

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Weiss at 6:18 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Select Board members Gerry Weiss, Anne Awad, Alisa Brewer, Stephanie O’Keeffe, Diana Stein; Town Manager Larry Shaffer; Planning Director Jonathan Tucker; Finance Director John Musante; Denise Barberet; Kenneth Bergstrom; Sunderland Planning Board Chair Dana Roscoe; Sunderland Selectman Thomas Fydenkevez; Barry Roberts

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Weiss announced the time and location of the upcoming Memorial Day parade.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Denise Barberet asked about the status of posting Select Board meeting minutes on the Town web site; Mr. Weiss said the issue is being addressed.

WARRANT ARTICLES

Article 26 – Zoning Amendment – 500-502 Sunderland Road

This continued an initial discussion of this article from the April 14, 2008 meeting. Property owner Kenneth Bergstrom answered questions from the Select Board about the proposed zoning change regarding: sewer concerns, past and future aquaculture on the site, the appropriateness of the proposed Village Center zoning designation and other development issues. Sunderland Planning Board Chair Dana Roscoe and Selectman Thomas Fydenkevez expressed concern that Sunderland officials had not been adequately included in the process, and that the rezoning might unduly impact their town. Mr. Tucker apologized for not engaging Sunderland more, and provided clarification of the process and the proposal.

Before the vote, Select Board members stated their positions: Mr. Weiss said he found the potential for new tax revenues and new land use compelling, but was concerned about the process with Sunderland, and favored referring the article back to the Planning Board. Ms. Stein said she opposed the article out of concern for loss of farmland, inconsistency with the Master Plan, additional development in a high-traffic area and sewer issues. Ms. Brewer said she opposed referral and supported the article, despite concerns about the process with Sunderland. Ms. Awad said she opposed referral and opposed the article, the latter due to concerns about sewer issues and loss of farmland. Ms. O’Keeffe said she supported the article because development of the land was likely anyway; the uses allowed under the proposed rezoning are a small change from those of the current zoning and are consistent with Sunderland’s abutting zoning district; and that abutter concerns, sewer issues and the like could be dealt with under the Special Permit process.

VOTED 2-3 to recommend the article, so the motion was defeated, with Brewer and O’Keeffe voting in favor and Weiss, Awad and Stein voting against.

Article 8 – FY2008 Budget Amendments

Mr. Musante presented the proposal to transfer unspent funds from last year’s appropriations to General Government (\$122,000,) Conservation, Planning and Inspections (\$69,000,) and Community Services (\$63,000) to cover shortfalls in Public Safety and Public Works.

VOTED unanimously to recommend Article 8, FY08 Budget Amendments.

Article 17, Motion C – Capital Program – Bond Authorization for Portable Classrooms

Mr. Musante explained that bids for portable classrooms had come in below original projections, reducing costs from \$400,000 to \$300,000, and reducing the amount to be borrowed by \$100,000.

VOTED unanimously to recommend Article 17, Motion C – Bond Authorization for Portable Classrooms.

Article 34 – Petition to Amend Town Government Act - Criteria for Town Property Use

Petitioner Barry Roberts said he would move to dismiss this article.

VOTED unanimously to support dismissal of Article 34, Petition to Amend Town Government Act – Criteria for Town Property Use

Article 35 – Petition – 250th Anniversary Committee Appropriation - \$25,000

Mr. Roberts, Chair of the 250th Anniversary Committee, explained the planned activities for the year-long 2009 celebration and presented the committee's projected budget of \$101,500. He said that if fundraising exceeds expectations, the full \$25,000 requested from the Town would not be needed and the balance would be returned. It was noted that some have concerns about use of reserves for this purpose in the wake of other funding cuts, and further noted that special occasions can warrant such spending.

VOTED unanimously to support Article 35, Petition – 250th Anniversary Committee Appropriation - \$25,000.

Article 33 – Petition – Request Development of Zoning Bylaw Amendment Using LEED Standards

This item was first discussed at the May 12th meeting and scheduled for follow-up at the May 21st meeting, but was addressed at this meeting due to timing concerns. It was agreed that new motion language no longer appeared to compel action by the Planning Board, and was deemed by Town Counsel to be only advisory.

VOTED unanimously to recommend Article 33 – Petition – Request Development of Zoning Bylaw Amendment Using LEED Standards.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.