

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Weiss at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Gerry Weiss, Diana Stein, Alisa Brewer (6:14,) Stephanie O'Keeffe

Absent: (none)

Present: Town Manger Larry Shaffer

Members of the public: Peg Roberts, David Thomas

OPENING REMARKS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no opening remarks or announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

Signing the State Election Warrant

VOTED 3 in favor, 1 absent (Brewer) to sign the November 4, 2008 State Election Warrant.

Signing the Special Town Election Warrant

VOTED 3 in favor, 1 absent (Brewer) to sign the November 4, 2008 Special Town Election Warrant.

Request to Change Town Meeting Start Date

Mr. Weiss said that the Town Meeting Coordinating Committee was requesting that Fall Town Meeting begin November 10th rather than November 5th, to accommodate people working the polls and staying up late for election results on November 4th. He said the warrant would probably have 11 articles, which he described as five "housekeeping" articles, four zoning articles (he said a planned fifth had become uncertain,) one article proposing establishment of a Municipal Housing Trust and one regarding the Hitchcock Center's construction plans. He said that two Special Town Meetings within the Fall Special Town Meeting may occur: one regarding the North Amherst Professional Research Park land, and the other regarding a covenant change for a North Pleasant Street property. There was discussion about the potential and desire for finishing prior to Thanksgiving. Peg Roberts, TMCC Chair, expressed appreciation for the date change.

VOTED 3 in favor, 1 absent (Brewer,) to change the starting date of the Fall Special Town Meeting from November 5, 2008 to November 10, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at the Amherst Regional Middle School auditorium.

Committee Appointments

VOTED unanimously to appoint Eleanor Manire-Gatti to the Committee on Homelessness, for a term to expire June 30, 2011.

Approval of Minutes

Kate Seaman's prompt posting of approved minutes to the Town web site was noted with appreciation. **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2008 Select Board meeting as amended.

Publicity of Committee Vacancies

Ms. Stein presented a draft letter she proposed for the Select Board to send to the Amherst Bulletin, listing committee vacancies and encouraging people to apply. Ms. Brewer suggested that making the letter a press release and distributing an updated version on a regular basis, perhaps monthly, might be more effective. Without a vote, it was agreed that Ms. Stein's draft letter dated 10/8/08 would be edited appropriately to conform to standard Town press release format; that two inactive committees would be removed from the list (Electricity Deregulation Committee and Police Stops Committee;) that vacancies on Town Manager-appointed committees would be added; and that Judith Arcamo would manage this task on an ongoing basis. It was further agreed that distribution will include the Daily Hampshire Gazette, Springfield Republican, Amherst Bulletin, and ACTV. Radio PSAs will be considered for the future. Mr. Shaffer said he would ensure that the first such release go out within a week or so.

Action: Agreed to revise the letter as a press release; to revise the current list of committee vacancies; to have Ms. Arcamo manage the task now and with regular updates; and to distribute the press release to local newspapers and to ACTV, with possible radio PSAs pursued in the future. Mr. Shaffer agreed to have the initial press release distributed within about a week.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Taxi Driver's License – David Thomas

License applicant David Thomas answered questions from the Select Board and added his driver's license number to the application.

VOTED unanimously to approve the Taxi Driver's License for David Thomas, 540 Riverglade Drive, Apartment B, Amherst, MA.

Special Liquor License -- UMass

VOTED unanimously to approve the Special Wine & Malt Liquor License for October 18, 2008 from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the ELab 11 Engineering Building for a reception.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 6:32 p.m. (A new meeting would convene in the Town Room following this adjournment.)

-- Respectfully submitted by Stephanie O'Keeffe