customer will have full right to cancel project without penalty. This decision will be made prior to any deposit being made.

Account Exec.: **Rebecca Swatt**

Email: **rswatt@solution.energy**

Office Phone: **(518) 691-3806**

Cell Phone: **(518) 332-8744**

 Client Signature Date

 Printed Name Title

 Livingston Signature (After Site Verification) Date

 Printed Name Title

By signing this Proposal, Client and Livingston agree to the project as detailed above. The Client and Livingston will also need to agree and sign a Scope of Work Agreement, which will be presented after Site Verification has taken place. If Site Verification or Utility Funding require any adjustments or changes to the costs detailed in the above Proposal, then Livingston and the Client must both agree to an updated Proposal and this Proposal is voided. Both Livingston and Client reserve the right to cancel without penalty at any time before signing the Scope of Work Agreement. If Client cancels after signing the Scope of Work Agreement, Livingston reserves the right to bill Client for costs associated with the project including, without limitation, site preparation (not including site verification), project scoping, permitting, seeking funding or utility approvals, or other such activities. Any potential tax credits listed above cannot be guaranteed by Livingston; please verify availability with your accountant. Incentives may be used to cover applicable costs for this project, and Client agrees to assist Livingston to obtain this incentive on Client's behalf. This includes providing information requested, site access if required, and by working within the rules of applicable incentive program both during and after the project. By signing this Proposal, Client grants Livingston permission to use Client's name and/or logo in relation to this project and funding. Standard terms and conditions governing Livingston projects and the items and subscriptions depicted above can all be found at www.solution.energy/terms and are subject to change without notice.

Customer Intake Form



5/8/2024

Client Business Name
Client/ Site Address
Electric Utility
Make Ready Incentive

Town of Bernardston
12 Church Street, Bernardston, MA 01337
Eversource
Std.

Please fill out the following below in order to accurately receive revenue checks from the charging stations.

Please attach the following documents with the signed proposal. Any documents that are missing may delay the approval process by Livingston and/or the utility. Failure to attach will likely jeopardize the available funding for the project.

Make Payable to:

Mail-to Address:

Check to Confirm

Buisness W9

Recent copy of Utility Bill

Capital Improvement form

Best **On-Site** Contact for Project Management Team

Name

Number

Email

Site Host Dashboard Access

Let us know who you would like to get access to the Site Host Dashboard. This will provide views of the activity at the charging stations including revenue generated, and session history.

Name

Number

Email

Name

Number

Email

Name

Number

Email

Name

Number

Email

Bernardston Powers Institute Senior Center & COA
20 Church Street PO Box 504
Bernardston, MA 01337
413-648-5413



May 15, 2024

Dear Bernardston Selectboard,

This letter is to make you aware I recently went to the National Council on Aging conference in Washington DC. The Bernardston Senior Center was awarded a runner up certificate for having a Program of Excellence. This is a very competitive process and our "Talk of the Town" grant was awarded. There will be a hybrid meeting on June 26th with the NCOA to share what we did. The NCOA will also hold a press release locally at a later date. This is a major accomplishment to receive national attention and I would like to thank you personally for being so supportive in our endeavors.

With Warm Regards,

Jennifer Reynolds



2023 Senior Center Programs of Excellence

Category
Marketing and Public Relations

Honorable Mention
Talk of The Town

Program
Bernardston Senior Center
Bernardston, MA

Town of Bernardston



Office of the Selectboard

Brian J. Keir

Kenneth R. Bordewieck, Chairman

Brian Hervieux

May 15, 2024

Senator Joanne M. Comerford
24 Beacon Street
Room 410
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Comerford,

We, the members of the Selectboard in the town of Bernardston, respectfully petition the General Court for special legislation to allow the Selectboard to appoint an associate member to the Bernardston Board of Health to serve as a voting member when a full member is incapacitated or unable to act due to conflict, etc.

Our Annual Town Meeting unanimously approved Article 30 (enclosed) which authorized the Selectboard to make this request.

We appreciate your help in this important matter.

Respectfully Yours,

Bernardston Selectboard



Brian J. Keir

Kenneth R. Bordewieck, Chair

Brian Hervieux

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to seek special legislation to allow the Selectboard to appoint an associate member to the Bernardston Board of Health to serve as a voting member when a full member is incapacitated or unable to act due to a conflict etc., or take any vote or votes relative thereto.
*(This Article submitted and recommended by the Board of Health)
(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

*The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 90, sections 20A, 20C, 20D and 20E as amended, to provide for the enforcement of Parking Regulations, or take any vote or votes relative thereto.
*(This Article submitted and recommended by the Bernardston Police Department)
(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

*The Article was read, moved and seconded. A question was asked if parking is a problem in Bernardston? Police Chief Jim Palmeri explained that this amendment will appoint the Bernardston Police Department as the enforcing persons that will give them an option over towing a vehicle in places where there are "no parking" signs and citations may be issued. After the discussion it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. C 44, §54(b),(c), & (d) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with M.G.L. C203C, the so-called "Prudent Investment Rule", or take any vote or votes relative thereto.
*(This Article submitted and recommended by the Bernardston Treasurer)
(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

Prudent Investment Rule

Voting yes for this article will allow our city/town/district to invest our trust funds, including cemetery perpetual care funds, unless otherwise provided or directed by the donor of the funds under the Prudent Investment Rule. Prudent investing allows for much greater investment diversification opportunities than what is currently allowed under the MA Legal List of Investments. Where appropriate, Prudent investing allows investment managers to use diversified mutual funds, ETFs, individual stocks, bonds, alternative investments, etc. Previously, these municipal funds had to adhere to a very short and restrictive list of stock and bond investments by law. Prudent investing does not inherently mean more risk in the investment portfolio, it simply means that there are greater investment options, which allows for reduced concentration risk and an overall more balanced portfolio allocation.

*The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Town of Bernardston



Office of the Selectboard

Brian J. Keir

Kenneth R. Bordewieck, Chairman

Brian Hervieux

May 15, 2024

Representative Natalie M. Blais
PO Box 450
Sunderland, MA 01375

Dear Representative Blais,

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Brian J. Keir

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