



HOUSATONIC REST OF RIVER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2022; Virtual Meeting

1. Introductions. T. Matuszko opened the meeting at 10:17am, announced it was being recorded, being held under Mass virtual meeting provisions, and asked each person to introduce themselves and state the community they represented. He then introduced members present from BRPC. Attending the meeting were the following Committee members:

Pat Carlino, Lee Select Board & Representative

Channing Gibson, Lenox Representative

Chris Rembold, Great Barrington Town Planner, Assistant Town Manager & Representative

Steve Shatz, Stockbridge Representative

Rene Wood, Sheffield Select Board & Representative

and: Tom Matuszko, BRPC

Melissa Provencher, BRPC

Lauren Gaherty, BRPC

Public: None

2. Review of minutes of April 15, 2022 meeting. **A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by S. Shatz, seconded by P. Carlino, and approved 5-0 on a roll call vote.**

3. Public Comments. None

4. Status of Cleanup Activities.

M. Provencher reviewed the EPA activities for the week, which continue to focus on monitoring at the Upland Disposal Site. She discussed a meeting with EPA regarding feedback on the Committee's comments on GE's OSS and Cultural Assessment documents. Take aways:

1) at this time the Cultural Assessment will be desktop based, rather than adding ground assessments;

2) re: outreach to local resources, EPA invited the help of the Committee;

3) the Consensus Building Group's contract was expanded to include outreach efforts. Given municipal schedules, outreach efforts will start in Pittsfield and move south;

4) GE will likely release no major documents until September 2022, allowing the focus to be on outreach. J. McGrath, Pittsfield will be updated by EPA.

5. Executive Session – Legal Strategy. **On a motion made by S. Shatz, seconded by P. Carlino, and passed by 5-0 roll call vote, the Rest of River Municipal Committee went into Executive Session, per MGL C.30a, §21(a) pursuant to purpose 3, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and the ongoing appeal concerning the Rest of River cleanup, as the Chair found that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Rest of River municipalities' litigation position. The committee stated it would return to open session.**

The Committee went into Executive Session at 10:30am.

The Committee came back into Open Session at 10:52am.

6. Other business & next meeting.

T. Matuszko announce the Committee, in Executive Session had taken the following action.

On a motion made by R. Wood, seconded by C. Rembold and approved 5-0 on a roll call vote, the Rest of River Municipal Committee adopted the following:

“Pursuant to the Intergovernmental Agreement, the Select Board and the Rest of River Municipal Committee (ROR Committee) authorize the establishment of an Administrative ROR monetary fund of \$1.5 million (to be funded following receipt of the funds in the escrow account established pursuant to a February 2020 escrow agreement) to pay for all legal, consulting, or other expenses, fees or costs incurred by the ROR Committee in the administration, review, and legal work related to any revised Permit issued by the EPA for the remedial work in the Housatonic River, and that Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) be authorized as the fiscal agent for said ROR monetary fund. The Rest of River Municipal Committee, or its successor, is authorized to administer the monetary fund”.

No next meeting date was set.

A motion to adjourn was made by S. Shatz, seconded by P. Carlino, and approved 5-0 on a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55am.

Respectfully submitted by

Rene Wood,
Sheffield’s Representative

Meeting Materials:

- Meeting Agenda 4-22-22
- Meeting Minutes of 4-15-22