



HOUSATONIC REST OF RIVER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2023; Virtual Meeting

Introductions. T. Matuszko opened the meeting at 9:01am, announced it was being recorded and that any member of the public could do so upon informing the Chair, which at least one person did; being held under Mass virtual meeting provisions; and asked each ROR representative to introduce themselves and state the community they represented. This was done.

Attending the meeting were the following Committee members:

Channing Gibson, Lenox Representative

Robert Jones, Lee Select Board & Representative

Chris Rembold, Great Barrington Assistant Town Manager and Great Barrington's Representative

Steve Shatz, Stockbridge Representative

Rene Wood, Sheffield Select Board & Representative

and: Tom Matuszko, BRPC

Melissa Provencher, BRPC

Public in attendance: Clarence Fanto, Joshua Bloom, Peg Biron, Clare Lahey, Patrick White, and Holly Hardman.

Review of minutes of May 4, 2023 meeting.

A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by C. Gibson, seconded by S. Shatz, and approved 4-0-1 on a roll call vote. C. Rembold abstained as not present at 5/4/23 meeting

Review of Open Meeting Law (OML) Complaints.

- OML complaint filed by J. Bloom regarding ROR Municipal Committee meeting on 5/4/23 meeting.

T. Matuszko went over the specifics of the complaint filed by J. Bloom; all Committee members had copies of it. He reviewed legal counsel's review of the specific complaints as follows: 1) Posting of incorrect URL details to join the virtual meeting on the public meeting notice, which caused people to miss the meeting or have to call in using phone number and other posted details. T. Matuszko: URL was checked and correctly listed; and 2) no public comment allowed at the meeting. Counsel: Public comment is not required under the OML.

T. Matuszko noted that sometimes public comment is allowed and sometimes not.

T. Matuszko requested a motion to authorize BRPC and its legal counsel, on behalf of the Committee to respond to this OML complaint filed by J. Bloom. R. Wood made this motion, which was seconded by S. Shatz and in a roll call vote was approved by C. Gibson, C. Rembold, S. Shatz, and R. Wood with R. Jones abstaining. The motion passed 4-0-1.

There was no other business.

R. Jones made a motion to allow J. Bloom to speak on his OML complaint. The motion was seconded by C. Rembold for discussion purposes. C. Rembold asked R. Jones why public comment should be allowed on a strictly administrative matter. R. Jones noted J. Bloom's presence at the meeting and said he had something to say on the matter. R. Wood noted that his filing of his OML complaint already relayed his complaint and there was no reason to allow him to speak. **On a voice vote, the motion failed 1-4-0, with R. Jones the AYE and C. Gibson, C. Rembold, S. Shatz, and R. Wood each voting NAY.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09am.

Respectfully submitted by

Rene Wood,
Sheffield's Representative

Meeting Materials:

- Meeting Agenda 5-22-23
- Draft 5/4/23 Meeting Minutes
- Open Meeting Law Complaint filed for 5/4/23 meeting by Joshua Bloom
- Email from M. Provencher, BRPC, dated 5/1/23 at 2:53pm re: zoom meeting logistics and documents for meeting