

**Selectmen's Minutes**  
**Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Stage Conference Area, 30 Martin Street**

**June 10, 2019**

Present: Chairman Andrew C. Spinney, Selectman Peter D. Phippen, Selectman Ruth R. Preen, and Selectmen's Assistant Pamela J. Witham.

Also Present: Curt Bergeron, Max Cann, John Filias, Jodi Harris, Lori Henderson, Bob Jerin, Bob and Susan Teal, and Kristin Walker.

Chairman Spinney called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Stage Conference Area of the Town Hall at 30 Martin Street.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$184,817.14.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the minutes for the Selectmen's June 3, 2019, Open Meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve wooden demolition debris consisting of the front fence at the Town-owned property at 11 John Wise Avenue to be dismantled by volunteers and burned in the bonfire on Essex River Day, pending review of the suitability of burning these materials by the Essex Fire Department.

Chairman Spinney announced that the Board would hear Public Comment. He said that the Board had received letters from Gerard Hayward, Tom Beale, and Alden Blodget, all three of which advocated the formulation of a Town noise policy or bylaw.

Bob Teal asked the Board what their noise policy was and Chairman Spinney said there was no policy as yet and the Board was meeting tonight to begin discussion on noise issues related to the issuance of entertainment licenses.

Lori Henderson, Jodi Harris, Kristen Walker, and Bob Jerin all spoke in favor of a noise control bylaw. All agreed that, other than traffic issues, there were no complaints regarding this year's River Race at the Riversbend. Jodi Harris advocated banning all outdoor entertainment. Curt Bergeron said that he was representing the other restaurants in Town, as well as his own. He said everyone is in favor of a uniform, defined policy regarding the issuance of entertainment licenses and permitted noise levels.

There followed a lengthy discussion including the types of entertainment licenses, the number of entertainment licenses issued, policies or bylaws in other communities, what constitutes reasonable or unreasonable noise, methods of sound measurement, enforcement, etc.

The Board agreed to continue to review the matter, but felt that a Town policy was preferable to a Town bylaw. They also favored indoor acoustic music contained within the building, with doors and windows closed.

The Board members will be making site visits on June 27 during the Riversbend Car Show. They will visit the Riversbend and various residences on Water Street, Orchard Road, Low Land Farm Road, Spring Street, etc. to assess the noise impact on the neighborhoods.

There being no other business before the Board, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Documents used during this meeting include the following: None.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela J. Witham

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Peter D. Phippen