

APPROVED

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Richmond Town Hall, 1529 State Road – Monday September 10, 2018 – 3:00 PM

PRESENT: Mr. Neal Pilson, Chair; Mr. Roger Manzolini, Selectman; Mr. Alan Hanson, Selectman; Mr. Mark Pruhenski, Town Administrator

ABSENT:

GUEST: Patti Spector, Josh Billings Runaground Representative,

Mr. Neal Pilson opened the meeting under the Emergency Order Paragraph of the Open Meeting Law, which waives the requirement for 48-hour notice.

Mr. Pilson advised the audience that he will begin the meeting with presentations from Ms. Spector and Mr. Mark Pruhenski that will likely answer a lot of the questions that people probably have. The meeting will then be turned over to questions from the floor.

Mr. Pilson clarified the process of approval for the Josh Billings to take place at Richmond Pond. The request was made to Mr. Mark Pruhenski as the Harbor Master. Mr. Pruhenski brought the question to Mr. Pilson as Chair of the Board of Selectmen, who approved the request on an emergency basis. Mr. Roger Manzolini added that both he and Mr. Alan Hanson support the decision to have the Josh Billings take place in Richmond as their usual venue, the Lenox Bowl, is unavailable due to contamination by an algae bloom.

Ms. Spector opened her presentation with the acknowledgement that the need to move the Josh Billings happened very quickly and to offer her gratitude to the Town of Richmond for the support they have provided. She then provided a detailed plan for the race: The race begins in Great Barrington with the bike race at 9:30 AM up Taconic Avenue past Simon's Rock to the Alford Road, to Rte. 102 West into West Stockbridge. In West Stockbridge the bicyclists take a left turn onto Rte. 41 to a right onto Summit Road. Where Summit meets Swamp Road, they turn left onto Boys Club Road. Ms. Spector assured the audience that the race organizers are well connected with safety and medical personnel as they have historically been. They are meeting at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, September 11th so that their Medical Safety Personnel Administrator, Ms. Lucy Britton, can meet with the Emergency Management Director for Berkshire County. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will also be present at the race.

When the bicyclists reach the gravel road at the end of Boys Club Road, they will turn left to the Boat Launch area. The boats will have been lined up early in the morning at the Town Beach area. The transition from bikers to paddlers will be made at the Launch. The paddlers will run the 1/3-mile distance to the Beach area, where they will enter the boats. The boats will go one

and one-half times around the Pond (3-1/2 miles) and debark at Camp Russell. That is where the hand-off to the runners will take place. The runners will take the wrist-bands and head out Boys Club Road to Swamp Road; take a right onto Swamp Road and take an immediate left onto East Road. That will keep the runners off Swamp Road, which is a main thoroughfare. On East Road they will come down to Lenox Road to Lenox Mountain Road and over the mountain back to Tanglewood.

Richmond Pond offered the ideal solution because the bikers could be started in the same place as usual and could return to Tanglewood. Pittsfield has offered the use of any of their lakes, but there was no workable provision for the bikers and the runners. Richmond had it all.

Medical and Safety personnel will be at all major intersections. When the bikers arrive at their hand-off location at the Launch area, they need to be moved safely out of the area without having to cross traffic. To accomplish that end, they will be directed down Shore Road to Swamp Road. There was some discussion as to whether Shore Road was the best choice in this case.

Once the runners have the wristband and take off, they will not impact anything because they are going to leave the camp, go right up to Swamp Road and exit the area. Boaters have been advised that they must drive their boats down to the beach before 7:30 AM. The runners must assemble at Camp Russell before 9:00 AM. The estimated timeframe for each leg of the race is as follows: The bike race starts at 9:30 AM and it is believed that the first bikers will arrive on Boys Club Road around 10:10 AM and the last biker probably around 11:30 AM. At about 11:15 AM the bikers really spread out. They tend to arrange themselves into three packs, the first pack is usually the largest. Because this route does not include the hills of past years, the bikers will likely be moving more quickly, and the packs will probably tend to be larger.

The first boat will be in the water around 10:15 to 10:20 AM, the last boat will be in the water around 11:45 AM, which means that the first runner will probably leave Camp Russell around 10:50 AM and the last runner around 1:00 PM and then everything else takes place at Tanglewood.

In response to a concern expressed by Mr. Alan Hanson about the importation to the Pond of invasive species, Ms. Spector assured Mr. Hanson that the Josh Billings has had to deal with that issue at the Stockbridge Bowl every year of the race and are well prepared to do so this year. They will be bringing at least four of their own Zebra Mussel Monitors. No one can drive a boat past the Monitors without a clean Zebra Mussel Certificate. In case there is a boat with a problem there will be people available at Camp Russell to wash the boat. In response to a question from the floor as to whether the algae that has contaminated the Stockbridge Bowl is transferrable, Ms. Spector assured the audience that it is not and none of the contestants have been in Stockbridge Bowl for weeks.

Mr. Hanson asked whether provision had been made to post signs warning motorists about bicyclists practicing on Richmond roads. Mr. Spector said that she believed that last weekend

would have been the biggest practice day partly because the anticipated weather conditions for the next few days are not amenable to biking and because last weekend, when people were not at work, they would have been anxious to experience the new course. Next Saturday, volunteers will be posting big yellow signs reading, "Caution, Bike Race" along the route.

Mr. Pilson asked whether the runners would be bussed in or are they driving in and parking at Camp Russell. Ms. Spector said that the runners had been advised that if they are driving in they will have to arrive at Camp Russell before 9:00 AM. In addition, to limit the number of cars, Ms. Spector will contact Abbot Limo, one of their sponsors, to request a shuttle service between Tanglewood and Camp Russell. There have also been notices in the local media that spectators will not be allowed west of Swamp Road. There will be a police presence at Boys Club Road which will not allow the public to turn down that road other than residents of Richmond Shores.

Ms. Spector then outlined what the race administrators are asking of the residents of Richmond Shores. They are being asked to avoid leaving the community between the hours of 10:00 and 11:15 AM for the safety of the bikers. If there are some residents who need to get out during that timeframe, they will be asked to go down Shore Road – instead of coming out near the Boat Launch, they would come out the other end of Shore Road. Drivers are also asked to drive slowly and, if they encounter bikers on the road, to pull to the side of the road to let the bikers go by. Mr. Spector, Ms. Spector's husband, is in charge of keeping the bikers to the side of the road, which he has done for years on Rte. 183. He will place traffic cones from Shore Road where the bikers will come out back to Swamp Road. Volunteers will be on that road to see that the bikers stay behind the cones and stay out of the way of the entering bikers. Lucy Britton handles medical and safety personnel and she will have them around the lake. Ms. Spector will obtain details of that aspect of the race at the meeting scheduled for 6:00 PM tomorrow evening.

At the conclusion of Ms. Spector's presentation, Mr. Pilson opened the floor to questions from the Board of Selectmen: In response to a question from Mr. Alan Hanson, Ms. Spector noted that a police presence will be stationed at all major intersections and volunteers at smaller intersections.

Mr. Paul Brown, President of the Richmond Shores Association addressed the Board to ask about liability for the bikers if they get hurt on the Shores roads. Ms. Spector assured Mr. Brown that the Race Association is fully covered by insurance and that she can acquire a Certificate of Insurance for a private organization. Mr. Tom Grizey asked about the existence of potholes. The Association can make sure that the major potholes by the bridge and other places are taken care of before the race. Ms. Spector added that before the racers get their numbers at the Arcadian Club on Saturday in the bag of instructions they receive every biker, every paddler and every runner gets sheets of instructions. Ms. Spector indicated that she would be happy to include in those instructions anything the Town would like to add. In addition, a sheet

entitled, "What you Need to Know About Richmond Shores" printed on bright pink fluorescent paper, is stapled to every bag.

Ms. Roseanne Frieri approached the Board to advise Ms. Spector that there is an autistic child living in the race area and, although there is a sign posted on the road, she would like the racers to be advised ahead of time.

Mr. Pilson noted that he would like to know which body will be stationed at the top of Boys Club Road directing traffic. Mr. Lou Oggiani, Incident Commander for the race, responded to advise that the State Police will be there or, if they are unavailable, the Sheriff's Office will step in. Mr. Pilson's concern centered around the need to keep disruption to the residents of Richmond Shores to a minimum. He was assured that the organization's plan was to eliminate as much inconvenience to residents as possible. The bikers are restricted to one side of the road and volunteers are there to maintain that order. There will be a police presence at the top of the road to allow residents access to the road once they identify themselves.

Mr. Manzolini offered the suggestion that, give the popularity of the Josh Billings, there be some areas designated for spectators. Mr. Pilson said he had spoken to the owner of Bartlett's Orchard that morning and she was very much in favor of having people on the grounds and she has prepared with an extra-large order of donuts. However, she does not want spectators parking in her front parking lot. She did offer the parking lot up the hill that is used for apple picking. She also suggested that parking be allowed on one side of Yokun Road, which is the intersection road. The Town can discuss that possibility during the rest of the week. Ms. Spector voiced her appreciation for the idea that Ms. Cindy Bartlett offered. She would not suggest advertising the availability of that parking and the Association will post signs reading, "No Spectators." *The Berkshire Eagle* has been very helpful in working with the Association to advertise that no spectators will be allowed. Nevertheless, people are going to come so she would suggest that Bartlett's post signs to direct spectators to the right areas. There are No Parking signs that the organization can post along Boys Club Road.

A discussion of whether walkers would be allowed into the area was clarified by Ms. Spector that walkers would be allowed in the area only before a certain time; once the bikers arrive they cannot be walking down that road. There was a question about the time when the Police presence at the intersections would arrive. Ms. Spector was unable to answer that question at the time but agreed that, given the need to keep spectator cars away from the area, the earlier the better. Ms. Spector also will attempt to get signs stating, "Local Traffic Only" posted on the roads that residents will need to access.

Mr. Pruhenski raised the issue of the availability of PortaPottys. Ms. Spector said there will be five available at the Boat Ramp where the transition takes place; five where the canoeists are standing and at Camp Russell. Ms. Spector requested that the gates to the Pond area be opened the night before to accommodate the people who come very early. Mr. Peter Beckwith, the Highway Superintendent, will discuss details for that with her. There was a further

discussion of closing the beach to the public for that day. Mr. Manzolini suggested that the process to obtain a permit for a special event be gone through pro forma. Mr. Pruhenski advised Mr. Manzolini that the issue is on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for Wednesday. Mr. Pruhenski will research requirements for closing the Boat Ramp to the public on race day.

Mr. Ken Kelly, President of the Richmond Pond Association brought forward some issues including the fact that the Josh Billings website and their FaceBook had not been updated with the change of venue for the race and appropriate times. Ms. Spector acknowledged that an update needed to be done and would be accomplished shortly. Mr. Kelly advised that Branch Farm will likely close their road on Sunday and plan to turn back drivers seeking access to the Pond. The Richmond Pond Association is printing 300 brochures to replenish the kiosk and take that opportunity to advertise themselves. Mr. Carl Foote asked Mr. Kelly to share the following recommendation: Cars leaving Camp Russell during the race would do better to drive to Tanglewood by going North on Swamp Road, right on Tamarack Road by the airport and South on Routes 7 & 20 into Lenox, thereby reducing the congestion on Swamp Road and Lenox Mountain Road. Ms. Spector responded to the suggestion by assuring Mr. Kelly that the suggested route offered is what the plan was from the beginning. Mr. Kelly went on to state that the Richmond Pond Association Executive Board is very supportive of the race.

Mr. Andy Kay addressed the Board to ask if there will be traffic control monitors at the intersection of Beach Road where it branches off and goes West so that traffic doesn't go through the Richmond Shores area. Mr. Kay was advised that no cars will be allowed in the area except those transporting racers.

Mr. Paul Brown noted that Shore residents are expecting family to come in for the race and will need access. Mr. Manzolini advised that those people identify themselves as Shore residents. Mr. Pilson suggested that someone from Richmond, perhaps a Constable, be at that location to help identify the residents since a State Trooper or Sheriff's Deputy would not know who they are.

Mr. Ken Kelly brought forward another concern, which was to ask how the organization will manage residents of the Shores who have boats in the water and may want to come out and view the race from there. Ms. Spector advised that in the 41 years the race has taken place at the Stockbridge Bowl, there has never been an issue with that. People watch from the shoreline but if people want to come out on the water, she would ask that they go to the center of the area where the buoys are located as the paddlers will be going around the outside of that area. Mr. Pilson asked that, since the residents of the Richmond Shores are not familiar with the protocols of the race, Mr. Kelly send out a notice asking them to stay off the lake that morning. Mr. Kelly agreed that would be best and he will do that.

Ms. Spector was asked whether the association was planning to take the buoys that identify the swimming area in the Pond out of the water. The consensus was that, although it was thought that they would not be in the way of anything, it would probably be best to remove them.

Mr. Pilson asked for any remaining questions or comments. Mr. Hanson thanked the Richmond Shores Civic Association for allowing the race onto private roads and Bartlett Orchards for offering part of their Pick-Your-Own parking lot. Mr. Pilson added his thanks to Richmond's police, fire and highway departments for their cooperation.

There being no further comment or discussion, Mr. Pilson moved that the meeting be adjourned. He was seconded by Mr. Alan Hanson and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 PM.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Neal Pilson", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Neal Pilson, Chair