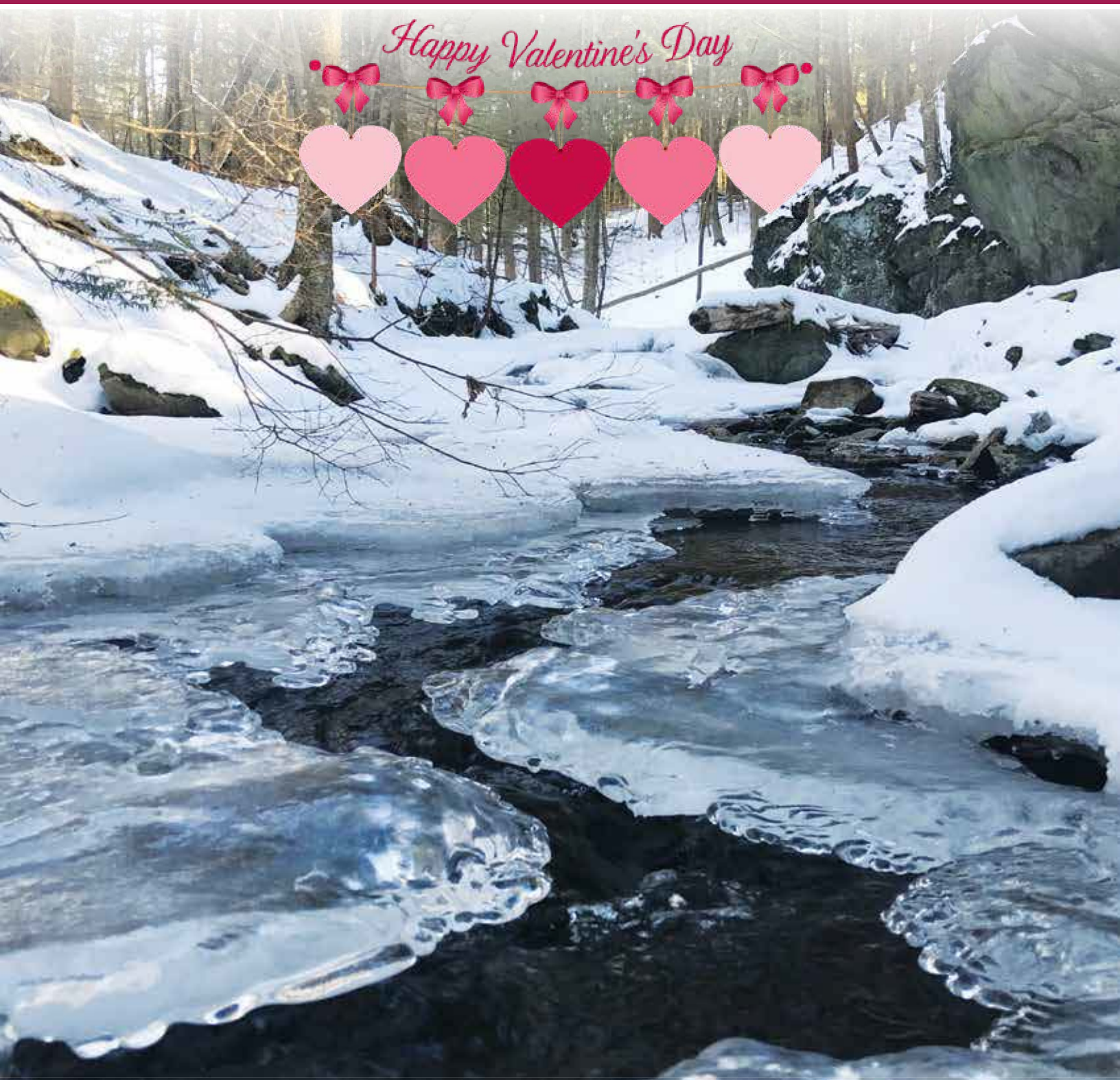


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February
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Icebound Lenox Mountain Brook at Stevens Glen.
Photo by Emily Weiland

The West Stockbridge Chamber Players' Winter Concert:

A celebration featuring three composers with ties to the Berkshires

By Liza Bennett

On the last Monday of 2021, the Congregational Church in West Stockbridge opened its doors to an eager (masked and fully vaccinated) crowd for the West Stockbridge Chamber Players' Winter Concert. The event had been sold out for over a week. The pandemic had kept the Chamber Players from performing their traditional holiday concert in 2020, so a sense of celebration filled the aisles. Organized by long-time Chamber Player favorites violist Daniel Getz and violinist Sheila Fiekowsky, who were joined by pianist Brett Hodgdon, the program featured the work of three composers with connections to our area.

Fiekowsky introduced the first piece, Aaron Copland's Sonata for Violin and Piano, saying that she and Hodgdon had thoroughly enjoyed rehearsing the sonata that Virgil Thomson had called one of Copland's "most satisfying pieces." Written between 1942 and 1943 when Copland was teaching at the Tanglewood Music Center, the work had an elegiac quality and, in fact, was dedicated to a close friend who had been shot down in the Pacific. Copland was so closely associated with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Serge Koussevitzky that his ashes were scattered over the lawn at Tanglewood.

The Copland piece was followed by Bohuslav Martinů's Three Madrigals for Violin and Viola, performed by Getz and Fiekowsky, who explained the composer was championed by Koussevitzky and invited to teach at Tanglewood in 1946. Martinů wrote the piece, which was inspired by Mozart's duos and English madrigals, while recuperating from a near-fatal fall from a balcony at Searles Castle where he was living. Fiekowsky and Getz gave a performance filled with virtuosic panache.

Getz introduced the final offering in the program, Rebecca Clarke's Sonata for Viola and Piano, which had tied for first place in a competition sponsored by Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge at the Berkshire Festival of Chamber Music in 1919. At the time it was

said in the press that the idea of a "woman writing such a beautiful work was socially inconceivable." This sonata that Clarke had called "her little whiff of success" highlighted the depth and range of the viola, which, accompanied by Hodgdon, Getz played with his usual mastery.

Although COVID-19 kept the Historical Society from offering its customary reception, the feeling in the church as the audience slowly departed was one of uplift and shared appreciation for this great gift of the season: the West Stockbridge Chamber Players in concert.



Photo Left by Robert Salerno

Photo Above by Carol Kuller

Select Board Meeting Minutes

[Editor's note: At the town administrator's request, the Select Board minutes here are reprinted verbatim with no editing of text. Official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library and on the town website, <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/>. Select Board meetings are on Zoom and may be viewed by clicking on the link in the meeting agenda posted on the town website calendar. Residents can receive email notification of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber>].

Select Board Meeting Minutes November 15, 2021

Open Meeting

Quorum present: Eric Shimelonis, Select Board Chair, Roger Kavanagh and Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Members, and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and listed Select Board members present.

Approval of Minutes:

Roger made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2021 and November 1, 2021 Select Board meetings, seconded by Kathleen.

Roll call vote:

Roger Yes
Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes

All in favor, minutes are approved.

Town Administrator Update:

Marie reminded everyone that the winter parking ban is in effect as of November 1st through April 30, 2022. There is no street parking between the hours of 10 PM and 7 AM.

The five Towns seeking an applicant for the shared human resource position decided to advertise again. They have already received several applications from people with human resource experience. The committee will be interviewing applicants during the first week or two in December. Marie will keep the Board updated.

The West Stockbridge Librarian, Rachel Alter, was recently notified that the Library will be receiving State Aid in the amount of \$1,708.79 for this fiscal year. This money will be used for essential services such as circulation system, eBooks and audiobooks as well as reading material and electronic equipment for the users.

Roger asked Marie for an update on the Cell Tower lease for Albany Road as well as any updates on the Right of Way project that was sent to Town Counsel. Marie has not had any updates in a month or two and will reach out to Town Counsel and report back at the next meeting.

Berkshire Natural Resources request to use Town property for a trail – John Masiero

John was not in attendance so this agenda item was passed over.

...continued on page 4

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Discussion of Zoning Board of Appeals letter to the Select Board:

Eric stated that he would like the Board to discuss the letter they received from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on November 1st which asked the Select Board to appoint a committee to review and propose changes to the Zoning Bylaws.

Since Roger had already independently drafted and sent two letters to the ZBA, one addressing their request to form a new Zoning Bylaw review committee and the other addressing comments and statements documented in the ZBA Record of Proceeding for the Oct 13, 2021, public hearing, Eric asked Roger to review his letters and lead the discussion.

On the request to form a new Zoning Bylaw review committee, Roger stated that, in his opinion, there was no need to appoint a new committee because there are two public bodies that are subject matter experts on Zoning bylaws – the ZBA and the Planning Board – and they are the only people in town with the knowledge to address the items outlined in the ZBA letter. He suggested that the ZBA reach out to and begin to collaborate with the Planning Board which is already engaged in a process of updating bylaws, procedures and forms, noting that it is doing so as part of their regular Planning Board meetings. Eric made a motion that Roger’s letter should be the Board’s official response to the ZBA, seconded by Kathleen.

Roll call vote:

- Kathleen Yes
- Roger Yes
- Eric Yes

Motion was approved.

On the subject of comments and statements made in the October 13, 2021 public hearing, as documented in the ZBA Record of proceedings, Roger read selected excerpts from his letter, in which he addressed statements and

remarks which he considered at best to be off-topic, occasionally inaccurate and, in some cases, personally offensive, bordering on slanderous.

Eric thanked Roger for his very thoughtful letters. Kathleen concurred and said she agrees with everything he wrote and discussed. Eric reiterated the Board’s commitment to updating and improving the zoning bylaws and special permitting processes with the Planning Board, in a concerted effort to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past.

Select Board Speak:

Kathleen requested that any documents shared to any one Board member also include the others so that they all have the same information, such as the ZBA Record of Proceedings. Roger explained that the Town Clerk had this and he asked Marie to get it and send him a copy. Marie will also include the other Board members in the future when sending any documents.

Eric spoke about the current status of COVID 19 in the area. He started by commending the efforts and expertly run vaccine clinics by Emilie Jarrett, Kathy Korte, and the other volunteers who support our Board of Health. The number of cases in our region is still relatively high, and Eric would like Marie to discuss with Earl Moffatt, Board of Health Agent, any possible updated policies and requirements. Kathleen and Roger agreed. Marie stated that she had been waiting for a directive on mask wearing in Town from the Board of Health and will keep the Select Board updated.

Eric made a motion to adjourn the open session and enter into executive session, not to return to open session at 7:00 PM, Roger seconded:

Anticipated executive session in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A Paragraph 21 (a)(6), to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Select Board (Merritt Way)



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Roll call vote:

Roger-Yes Kathleen – Yes Eric- Yes

Meeting adjourned into a separate zoom meeting for executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie V. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents:

-Select Board Meeting Minutes of Oct 18, 2021 and Nov 1, 2021

-Letter from the ZBA to the Select Board

-2 Letters from Roger to ZBA

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2021**

Open Meeting

Quorum present: Eric Shimelonis, Select Board Chair, Roger Kavanagh and Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Members, and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and listed Select Board members present.

Approval of Minutes:

Roger requested more time to review the minutes from November 15 to be approved at the next meeting, the Board agreed.

Town Administrator Update:

Marie informed the Board that on Sunday, December 5 at night, the Parks and Recreation Committee held the Sparkles event. This event had a terrific turnout of about 60 kids and it all went extremely well. The Fire Department decked out their trucks with colored lights, the Police walked in the parade with the kids from the Congregational Church to the

Town Hall and the DPW helped decorate the Town Hall. Marie thanked the Committee for all their hard work for a great community event. On behalf of the Town, Eric thanked the Balestro family for their donation of the tree.

The shared Human Resource position has been advertised one more time. The committee has received 10 promising applicants of which they will be interviewing 6 applicants on Thursday of this week. Marie will let the Board know the results of this at the next meeting.

The FY23 budget spreadsheets have been sent to all the Departments and Boards and are due January 15th. Roger asked that the spreadsheets include the spending from the previous year for the Finance Committee and the Select Board to view. Marie will include that column once she gets the sheets back from the Departments.

Marie would like to have the Community Preservation Committee get appointed. She will send an ad to the Local Yokel and place information on the website to ask for applicants for the Citizen at Large positions on the committee. Marie stated that this committee has a very specific list of the type of members it must have, including members from several of the Town Boards/Committees. Marie will ask for recommendations or nominations for one member from the Planning Board, one member from the Conservation Commission, one member from the Historical Commission, one member from the Parks Commission, one member from the Housing Authority, and four members from the general public (citizens at large).

Since the Town does not have a Housing Authority, Marie will find out how we should fill that seat.

The Board also asked about when did the Town begin collecting taxes for the CPA and what amount has been collected to date.

...continued on page 7

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Santa's Wish List Donations

In our December issue, we included our annual appeal for donations to West Stockbridge organizations. The total received was \$10,445, an increase of \$1,490 compared to last year! Last year's total was \$2,330 more than the previous year—quite amazing.

We thank all those who gave so generously to these important community groups that work very hard to make West Stockbridge such a special place to live. Here are the totals by organization:

Friends of the Library	\$1,535
Local Yokel	\$2,670
Pet Partners	\$300
WS Farmers Market	\$1,400
WS Fire & Rescue	\$2,000
WS Historical Society	\$1,795
WS Parks & Recreation	\$745

Total: \$10,445

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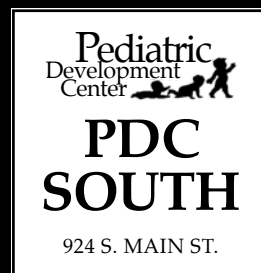
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Approval of 2022 Licenses –

Eric ask the Board to vote on the licenses for 2022 by category.

He then asked if the Board had any comments or concerns for the following Liquor Licenses;

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Truc Orient Express | All Alcohol Beverages – Restaurant |
| WS Public Market | All Alcohol Beverages – Package Store |
| Queensboro Wine & Spirits | All Alcohol Beverages – Package Store |
| Rouge | All Alcohol Beverages – Restaurant |
| Rouge | Wine & Malt – Package Store |
| Foundry | All Alcohol Beverages – General on |
| Premises | |

The Board had no concerns. Kathleen made a motion to approve all the 2022 liquor licenses, seconded by Roger.

Roll Call Vote:

- | | |
|----------|-----|
| Roger | Yes |
| Kathleen | Yes |
| Eric | Yes |

All liquor 2022 liquor licenses are approved for renewal.

Eric asked if the Board had any comments or concerns for the following Auto Class II, Auto Class III and Taxi Licenses;

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Troy’s Garage | Class II and Class III License |
| William Kie | Class II and Class III License |
| William Kie | Taxi Service |

Roger made a motion to approve the 2022 Class II, Class III and Taxi Licenses. Kathleen stated she had a concern with the description of the premises on the licenses as neat and orderly. She said that many citizens have expressed concern at William Kie’s property and wondered if the Board had any control over compliance for the condition of the property. Roger referred to the Building Inspector’s comment provided to the Board that there are currently no zoning violations for any of the licensees and other than that, the Board has no reason to not approve the licenses. Eric also reminded the Board that last year they had a bylaw on the Annual Town Meeting warrant to give the Town more oversight over Class II and III licensed properties, and it was decisively voted down. Eric feels that the Board has given this issue its due diligence, but the town voted clearly to maintain the status quo. Eric is willing to have a discussion with Bill Kie and try to affect some cleanup though diplomacy. Kathleen mentioned that his business is in a residential zone, but Eric stated that the business is grandfathered as there were no zoning requirements at the time he started the business. Eric also reminded the Board that if they approve his license, it can still be revoked it for cause at any time.

Eric went back to Roger’s motion and seconded it.

Roll Call Vote:

- | | |
|----------|-----|
| Roger | Yes |
| Eric | Yes |
| Kathleen | No |

All 2022 Class II, Class III and Taxi licenses are approved.

Eric asked if the Board had any comments or concerns for the following Entertainment Licenses;

- | | |
|----------|----------------|
| TurnPark | Annual License |
| Foundry | Annual License |

Roger had several questions he wanted answered about the Annual Entertainment License for TurnPark. The Board decided to vote on the Foundry’s license and then discuss the license for TurnPark.

Roger made a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Entertainment License for the Foundry with the attached conditions from the 2021 Special Permit approved in September, seconded by Kathleen.

Roll Call Vote:

- | | |
|----------|-----|
| Roger | Yes |
| Kathleen | Yes |
| Eric | Yes |

The 2022 Annual Entertainment License for the Foundry is approved.

The Board asked the manager at TurnPark, Jared Gelomino, to discuss this license. Jared stated that TurnPark plans on holding fewer large events than last year. They plan on one large scale event and several smaller ones. Some of these events will require them to request a one-day liquor license as well. Roger noted that there may be a possibility that if they are holding several events with liquor licenses, this may be a change of use through the zoning bylaws. He also requested that the Board hold a community meeting prior to approving the license to get abutters input. He understands that this license does not require a public hearing but is suggesting it may help to include abutters prior to approving the license. Kathleen thought this was a good idea. Eric expressed to Jared the Board’s support of TurnPark, and pointed out that establishing this new license properly is in the best interest of all involved. The Board will do its research and outreach before continuing with the approval process.

Select Board Speak:

Eric informed the Board that the Town has received its first installment from the Green Communities grant. The new LED lighting will be delivered this week and they will begin to replace the lighting in all the Town buildings.

Citizen Speak:

There were no requests.

Eric made a motion to adjourn the open session and enter into executive session and not to return to open session, seconded by Roger:

Anticipated executive session in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A Paragraph 21 (a)(6), to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Select Board (Merritt Way)

...continued on page 9



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Photos courtesy of West Stockbridge Historical Society

“Back to School in West Stockbridge” Program Postponed

The West Stockbridge Historical Society has postponed its program “Back to School in West Stockbridge,” originally scheduled for Friday, February 4, due to concerns over the coronavirus situation. Check upcoming issues of the *Local Yokel* for a new date in April for the program or visit www.weststockbridgehistory.org.

“Back to School in West Stockbridge” will celebrate the history of the West Stockbridge Village School from 1950 to 2006 when it was on State Line Road. The building, now housing the Town Offices, was the K–6 grade school before elementary regionalization as part of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District. It will be an evening of sharing memories from former teachers and students, including pictures and exhibits.

There is still time to share photos, memorabilia, and personal memories of either the West Stockbridge Village School on State Line Road or the original Village School on Main Street for this program. Please contact Jill Pixley at (413) 232-4347 or email jillpixley@hotmail.com.

February History Quiz Question:

Our Main Street didn’t really merit the name until the 1820s but grew rapidly after the railroad reached town in 1840. The village center has several iconic structures from that period. It is bookended by two great houses: the Marble House on the south end and the two-story Greek revival home (known as the Leavitt House, or Jackie and Earl’s house) on the north end. These large homes, along with the shops and trade buildings, were built by the town’s major landowners and businessmen. We are fortunate that many are still standing. Although other structures on Main Street harken back to that era, these two appear most often in 19th-century images and on postcards of the town.



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
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(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

When friends, neighbors, or relatives move, downsize, or just clean house, *please* ask them to think of the West Stockbridge Historical Society before they discard any old books, pictures, postcards, letters, or memorabilia of the Town of West Stockbridge. Email info@weststockbridgehistory.org or call (413) 232-4270.

Roll call vote;
Kathleen Yes
Roger Yes
Eric Yes

Open Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

Documents:

- Select Board Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2021
- Applications for 2022 License renewals

Select Board Meeting Minutes December 13, 2021

Open Meeting

Quorum present: Eric Shimelonis, Select Board Chair and Member Roger Kavanagh, Kathleen Keresey was absent and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

Others Present: Mary Stodden, Assessing Clerk, Harald Scheid, Assessing Consultant and Director of Public Works, Curt Wilton.

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and listed Select Board members present.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from November 15 and December 6, 2021 will be approved at the next meeting.

Town Administrator Update:

Marie informed the Board that the committee to hire a shared Human Resource Director position has two potential applicants and is expecting to extend an offer to one of them. The committee is deliberating between these two candidates. Once the position is filled, Marie will have the new shared Human Resource Director attend a Board meeting to introduce them to everyone.

Marie updated the Board in regards to the Community Preservation Committee adopted bylaw. She received information on the bylaw which governs how to form the committee in regards to the Housing Authority position. Since the Town of West Stockbridge does not have a Housing Authority, the Town will need to change the bylaw by changing the wording for that position at a Town Meeting. Marie was also informed that some small towns also only appoint 2 citizens at large and not 4, this would be up to the Board.

Presentation by the Assessors on Tax Rate – Harald Scheid, Principal Assessor

Harald explained to the Board that he is meeting with the them to request that they vote on a single tax rate for West Stockbridge. He stated that there is a very low amount of commercial property tax in the Town and that 93% of the tax revenue is made up of residential property tax. The Assessors are recommending the Board vote to keep the single tax rate. If the Board voted to adopt the single tax rate, the tax rate will decrease from \$13.91 to \$12.56. The Town is required to complete a re-evaluation of all properties and that many needed to be increased this year to reflect market values. On average the homeowners will have an estimated increase of 11% in their assessed evaluation, which will decrease the tax rate. The commercial properties will have little to no impact due to a lack of evidence to support an increase in value as seen in the residential properties. Harald then asked the Board to vote.

Eric made the following motion, seconded by Roger;

The West Stockbridge Select Board votes in accordance with M.G.L., Ch. 40, Sec. 56, as amended, the percentage of local tax levy which will be borne by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the

Fiscal Year 2022 tax rates and set the Residential Factor at 1.0, with a corresponding CIP shift of 1.0, pending approval of the town's annual tax recap by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

Roll call vote:

Roger Yes

Eric Yes

Motion passed.

Great Barrington Road Traffic Concerns – Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works

A petition was presented to the Board in regards to the traffic on Great Barrington Road, specifically between #127-143 Great Barrington Road. The residents are concerned about the speeding and passing lane on this section of the road. They are requesting that there be a double no passing line painted in that section of the road. Curt explained that the Town owns that road and in the past at the southern end of this road, in the Williamsville section, when it was repaved years ago, the Board allowed the Department of Public Works to paint a double line there. Curt has received a quote for an engineering firm, BSC Group, to perform a complete traffic study of Great Barrington Road. He feels this could assist the Town in making this road safer. He said the study could give the Town advice on such things as determining which types of vehicles are safe to travel on this road, a safe speed limit, and where to paint double no passing lines. He then asked the Board what their feelings were and if they would approve having this study completed.

Roger and Eric both felt this study would be a good idea. Their concern was the funding to pay for the study. Curt said the quote for the traffic study was \$7,590 which includes a study of the entire Great Barrington Road, from Housatonic to the Massachusetts Turnpike entrance. He feels this is a fair cost and asked the Board to place a warrant article to cover the cost for this study on a future Special Town Meeting or the Annual Town Meeting.

The Board agreed to the Department of Public Works painting the double lines in the near future. Curt explained that he can do that but it can not happen until the spring. Curt asked the Board to let him know when they will have a Town Meeting vote for the money to pay for the study so he can get back to the engineer, the Board agreed.

Select Board Speak:

None.

Citizen Speak:

Frank Landsberger asked the Board what the status was of the previously discussed lengthening of Harris Street. Eric requested Curt speak to this. Curt stated that he has received two feasibility study proposals. He said that he will submit the two proposals to the Board for them to decide on which firm to hire and get the study completed.

Frank also inquired about the status of Merritt Way. Eric responded that the Town is working on an offer by Amy Brentano for an easement on Merritt Way and will begin to layout the way shortly.

Eric made a motion to adjourn at 6:50 PM, seconded by Roger.

Roll call vote;

Roger Yes Eric Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

Documents:

- Documentation from Assessors for Tax Classification Hearing
- Petition written by residents of 127-143 Great Barrington Road
- Quote from BSC Group to perform a complete traffic study of Great Barrington Road

...continued on page 10

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2022**

Quorum present: Eric Shimelonis, Select Board Chair and Member Roger Kavanagh, Kathleen Keresy was absent and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

Others Present: Police Chief Marc Portieri and Director of Public Works, Curt Wilton.

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and listed Select Board members present.

Approval of Minutes:

Roger made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the minutes from November 17, 2021 and December 6, 2021 Open Meeting and Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote:

Roger Yes
Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes

Eric made a motion, seconded by Kathleen to approve the minutes from November 23, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Roger Abstain – Not present at that meeting
Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes

Town Administrator Update:

The committee to hire a shared Human Resource Director has made an offer to an applicant and is in the process of negotiations. They hope to have this applicant begin working by February 1. Marie will invite the new Human Resource Director to a Board meeting for introductions in the future.

The Town has received 180 kits (2 tests per kit) of the COVID-19 Antigen Rapid at home tests. These were given to the Town by the State and are available to residents that are low income families and seniors in Town. The Community Nurse, Emilie, has been giving them to the senior residents and to the Council on Aging to hand out. Marie delivered several kits to the school nurse at Muddy Brook Elementary School to hand out to the low-income families.

Use of the gym has been requested by a few residents and Marie has responded to them that due to the high increase in COVID cases in the area, the gym is not available for use. The Community Nurse and the Board of Health have supported keeping the gym closed at this time until the cases begin to decrease. The gym will be closed at least until the end of January. The status of the COVID cases will be reviewed in February and the opening of the gym will be assessed at that time. Marie will work on a policy for the future use of the gym and present it to the Board in February.

Police Update and Appointment of Lukas Horn- Police Chief Marc Portieri

Marc updated the Board that the Police Department activity log totaled 7590 calls last year. He told the Board that the Department has been certified by the State to carry Narcan and will begin doing so by the end of



Marc J. Portieri Chief of Police
21 State Line Road, P.O. Box 90
West Stockbridge, MA 01266
ma.gov

Tele: 413-232-8500
Fax: 413-232-7938
E-mail: chief@weststockbridge-



WINTER PARKING BAN November 1, 2021

The “Winter Parking Ban” is in effect from November 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022 between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. for all streets in West Stockbridge. Violations of this ban may result in a \$25 fine for parking in prohibited areas, or a \$50 fine for impeding snow removal. In addition, if the vehicle is impeding snow removal, it may be towed at the owner’s expense.

The Municipal parking lot across from the Public Market and the parking area on Moscow Road, where the public bathrooms are, may be used for overnight off-street parking. However, vehicles in those lots must be moved by 8:00 a.m. to allow the Department of Public Works to manage snow and ice removal.

Anyone having questions about off street parking or the winter off-street parking ban can call Marc Portieri, Chief of Police at 413-232-8500.



January. The Bridge Academy classes have begun in the State and the Berkshire County Police Chiefs has been meeting to work on a plan to host some of the training in Berkshire County. This would decrease the cost of travel and time for Berkshire County Officers. Marc informed the Board that each part-time officer can attend the Academy or remain a traffic control officer and only be allowed to work on details. A benefit of having traffic control officers available would be money the Town receives each time an officer works a detail and if they are requested to use a cruiser there is an additional cost that the Town gets paid for as well.

Marc introduced Lukas Horn, a current part-time officer. Lukas has been fully training and he instructs many of the training classes for the rest of the Department. Marc requested that the Board appoint Lukas as a Full-Time officer to the Department.

Eric made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to appoint Lukas Horn as a Full-Time officer to the West Stockbridge Police Department as of January 3, 2022.

Roll call vote:

Roger Yes
Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes

Motion passed.

Department of Public Works and Facilities Update – Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works

Curt informed the Board that his budget for the facilities will be over budget soon. The majority of the \$20,000 budget has gone into repairs for the boiler at Town Hall for a total of \$14,607 to date. He said the boilers are 17 years old and will need to be replaced in the near future.

Curt stated that another issue that needs attention at Town Hall is the Controllers CTC heating and cooling system. This system required a retro-commission where the manufacturer found many failing parts of the system. The cost for this was \$1400 and the result is that the system will require \$4508 in parts to repair. Eric suggested that the repairs may be eligible to be paid for through the Green Communities Grant. He will work with Curt on this and prepare the paperwork together to request money from the Grant to help with this cost.

Curt asked the Board to keep in mind the following monetary items that may be placed as articles on the warrant for the next Annual or Special Town Meeting;

-Cost for a traffic study for Great Barrington Road

-Cost for feasibility study for Harris Street/Moscow Road area

Curt is working with Foresight Land Services on the layout of Merritt Way, which he believes will be done by mid-January, as well as the layout of the shared parking lot. He asked Foresight Land Services to create a layout of the parking lot so they can review how many cars would be able to be parked in that lot.

Vote to Adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan

Roger requested that Foresight Land Services, who produced the Hazard Mitigation Plan, along with Lou Oggiani, Emergency Management Director attend a meeting and speak to the summary of the plan and give their recommendations prior to the Board voting to adopt it. Marie will request them to attend the next Select Board meeting.

Vote to enter into Purchase and Sale Agreement and Deed Acceptance for Moscow Road

Eric made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, that the Board vote to enter into the Purchase and Sale Agreement and Deed Acceptance on the terms and conditions as set forth therein for Moscow Road.

Roll call vote;
Roger Yes
Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes

Motion passed.

Select Board Speak:

Roger stated that there were two Fire Department Members that received a much larger year-end stipend than all the others and he asked Fire Chief Traver why they received so much more money. Chief Traver responded that both members attend almost every call that came into the Station. Roger asked Eric if it was common that there are so many calls that come in each year. Eric responded yes, and that WSFD personnel are doing a great job at responding to fire and rescue calls both in West Stockbridge and Richmond, which strengthens the partnership.

Roger asked Marie to gather information from Town Accountant Elaine Markham on the amount of money that the Town puts out to pay the Police Officers for detail shifts and how much money the Town receives for the details. He also requested that Elaine gather information on the total amount of money that has been spent on purchasing Moscow Road, including surveys and legal fees.

Roger requested that an item be placed on the next agenda in regards to the Special Permit Process as it pertains to the Select Board. He stated that he believes that the Special Permit scheduled for 5 Albany Road Café for January 13, is not required. His research along with assistance from the Planning Board Chair, Dana Bixby, shows that the property already has a special permit from the Planning Board in 1999 attached to it to allow a restaurant on the property. Brian DuVal, Building Inspector, however stated he believes a Special Permit from the Select Board is required at this time. After a short discussion, the Board decided to reach out to Town Counsel for an opinion on the matter.

Kathleen informed the Board that the Zoning Board of Appeals will be holding a meeting on Thursday, January 6 by zoom and one of the agenda items will be a discussion of the recent ZBA hearing (Orient Express/Foundry) and Roger Kavanagh's written response. She thought the Board may be interested in joining the meeting.

Kathleen stated that there is an ongoing traffic issue in Town. She would like the Board to place it on an agenda in the near future to discuss with the Police Department.

Eric praised the West Stockbridge and Richmond Fire Departments for their admirable performance on Christmas Day at the Hilltop Orchard fire. Like with the fire at the Tap House last March, a quick and decisive fire attack saved the building.

Citizen Speak:

None.

Eric made a motion to adjourn at 7:33 PM, seconded by Kathleen.

Roll call vote;

Roger Yes
Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents:

-Minutes from November 17, November 23 and December 6, 2021
-Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021
-Purchase & Sale Agreement for Moscow Road

West Stockbridge Open Space & Recreation Public Survey

Last summer the town of West Stockbridge issued an online public survey asking residents what they value most about the town's undeveloped landscapes and outdoor recreational areas. A total of 135 people responded to the survey. The responses will help guide town officials when opportunities arise to conserve valued open space lands or maintain or expand outdoor recreational facilities.

But town officials realized that some residents were unable to participate in the public survey because it was only offered online. To remedy this situation, the survey, with the same questions as the online version, is now available in a paper format at these locations:

- The Floor Store, 12 Main Street
- Public Market, 8 Main Street
- West Stockbridge Public Library, 21 State Line Road

Please note: The paper version is only for those residents who have not already participated in the online survey. We must avoid duplication or revised responses in order to maintain the integrity of the survey results.

Thank you for your participation,

The West Stockbridge Open Space & Recreation Working Group

Community News & Events

Due to the coronavirus health emergency, many meetings and events are being cancelled or postponed. We are including all information available to us up until publication, but with the likelihood of changes, readers should check with the office, department, or organization for the latest information.

Community Health Association

Weekly blood pressure clinic schedule: every Wednesday from 9 to 10 am at the Town Offices, 21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge, and every Thursday from 9 to 10 am at the Richmond Congregational Church, State Road, Richmond. Info: Emilie Jarrett, RN, (413) 232-0122, or Emilie@charws.com.

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, February 13, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a takeout-only dinner at the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. The dinner will be baked beans and ham, and lemon and chocolate cream pies for dessert. Cost is \$14. Pickup time is 12 to 1:30 pm. To place an order, call (413) 243-1298 or (413) 443-4352. The deadline for ordering is February 10.

Council on Aging

There will be no February luncheon meeting – the COA will meet next on Wednesday, March 9.

The Knitters Group

The Knitters will meet every Wednesday from 2 to 4 pm in the Community Room at the Town Offices.

Send your notices for Community News & Events to The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, email info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit thelocalyokel.org.



The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please mail submissions to: **The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266**, email info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org. Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: **John Parker, 394-4368, john.j.parker53@gmail.com; Vicki Grayson, 232-6131, vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com; Susan Fisher, 232-4443, suefish12@gmail.com; Anne Lesser, 717-0277, anne@annelesserscommunications.com; Designer: **Kim Bradway, kim@bloominarts.com**.**

The *Local Yokel* is supported in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



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Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Sat. 10 am–3 pm | Tues. and Fri. 2–6 pm | Sun. Closed

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You can also borrow the internet via a hotspot, and you can **borrow a Chromebook** to use off or online.

Also, we are starting to loan **musical instruments!** Our very generous library patron and musician Eric Shimelonis shared an ukulele and a children’s classical guitar for loans and learning. Please call or come in to pick one up!

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY! Please notice the new tiny library in the center of town! You might find a wonderful book to take and keep—for free. Visitors are invited to place a book on the shelves if they have one they want to share. We deeply thank the people from several town departments who helped install, paint, finish, and make the little library easy to use. And we also thank local artists in word and wood, Leslie Klein and Scott Wilton, for creating an elegant sign.



Anyone who can tell a librarian where the mini library is located can pick a free book from the Friends of the Library book sale room in the Town Offices. The Friends book sale is very well stocked with choices just waiting for you!

While you’re at the library, pick up a fun **Take and Make** children’s art project to bring home for your little ones. Miss Vicky has been hard at work assembling these little gems.

STAFFING AND SUBS. Librarian Brad Havill is away for the spring semester with his academic spouse and family. We trust he will be having a lot of fun in the sun but keen to return to us in May. Meanwhile, you can expect to be greeted by a few excellent substitute librarians.

We look forward to seeing you soon! Vicky and Rachel

NEW ADULT FICTION

- Brown, *Blind Tiger*
- Connelly, *Dark Hours*
- Cornwell, *Autopsy: A Scarpetta Novel*
- Davidson, *Damnation Spring*
- Franzen, *Crossroads*
- Joella, *Little Hope*
- Limon, *War Women*
- Peters, *Detransition, Baby*
- Tompkins, *What Comes After*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

- Cooper, *Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty* [audio CD]
- Ho, *Wild Sweetness: Recipes Inspired by Nature*
- Rosenstrach, *Weekday Vegetarians*
- Seiden, *The Gritty Berkshires: A People’s History from the Hoosac Tunnel to Mass MoCA*
- Zauner, *Crying in H Mart: A Memoir*

NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN’S BOOKS

- Pennypacker, *Pax, Journey Home*

The library has expanded hours, effective July 1, 2021



Monday	10 AM – 3 PM
Tuesday	2 PM – 6 PM
Wednesday	10 AM – 3 PM
Thursday	10 AM – 3 PM
Friday	2 PM – 6 PM
Saturday	10 AM – 3 PM



Scrapbook Questions/created by Paula Farrell

TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. What West Stockbridge advanced placement teacher joined the AP juniors and seniors?
2. Who was the Red Lion Inn director who received the Larry D. Meehan award, and why was it given?
3. Which resident exhibited his still-life oil paintings through October 2012?
4. What downtown building was struck when a motorist failed to negotiate a curve in the road?

- 1. Mark Hungate
- 2. Brian Butterworth, for excellence in tourism and leadership
- 3. Gary Schiemenan
- 4. The iconic Shaker Mill

February Donor Roll Call

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 Anonymous: 3

Finally, a correction from last month's list:
 Tom Sagendorph

Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY. We couldn't do it without your support! Keep the *Local Yokel* coming. Please send your gift today!
 (See response form on page 17.)

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“We Remember When . . .” Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends

Working at Eastover, Part 2

Little did I know that working at Eastover between 1957 and 1965 would become a significant chapter in my life. I had a variety of jobs, starting as kitchen pot washer. I worked as an assistant cook one summer and went back to pot washer in the fall. The following summer, I was the salad chef and helped in the kitchen when needed. One summer I was a waiter. A unique opportunity arose when I was a weekend pot washer. On Saturday afternoons in the fall there was a demonstration of Civil War weapons and a free skeet shooting session. I am not sure how I got the job, but someone had to control the skeet shooter. I was allowed to engage a few “birds” and did well. Then one Saturday afternoon, a controller was needed, and I was allowed to step in. I kept the job through the fall and loved it!

After graduating from Boston College in June 1964, I continued to work through the summer on the ground crew, doing whatever had to be done to keep the outdoors looking well groomed. It was a great schedule that allowed me to play softball on the summer squad when we challenged guest teams. I didn’t get a full-time job after graduation because I had earned a U.S. Army commission as a second lieutenant. In those days there were not always immediate active-duty positions available, and it wasn’t until March 1965 that I reported for duty at Fort Benning, Georgia. Mr. Bisacca, Eastover’s owner, had allowed me to work until then.

In September, my mother and I took a month-long trip to Europe, mostly Italy, to see her three sisters she hadn’t seen for 34 years. After our month-long sabbatical, it was back to work at Eastover until March 1965. My three winter jobs were ski instructing during Christmas break and weekends; plowing snow; and (my favorite) tending the stable and the 20 or so horses, and taking out guests on horseback rides. I found out that when you work in a stable with horses, the odor stays with you all day until you shower after work!

One winter morning after a moderate snowstorm, about a foot of snow had fallen overnight. There was too much snow to drive a vehicle, so I walked down the hill to the barn. Gazing at the red stable surrounded by snow, the beautiful scene reminded me of a Currier and Ives Christmas card. But when I got to the barn, I opened the double doors to the stables and was buffeted by the pungent odor of ammonia, the result of the horses urinating through the night. The horses had kept the barn warm, if fragrant, overnight.

I learned a very valuable lesson while taking guests out for a ride: a horse is smarter than you think. One time we were in a wooded area after a snowstorm the night before, and the ride was going very nicely until one of the horses decided to catch up with one of its pals. The unbroken trail appeared to be straight ahead, but the horse had been there before when no snow was on the ground and knew to take a sharp right to stay on the path. The rider nearly fell off but managed to get a tight grip on the saddle horn and came through the incident safely, although a bit shaken. We were all thankful that the rider stayed on.

My experiences at Eastover have remained with me for years. I called it work, but overall, it was a labor of love. I made a lot of new friends and got to do many different jobs over that period in my life that have stuck with me all these years.

John Bormolini is a West Stockbridge “ex-pat,” now residing in Leavenworth, Kansas. Readers who would like to continue sharing their stories of 1950s West Stockbridge are invited to email John at johnbormo@aol.com.



Photo of the Rebels, the Eastover staff softball team, August 21, 1964. I am in the first row far left, and George Bisacca, the owner, is in the back row far right. We won all our games because we had a few “ringers” (not me). I was the catcher for Mr. Bisacca, who always pitched. At the end of the summer season, we had a nice restaurant dinner, compliments of the guests.

History Quiz Answer:

The Martin R. Kellogg House is at the intersection of Main Street, Swamp Road, and Lenox Road on the southeast corner, 5 Main Street. You can't miss it crossing the bridge over the Shaker Mill Pond or even coming down Lenox Road or Swamp Road. A modified classic Greek revival style, the original structure was built in 1822; the second story was added in 1853. The elaborate front porch/piazza was added in the 1890s; the two-car garage was constructed much later. This house was the first major structure on Main Street, built as a home, not as a tavern or working building.

The original owner was Martin Robbins Kellogg. He came from a prominent family in Canaan, New York. His father served as town supervisor, postmaster, and local assemblyman. Martin and his uncle, Robbins Kellogg, were the major landowners and businessmen in early 19th-century West Stockbridge. Their house was the focal point of their farm that grew up the road from the town center. Martin and Robbins Kellogg owned large parcels of land up both sides of Lenox Road and Swamp Road. The lane behind the house (now Cooper Lane) had a farm shed and barn. They also built several houses on both roads in the 1830s and 1840s for tenant farmers and family members. Some of the houses are still there today. Martin also owned the marble quarry off Lenox Road.

Not only were they major landowners, but the two men were also very active in the town. Robbins was the only lawyer. Martin's son, also named Martin, ran the town's general store in the present-day Queensborough Wine & Spirits building. Martin, Robbins, and Cousin Edward served as the town postmasters during that period. Martin was the first secretary of the newly created West Stockbridge Fire Department. Along with Anson Clark, they installed a newly invented steam pumper for the department (it didn't work).

The Kellogg family lived in the house until sometime before 1876, when it shows on the map as belonging to a Mrs. Stevens. They had sold most of the land directly around the home and their Lenox and Swamp Road farm and quarry by then. The family had relocated to points west, but their homestead is still prominent on Main Street.

Although the house is not as grand as the Marble House or the Leavitt House, it was the most important structure in the village center in the early 1800s and a symbol of West Stockbridge as it evolved from a small tavern stop to a prominent, prosperous community.



Kellogg House ca. 1900. Photo courtesy of Nancy Trageser



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Board of Health	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 am–4 pm, or by appt.
Select Board	<i>Roger Kavanagh, Kathleen Keresey, Eric Shimelonis</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	
Town Administrator	<i>Marie Ryan</i>			Mon.–Thurs. 7 am–3 pm Fri. 7 am–11 am
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Leave Message for Inquiries
Conservation Commission	<i>John Masiero</i>	232-7063		Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Steve Traver</i>	911 or 329-7153 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 pm
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Rachel Alter</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Sat. 10 am–3 pm; Tues. and Fri. 2 pm–6 pm; closed Sun.
Police Department	<i>Marc Portieri</i>	911 or 232-8500 (non-emergency)		24 hours, 7 days/week
Post Office	<i>Colleen A. Wich</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 am–7 pm; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.–Fri. 9 am–4:30 pm; Sat. 9 am–12 noon
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 pm
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 pm; Thurs. and Fri. 10 am– 2 pm; Sat. 10 am–1 pm
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 am–4 pm
Transfer Station	<i>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 am–6 pm and Sat. 8 am–6 pm
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</i>	212-9206		
Veterans Agency	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

Official Town Government Website: weststockbridge-ma.gov • Community and Business Website: visitweststockbridge.com



West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation is seeking a part-time summer lifeguard for Card Pond.

Willing to fully sponsor training for candidate who commits to working for us.

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weststockbridgeparks@gmail.com
if interested

February Art Calendar

Guild of Berkshire Artists | BerkshireArtists.org | infoberkshireartists@gmail.com

2022

February 1, Snapseed Workshop, 1:30-2:30pm. Work on mobile photo editing with others via Zoom.

February 8, Best Practices, 3pm. Panel discussion with Susan and David Honneus.

February 13, Potluck, 4-5pm. Join hosts John and Linda Mancia over Zoom. See website for more details.

February 14, Collage & Mixed Media Workshop, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Join Carolyn Abrams for Collage & Mixed Media.

February 15, Seminar, 3pm. Mark Olshansky Needlepoint. Shared in collaboration with local libraries. See website for viewing information.

February 17, Artist Talk, 4-5pm. Hank Kearsley. *Replay* of his Meet the Artist. See website for viewing information.

February 23, Demonstration, 4-5pm. Carolyn Abrams. *Replay* of demonstration of Mixed Media/Collage. See website for viewing information.

February 24, Art Book Gathering, 9:30-11am. Share a favorite book: artist, or process. Visit www.berkshireartists.org for more info.

February 27, Berkshire Photo Gathering. Online. See following webpage for more information: berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings



ONLINE SEMINAR
Mark Olshansky: Needlepoint Artist
Tuesday, February 15, 3pm

Mon & Fri (changing to Mon & Wed as of 2/11), Art Together. Join GBA artists together online using Zoom. See website for times.

February 7 & 21, Procrastinator's Challenge, 10-11am. GBA members can join for a jumpstart on their creative productivity via Zoom.

February 8 & 22, Positive Critique, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Join Michele Caplan for a positive critique session for Guild members via Zoom.

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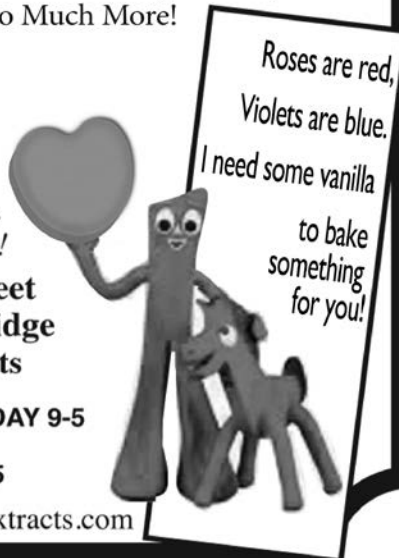
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27	28					

February 2022 Calendar of Events

Due to the coronavirus health emergency, many meetings and events are being canceled, postponed, or held online. We are including all information available to us up until publication, but with the likelihood of changes, readers should check with the office, department, or organization for the latest information.

2/2	Groundhog Day		
2/13	Stockbridge Grange Takeout Dinner		See Community News for details
2/14	Valentine's Day		
2/14	Select Board meeting	6 pm	See town website for details
2/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
2/17	Finance Committee / Select Board joint meeting	1 pm	See town website for details
2/18	Finance Committee / Select Board joint meeting	9 am	See town website for details
2/21	Presidents' Day		
2/24	Finance Committee / Select Board joint meeting	6 pm	See town website for details
2/28	Select Board meeting	6 pm	See town website for details