



HOUSATONIC REST OF RIVER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2020; Zoom Meeting

1. Introductions. T. Matuszko opened the meeting at 9:05am, announced it was being recorded and asked each of the Committee members to say their name and the community they represented, which was done; he then introduced the BRPC members. Attending the meeting were the following Committee members:

Pat Carlino, Lee Select Board & Representative (she could hear but not speak until later)
Channing Gibson, Lenox Representative
Chris Rembold, Great Barrington Town Planner, Assistant Town Manager & Representative
Steve Shatz, Stockbridge Representative
R. Wood, Sheffield Select Board & Representative

and: Tom Matuszko, BRPC
Melissa Provencher, BRPC
Lauren Gaherty, BRPC
Nat Karns, BRPC

No members of the public attended.

2. Review of minutes of September 11, 2020 meeting.

A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by C. Gibson, seconded S. Shatz, and approved 4-0 on a roll call vote.

3. Public Comment.

No members of the public were on the call.

4. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA).

T. Matuszko reviewed the history of the IGA, made up of the 5 Rest of River Towns. It was established in 2013, with a three year term, per MGL c.40§4(d), and approved by each of the 5 Town's Select Boards; extended for 3 years in 2016 and extended for 1 year in 12/5/2019. Section 4 of the IGA allows the Rest of River Municipal Committee to extend the term.

A motion to extend the term of the Intergovernmental Agreement by 3 years, from 12/6/2020 through 12/6/2023, was made by S. Shatz, seconded C. Gibson and approved 4-0 on a roll call vote.

(Although the vote is being shown as 4-0-0, P. Carlino was viewable to the M. Provencher, the Zoom meeting monitor, and P. Carlino, while unable to be heard in the meeting, did raise her hand in concurrence. Only vocal votes were recorded.)

6. Other Business & Next Meeting.

This was skipped until after the Committee went into and returned from Executive Session. At that time the next meeting date was left open though it was anticipated a meeting would be called if GE generated any operational or planning work in their current planning stage requiring ROR Municipal Committee review/response. T. Matuszko highlighted that SKEO assistance is available per EPA technical assistance grants.

6. Executive Session – Legal Strategy and Adjournment.

A motion was made by C. Gibson, seconded by C. Rembold, for the Rest of River Municipal Committee to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing legal strategy for litigation regarding the Rest of River (ROR) cleanup and the appeal of EPA's Permit and EAB's decision. Such discussion, if held in an open meeting, could have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the ROR municipalities' legal action regarding EPA and GE, and stated the Committee would return into open session. The motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote.

P. Carlino was on the line and could hear but could not be heard and was unable to vote in the roll call vote.

The Committee went into Executive Session at 9:13am.

The meeting resumed at 10:14am. M. Provencher unlocked the meeting and re-opened the waiting room; no one was in the waiting room to join the meeting. Matters discussed were the 9-23-20 invoice from ESS Group, which will be billed by Hagens-Berman and the Hagens-Berman invoice dated 10-14-20.

A motion to approve the invoice presented by Hagens Berman for \$16,280.3, dated 10-14-20, was made by C. Gibson, seconded P. Carlino, and approved 5-0-0 on a roll call vote.

A motion to approve the invoice presented by ESS Group for \$3622.50, dated 9-23-20, was made by C. Gibson, seconded P. Carlino, and approved 5-0-0 on a roll call vote.

No next meeting date was set as such would likely depend on GE operational or planning documents submitted to EPA that would require Committee comment. T. Matuszko indicated SKEO funds were likely still available for consultation on such matters.

7. Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by R. Wood, seconded P. Carlino, and approved 5-0-0 on a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:20am.

Meeting Materials:

- Meeting Agenda 10-3--20
- Draft Meeting Minutes of 9-11-20

Respectfully submitted,
Rene Wood, Sheffield's Representative