

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Present: Alisa Brewer, Aaron Hayden, Diana Stein, Jim Wald, Stephanie O’Keeffe

Absent: None

Town Manager Larry Shaffer

Town Staff: Bonnie Isman, Library Director, David Burgess, Principal Assessor, Sandra Burgess, Town Clerk

Members of the Public: Jim Oldham, Carol Gray, Bill Elsasser, Walter Chudzik – WMECO, Allan Carpenter, Larry Jutres – Atkins,

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Oldham and Carol Gray advocated for the reappointment of Denise Barberet to the Planning Board; Ms. Gray also asked about use of civilian flaggers; Bill Elsasser spoke about inclusiveness as it relates to sheltering the homeless.

SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

Library Community Survey for Five Year Plan

Ms. Gray and Bonnie Isman encouraged the Select Board and the public to fill out a survey on the Library's web site (hard copies available at the Library, and soon to be available at other Town buildings) to help inform its Five Year Plan.

Committee Appointments/Reappointments

VOTED unanimously to approve the following committee reappointments:

Mary Streeter to the Community Preservation Act Committee, as an at-large member; and Jacquelyn Smith-Crooks and Flo Stern to the Personnel Board for terms to expire June 30, 2013

VOTED unanimously to approve the following committee reappointments:

Ruth Hazzard and Jaime Tidlund to the Agricultural Commission, for terms to expire June 30, 2013

VOTED unanimously to approve the following committee appointments:

Donna Hebert and Ruth Rootberg to the Amherst Cultural Council, for terms to expire June 30, 2013

VOTED 4-0, 1 abstention (O’Keeffe) to approve the following Town Manager committee reappointments:

Jonathan Shefftz, Jonathan O’Keeffe and David Webber to the Planning Board, for terms to expire June 30, 2013; and Steve Dunn and John Tobiason, to the Water Supply Protection Committee, for terms to expire June 30, 2013

Sign Atkins TIF – Tax Increment Financing Approval

David Burgess and Larry Jutres explained the need for the Select Board to sign the Atkins TIF, as approved by Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to approve and sign the Special Tax Assessment Agreement between the Town of Amherst and Atkins Frutibowl Inc., and Orchard Run Associates, consistent with adopted Article 3 and Article 4 of the Special Town Meeting of July 27, 2009.

Committee on Homelessness Report

Ms. Simula reviewed and expanded upon the Committee's report, as provided in hard copy in the Select Board packets. It was agreed that Ms. Brewer would convene a small group to include herself, Ms. O'Keeffe, a couple of members of Committee on Homelessness, and others to resolve issues of different expectations between the Town and the Committee regarding next winter's shelter plans, differences evidenced by the Committee's report.

Open Meeting Law Update

Sandra Burgess gave overview of new Open Meeting Law, to go into effect July 1st, rather than being delayed until fall, as had been expected. She explained the changes and how Town staff will be involved in their implementation, making the key point that the legislation is new and its interpretation will evolve. It was agreed that questions about the new Open Meeting Law should be sent to the State, not to the Town Clerk, and that those letters or e-mails should copy our local legislators.

Summer Project Plans

It was agreed:

- To proceed with the proposed timeline for the **Town Manager Evaluation and Goals Process** as presented (per document "Proposed Timeline for Town Manager FY10 Evaluation & FY11 Goal Setting -- SO'K 6/28/10) and to revise it as necessary going forward
- That Mr. Wald would head up the process for determining and managing the Select Board's next steps for creating a **Master Plan Implementation Committee**
- That Ms. Stein will head up the **Safe Routes to School** project, on behalf of the Select Board
- That all Select Board members need to read and suggest edits and updates for the **Committee Handbook**, and that the suggestions should go to Ms. Stein and Ms. Brewer.

FY11 Master Calendar

Ms. O'Keeffe discussed the FY11 Select Board Master Calendar provided in the packet; it is an overview of expected and annual Select Board issues, and it can be updated as necessary. This is provided as a general reference for Select Board members.

Design Process for Town Flag

Ms. Stein reviewed the proposed Flag Design Process, per the document provided. The Select Board supported the proposal, and Ms. Stein will see that the information gets on the Town web site.

VOTED unanimously to approve the proposed Flag Design Process, per the document: Possible Policy for Selecting a Flag for Amherst

Approve Minutes

VOTED 3-0, 2 abstentions (Hayden, Wald) to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2010 Select Board meeting

Set 2010 Fall Town Meeting Dates

VOTED 4-1 (Stein) to approve the following dates for Fall 2010 Town Meeting: 11/8, 11/10, 11/15, 11/17, 11/22 and 11/29

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

VOTED unanimously to approve the following motion: That the Select Board has reviewed the Bureau of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program in the amount \$10,190 for the 2010/2011 program, and affirms its endorsement of said grant, as outlined in the June 18, 2010 Chief Livingstone memo.

Member Reports

- **BCG Update:** Ms. O’Keeffe discussed Summary Points from 6/24 BCG meeting; did not go into detail due to late hour, but stressed that all are expected to read them, and if there's any feedback, it will be brought back to BCG at its September meeting
- **Energy Task Force:** Ms. Stein reported that they are updating the Climate Action Plan
- **Zoning Subcommittee:** Ms. Stein reported that they had held a Zoning Forum to help prioritize which zoning amendments to pursue for Fall Town Meeting
- **Board of Health:** Ms. Stein reported that June 1st is when the new workplace and public smoking regulations took effect; she said they are hard to find on the Town web site, but can be Googled
- **Agricultural Commission:** Ms. Stein reported that they had created a work plan for the year, to include holding two workshops for farmers, and working to increase local farm education in the schools and increase the use of local products in school lunch programs
- **Personnel Board:** Ms. Stein reported that they are revising the Personnel Handbook
- **MMA Conference in Sturbridge:** Ms. Stein, Ms. Brewer and Mr. Wald went, and reported on interesting seminars, including one on budgeting by John Musante which was well-received by attendees
- **Historical Commission:** Mr. Wald reported that they are carrying out restoration and preservation projects as approved for CPA funds at various Town Meetings
- **Local Historic District Study Committee:** Mr. Wald reported that they held a well-attended and well-received public meeting in the proposed district; aiming to have a proposal for Spring 2011 Town Meeting
- **Committee on Homelessness:** Ms. Brewer referenced the work of the committee as presented earlier in the COH report
- **School Regionalization Subcommittee:** Ms. Brewer distributed hard copies of the report to be presented at the 6/29 Four Towns meeting, and said that recommendations call for consideration of region/regionalization issues to continue
- **Campus and Community Coalition:** Ms. O’Keeffe reported on: CCC Retail partners subcommittee considering a proposal for doing local compliance checks re: bars and stores carding appropriately; the University's planned outreach efforts to off-campus students to address behavioral expectations; plans for CCC to host a neighborhood forum in September with representatives from stakeholder groups; UMass efforts to educate students about local bylaws; and that the Municipal Strategies Subcommittee may offer comment on revisions to the Code of Student Conduct, relative to off-campus behavior
- **Conservation Commission:** Ms. O’Keeffe reported that they are beginning a process to create land use policies for Town-owned conservation land
- **Council on Aging:** Ms. O’Keeffe reported that they are looking at how the 501c3 Friends group can most effectively assist the Senior Center's declining support from taxation; and that they completed a big survey of Amherst seniors which will be presented to the SB on July 26

- **Puffers Pond 20/20:** Mr. Hayden said the committee had completed its study, presented its recommendations to the Conservation Commission, and that its work is complete

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Shaffer reported on the following:

- Rail Summit in Palmer -- well-received, hope to bring parties together again soon for meeting and update in Connecticut
- Gateway: ARA is moving the project forward; Mr. Shaffer advocated for it at Zoning Subcommittee's Zoning Forum
- Kendrick Park: design proposals submitted, firms being interviewed; determination of Gateway plans important for park plans; process and timeline are flexible enough to account for that
- Regional Dispatch: big meeting of interested partner communities 6/29 to determine next steps
- Employee Survey: a survey tool has been created using authenticated questions from a professional Internet survey company; currently being reviewed by department heads before it is deployed; potential for other surveys through this contract at no additional cost
- Elected Chair of PVRTA advisory board for one-year term

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. O'Keeffe reported on the following:

- on a recent meeting with Ellen Story, reps from the colleges, University, Chamber, Town and others to update each other on development projects; feedback from that meeting will help inform a recommendation in July to the Select Board about how best to proceed with the multiple Town projects in the queue, given available time and resources
- meeting with Tony Maroulis on the state of Town-Business relations: things are good, inspections and permitting improvements appreciated, fire inspections still a concern; discussing potential collaboration in areas of mutual interest between Town and Chamber, such as outreach to students; floated idea of Town tax work-off volunteer staffing the yellow Chamber info booth on the Common
- meeting with Judith and Debbie to discuss communication and work flow needs; asked that all questions and requests be copied to both of them to aid in process of cross-training both across all areas of SB support needs; agreed to try to move deadline for packet materials from 9:00 a.m. Fridays to 3:00 p.m. Thursdays, but new OML may require additional time changes
- Suggested that any SB members available for the July Fourth Parade coordinate with Alisa, who will coordinate with Kevin Joy: Aaron is interested; Diana, Jim and Stephanie are not available

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Pole Hearing - WMECO

Public Hearing opened: 6:50 p.m. Public Hearing closed: (continued to 7/12/10 @ 7:00 p.m.)

Walter Chudzik from WMECO explained the request to relocate poles, related to the reconstruction of the Governors Drive intersection. Allan Carpenter is an abutter from 40 Farview Way, and said a plan to put these wires underground had been approved some months ago by the Select Board. Mr. Chudzik said that plan was too expensive. It was determined that more information was needed from WMECO about the reason for the plan change, as well as information about the impacts of approving or rejecting the different plans.

VOTED unanimously to continue the public hearing to 7:00 p.m. on July 12, 2010.

Common Victualler License – Amherst Cinema Arts Center

VOTED unanimously to approve the new Common Victualler license for the Amherst Cinema Arts Center, Inc., 28 Amity Street, Amherst MA. Manager: Carol Johnson.

Common Victualler License – Amherst Creperie

VOTED unanimously to approve the new Common Victualler license for the Amherst Creperie, 19 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA. Manager: Greg Varypatakis.

Secondhand Sales License – Goodwill Industries of the Pioneer Valley, Inc.

VOTED unanimously to approve the Secondhand Sales License – Goodwill Industries of the Pioneer Valley, Inc., 183 University Drive, Amherst, MA. Owner: Steven Mundahl, President.

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Owen Hooks Davis

VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Owen Hooks Davis, 101 Vernon Street, Northampton, MA.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 p.m.

-- Respectfully submitted by Stephanie O'Keeffe