

## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. O’Keeffe at 5:31 p.m.

### ATTENDANCE

Present: Alisa Brewer (6:13,) Aaron Hayden, Diana Stein, Gerry Weiss, Stephanie O’Keeffe

Absent: None

Town Manager Larry Shaffer

Town Staff: DPW Superintendent Guilford Mooring, Community Development Director Roy

Rosenblatt, LSSE Director Linda Chalfant

Members of the Public: Jason Venditti, Pat Holland

### OPENING REMARKS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Weiss noted the downtown flower pots, thanking: Promoting Downtown Amherst for arranging them, Andrew’s Greenhouse for donating them, and Bill Elsasser for watering them.

### SELECT BOARD’S ACTION

#### **Approval of Detour – North Pleasant St./Governor’s Dr./Eastman Ln. Intersection**

Mr. Venditti, UMass Capital Projects Manager, explained UMass’ plans for upgrading the utility lines under the intersection, and the need to have a detour in place for approximately 18 months to allow for the work. Reconstruction of the intersection is also planned, with recommendations to come to the Select Board after details are finalized and have been presented to other relevant committees for consideration first. Mr. Mooring said that the detour was well-designed. Mr. Weiss expressed appreciation to Mr. Venidtti for bringing the plans to the Disability Access Advisory Committee for feedback. Mr. Shaffer suggested that a request to approve the UMass utility plans should come back to the Select Board separately in the fall. Details of trees to be removed and saved, and how bicycles would be accommodated were explained.

**VOTED:** 4 in favor, 1 absent (Brewer) to approve the temporary detour for construction plans at the North Pleasant St. – Governor’s Drive intersection, as presented, with all concurrent stipulations.

#### **Updates on Public Way and Sewer Issues**

The Select Board asked Mr. Mooring for the status of several public way and sewer issues:

**Town-wide Traffic Calming Plan:** Had been expected to have it by the end of June, but pursuit of stimulus funds for road projects became a priority, and it was decided that the plan should include data from the Lincoln Ave. diverter experiment. Mr. Shaffer said the Lincoln Ave. plan would come back to the Select Board for a new vote to accommodate a change in installation date (the day after UMass move-in, instead of the day before) and changes to address concerns by McClure Street residents.

**East Pleasant/Strong St. Intersection:** Traffic data was collected there while the students were in town, and will inform the Traffic Calming Plan. Also, Wildwood Elementary School has a grant to study safe routes to school, and that intersection will be part of that study.

**Rolling Ridge Sewer:** Capacity will be increased because it is needed. That would also accommodate new development in that area, but none is specifically planned at this time.

**No action taken.**

### **Set Fall Town Meeting Dates**

**VOTED** unanimously to set the start date of the Fall 2009 Town meeting as November 2, 2009 with possible additional sessions on November 4, 9, 16, 18, 23 & 30, 2009 and December 2, 7, 9, 14 & 16, 2009.

### **Committee Appointments**

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the Town Manager's reappointments, effective July 1, 2009, of the following:

- Nancy Gilbert, Board of Health, for a term to expire June 30, 2012
- Harvey Allen, Conservation Commission, for a term to expire June 30, 2012
- Briony Angus, Conservation Commission, for a term to expire June 30, 2012
- Stephen Schreiber, Planning Board, for a term to expire June 30, 2012
- Stephen Mabee, Water Supply Protection Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2012
- Lyons Witten, Water Supply Protection Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2012
- Michael Hanke, Historical Commission, for a term to expire June 30, 2012
- Elizabeth Sharpe, Historical Commission, for a term to expire June 30, 2012

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the Town Manager's appointment of Todd Walker to the Conservation Commission, for a term to expire June 30, 2012.

**VOTED** unanimously to approve appointments of the following:

- John Gerber, Conservation Commission representative to the Community Preservation Act Committee, effective July 1 2009, with a term to expire June 30, 2010
- Christopher Slemp, to the Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee, effective immediately, with a term to expire June 30, 2011
- Christopher Slemp, Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee representative to the Save Our Stop task force, effective immediately, with a term to expire May 31, 2010
- Rob Crowner, to the Save Our Stop task force as an at-large member, effective immediately, with a term to expire May 31, 2010

### **Fourth of July Parade Update and Recommendation**

Ms. O'Keeffe reported on discussions she and Ms. Brewer had had with the Fourth of July Parade Committee. She presented a document (attached) that she wrote up as her understanding of the committee's position on participation from those who wish to march with signs expressing political messages. She said that the committee had agreed that the document represented its position, and said that the Town Manager had agreed that terms expressed were satisfactory to him. She asked that the Select Board vote to support official participation by the Town and inclusion of Town equipment in the parade. The Select Board agreed to do so, contingent on the Parade Committee further extending its registration deadline, because June 19 was only two days away. After the vote, it was determined that the agreement should be announced at Town Meeting.

**VOTED:** unanimously to support official participation in the Fourth of July parade, under the guidelines outlined in the draft document dated 6/8/09, as presented.

### **Expectations for Remaining Town Meeting Schedule**

After discussion about whether it was better to keep to only Mondays and Wednesdays, or better to meet each scheduled Town Meeting date, it was the sense of the Board that meeting every remaining date until the warrant is concluded was preferable. Concern for people's schedules to make themselves

available on these dates, and the desire to finish up as soon as possible because absences will increase as people start leaving for summer vacations were key factors.

**AGREED** by consensus that Ms. O’Keeffe would move to adjourn each Town Meeting session to the next scheduled date, and to promptly notify the Moderator and Town Meeting of those intentions.

**Discussion: LSSE Subsidies**

There was discussion and clarification of LSSE subsidy amounts planned for FY10, in preparation for Town Meeting discussion of the issue.

**No action taken.**

**Discussion: Library Services Budget**

Mr. Weiss said that he had told the Library Director and Chair of the Library Trustees that there was precedent by the School Committee and Superintendent, for requesting that Capital Plan money be instead allocated for operating expenses. He said that the Trustees would be looking into that. After the conclusion of that discussion, the Library Trustees arrived and asked that the Select Board move to postpone consideration of the Library budget until after the capital articles at Town meeting.

**AGREED** by consensus that if the Moderator were in agreement, Ms. O’Keeffe would move at Town Meeting that the Library budget be postponed until after the capital articles.

**ADJOURNMENT**

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

-- Respectfully submitted by Stephanie O’Keeffe

## Summary of key discussion points from the Friday, 6/5 Parade Committee meeting

### The Parade Committee:

- Would prefer not to include political messages in the parade, but recognizes that this is important to the community and is willing to do so;
- Would prefer that groups march with a single identifying sign or banner, but is willing to make allowances for groups to carry additional signs;
- Asks that those who wish to display signs in the parade contact or meet with the Parade Committee to ensure that the sign plans are consistent with the spirit of the parade; where necessary, the Parade Committee is willing to work with the applicants to see that the views they wish to represent are expressed in a way that the Parade Committee can be comfortable with, in order to achieve a mutually-acceptable outcome;
- Is extending its registration deadline to Friday, June 19th, to accommodate those who may still wish to register;
- Remains firmly committed to its policy to only allow registered participants to take part in the parade, for reasons of safety and insurance liability;
- Desires the largest possible collection of participants in the parade in order to provide an enjoyable experience for the whole community, and believes that the presence of Town public safety vehicles enhances that experience.