

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. O’Keeffe at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Alisa Brewer, Diana Stein, Gerry Weiss, Stephanie O’Keeffe

Absent: Aaron Hayden

Town Manager Larry Shaffer

Town Staff:

Members of the Public:

SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

Choose Select Board Representative to Puffer’s Pond 2020 Subcommittee

Action: Postponed until the next meeting, when all members would be expected to be present.

Annual Town Meeting Review

There was a review and discussion about the recently concluded Town Meeting, with a goal of making improvements for the future. *Thoughts included:* needing better air flow in the room, and less-intense lights up front; appreciation for the efficiency and comparatively small number of sessions; felt good and received good feedback about Select Board positions being brief remarks rather than full speeches; heard concerns about number of petition articles, but they are part of process; glad more younger people getting involved in Town Meeting. *Suggestions included:* announcing more explicitly when TMCC election would be going on and when voting will end; consider having Select Board members pool comments and questions to avoid us being called on too often; boards that provide written materials might summarize key points instead of reading full report, and might consider soliciting questions ahead of time to answer in their presentations (BCG might be a place to discuss such ideas); publicize packet mailing deadlines better and keep them more on Select Board radar so that we might encourage inclusion of materials.

No action taken.

Plan for Special Town Meeting: With discussion about related dates and deadlines, it was decided to schedule a Special Town Meeting to vote on the local option taxes for July 27th, with the warrant to be signed at the July 8th Select Board meeting. Petition deadlines will be posted as soon as possible.

Action: By consensus, agreed to proceed as described.

Summer Agenda Plans and Expectations

Previously identified summer agenda topics were penciled into the timeline of the summer meeting schedule. Due to planning a Special Town Meeting for July 27th, it was decided to add a Select Board meeting on Wednesday, July 22. Several road issues (Spring St., Traffic Calming, a revision to the planned Lincoln Ave. experiment,) were noted as pending for future Select Board meetings.

Action: By consensus, it was agreed to schedule a Select Board meeting for July 22.

Liaison and Representative Reports:

Disability Access Advisory Committee: Mr. Weiss reported that the committee is looking into how to make Connect CTY notifications and Town Hall more accessible to the hearing impaired. A warrant article on Town enforcement of handicap parking rules in private lots is planned for Fall Town Meeting.

250th Anniversary Celebration Committee: Ms. Brewer reported that Amherst's 250th and Hadley's 350th committees would be honored during festivities at the stadium prior to the Fourth of July fireworks, and said the 250th committee would have a float in the parade.

Annual Report: Ms. Brewer reported that the FY08 report is still not done, but will be by the end of August. It was noted that this does not need to be a Select Board responsibility, and that a volunteer should be sought to take this over starting with the FY09 report. Ms. Brewer will finish the FY08 report, and oversee transition to a new volunteer for FY09.

No Action Taken.

Other Issues and Concerns:

It was suggested that the Annual Town Election date be set as soon as possible. March 30th was regarded as the best choice. Ms. O'Keeffe said she would try to bring this forward at the next meeting.

No action taken.

Chair's Report

Ms. O'Keeffe reported on the following:

- That she would attend the first meeting of the regional Complete Count Committee for the 2010 census the next morning (6/30) at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission office in Westfield.
- That she was invited to be a judge with reps from other local Select Boards on July 2 for the Hadley house decorating contest, an activity of their 350th celebration
- That she would give brief remarks at the ceremony honoring Amherst's 250th and Hadley's 350th committees prior to the fireworks on July 4th, and invited other Board members to be on stage for that also; planned festivities include a giant cake and singing "Happy Birthday" to the two towns

No Action taken.

Committee Appointments

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Hayden,) to appoint Stephen Shreiber as representative of the Planning Board to the Save Our Stop Task Force, for a term to expire May 31, 2010.

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Hayden,) to reappoint the following effective July 1, 2009:

- Isaac BenEzra, Amherst Community Television Board of Directors, for a term to expire June 30, 2012
- Patricia Wagner, Agricultural Commission, for a term to expire June 30, 2012
- Jana McClure, Community Development Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2012
- Claude Tellier, as Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee representative to the Community Development Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2010
- Anthony D. Butterfield, Personnel Board, for a term to expire June 30, 2012
- Denise Barberet, Hampshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2010
- Kathleen Anderson, Human Rights Commission, for a term to expire, June 30, 2012
- Harry Oldham Brooks, Registrar of Voters, for a term to expire June 30, 2012

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Hayden,) to approve the following Town Manager appointments:

- Maria Bulzacchelli, Board of Health, for a term to expire June 30, 2012
- Richard Roznoy, Planning Board, for a term to expire June 30, 2012

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town Manager reported on the following:

- That three internal candidates were interviewed today by the Police Chief search committee
- That his hip surgery is planned for July 13th, and is expected to require two weeks of part-time work from home before returning to the office
- That the PVTA funding increased with the Governor's budget; with the ridership goals nearly met and the potential for forward funding of the Regional Transit Authorities, having PVTA take over Route 32 is a possibility
- That much effort has been directed toward maintaining Amherst's AMTRAK stop, including meeting with PVPC Director Tim Brennan,, joining the Technical Advisory Committee working on the Executive Office of Transportation grant; meeting with folks in Palmer, MA and Storrs, CT, to advocate for "Knowledge Corridor" service, and pushing for a study on east-west service through Palmer; the effort is showing some progress, but is not expected to change the focus of the \$30 million grant application, due August 27
- That he met with representatives from the health department and the Farmers Market to work on better communication regarding health code requirements and enforcement
- That much gratitude and appreciation was owed to staff in the Town Clerk's office, the Town Manager's office and other departments for all their work to ensure a successful Town Meeting
- That there had been a HazMat response at a home where old pesticides and fertilizers had gotten mixed together in a shed, causing fumes; no injuries were reported and arrangements are being made for the property owner to dispose of the materials (will be at the property owner's expense – not the Town's expense)

No action taken.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Special Liquor License

VOTED: 4 in favor, 1 absent (Hayden,) to approve the Special Wine & Malt License for R & P Liquors for August 8, 2009 from 4:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. at the Eric Carle Museum for a retirement party.

New Taxi Driver/Chauffer License – Gary Allard

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Hayden,) to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffer License for Gary Allard, 31 Clayton Drive, West Springfield, MA 01089.

ADJOURNMENT

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

-- Respectfully submitted by Stephanie O'Keeffe

Approved at the November 23, 2009 Select Board Meeting