

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

Stephanie O'Keeffe (Chair), Aaron Hayden (Clerk pro-tem), Alisa Brewer, Diana Stein, Jim Wald, John Musante (Town Manager)

Others presenting: Vincent O'Connor, Sonia Aldrich (Town Comptroller), Ruth Hooke, Jonathan Tucker (Town Planning Director)

**CALL TO ORDER**

**TIME SCHEDULED ITEMS**

6:30 Public Comment

Vincent O'Connor (precinct 10 Town Meeting member and formerly on the Public Work Committee) was informed this afternoon that Sandhill Road will not get a "smoothing out coat" though he recalled the intention was to put an 1 1/2" coat down. He felt the SB may not understand what is going on with the Sand Hill Road drainage installed from Puffer's Circle to Pine St but not northward – the road has been reconstructed but the northern part of the road will not be touched, simply paved over. Last time it was simply paved; it failed quickly. He claimed many roads are in trouble because the director of Public Works does not like to work on roads that require permits from Conservation Commission. So we will get a resurfacing with no drainage and the road will simply break up in 4 to 6 years and the neighbors will have to live with the bad road until the permits for drainage are granted.

John Musante acknowledged that permits were not sought for the northern portion of the road because of the complexity of that project.

**Special All Alcohol License – Kanegasaki Sister City Committee**

Ms. Stein moved to approve the Special All Alcohol Liquor License for the Kanegasaki Sister City Committee for Sunday, November 7, 2010 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM at the Lewis Sebring Room, Amherst College, for a reception.

Mr. Hayden seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Special All Alcohol License – University of Massachusetts**

Ms. Stein moved to approve the Special All Alcohol Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts for Monday, November 8, 2010 from 6:30 – 10:00 PM at the Fine Arts Center Lobby for a reception.

Mr. Hayden seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Special All Alcohol License – University of Massachusetts**

Ms. Stein moved to approve the Special All Alcohol Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts for Friday, November 12, 2010 from 6:30 – 10:00 PM at the Fine Arts Center Lobby for a reception.

Mr. Hayden seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur Licenses**  
**Warren Carey – Green Transportation**

Ms. Stein moved to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Warren Carey, 114 Blue Meadow Road, Belchertown, MA.

Mr. Hayden seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Christopher Gray – Green Transportation**

Ms. Stein moved to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Christopher Gray, 514 East State Street #2, Granby, MA.

Mr. Hayden seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY11 Budget Update:** Sonia Aldrich presented (the October 29<sup>th</sup> memo from Comptroller with details is on file). We are through 25% of the fiscal year and receipts and expenditures are close to expected, some higher, some lower.

**Chair's Report** to start:

Select Board competed at the AEF trivia bee last Thursday with appreciation to Kuhn Riddle Architects for sponsoring the team.

Ellen Story has been holding much appreciated stakeholder meetings on economic development in the area and she noted the extreme positive engagement with the University at these meetings. Deputy Chancellor Tom Daikon attended the North Amherst meeting held by the Police Department to discuss the recent break-ins. He also rode along with APD last weekend and he will be at Town Meeting, a tremendous way to get to know our community. Also Ms. O'Keefe met Lisa Kuhn the Public Affairs director at UMass who is reaching out to citizens to get a sense of what their issues are.

**Voting Select Board Positions on Fall Town Meeting Warrant Articles**

**Article 14 – Petition – Bring War Dollars Home:** Ms. Hooke presented: She mentioned specifically the cost to Amherst and the opportunities lost because of the funds going to war not the schools etc. and that Northampton passed a similar bill.

Diana Stein noted the shocking amount of waste these funds represent.

Aaron Hayden felt the issue was important for Town Meeting to debate but not the Select Board.

Stephanie O'Keefe agreed, she noted that it is beyond the realm of the Select Board's work.

Diana Stein felt there would be more force if Select Board voted to support it.

Jim Wald moved that the Select Board take no position on the article. Alisa Brewer seconded and the motion passed 4-1 (Stein nay)

**Article 8 – Zoning Amendment – Development Modification:** Mr. O’Keeffe presented:

He was excited to be bringing it forward since it takes the first broad steps to implementing the master plan.

He described the Phased Growth Bylaw that it will succeed and the individual sections and the points each assigns toward awarding extra units to a development.

Aaron Hayden noted that the awarded points are familiar to anyone who understands the Master Plan and the zoning bylaw and that those points reflect Town’s wishes as expressed in Master Plan. The article is not much complicated but has many separate parts: people executing these sort of projects can follow the bylaw and generate a project that reflects the Town’s desires.

Jim Wald noted that other committees and boards are consulted by Planning Board as they determined the number of points to award for various beneficial aspects of a project.

Alisa Brewer wanted to see Main Street projects run through the new bylaw point system.

Jim Wald noted that people understand the principle of in-fill but not how to do it so more explanation of how this article works would be helpful.

John Musante lent enthusiastic support to the article as an example of Amherst at its best and as a manifestation of the goals of the Master Plan. He congratulated the Zoning Subcommittee for translating the Master Plan into an actionable form and noted that as time will go on the rules will be tweaked - Perfection is the enemy of the good, this proposal may not be perfect but it is very good.

Jim Wald welcomed the affordable housing which is at the top of the list especially with housing under siege after this election. This article takes a step to get it where we want.

Jonathan O’Keeffe noted the Select Board packet has examples and materials to help understand the proposal. He put a lot of information out there and asked that we please look at it.

Ms. Stein moved to recommend to Town Meeting Article 8 – Zoning Amendment of Development Modification.

Stephanie O’Keeffe feels that this is a way to keep the Master Plan from simply being put in a binder and left to collect dust.

Mr. Hayden seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Article 9 – Zoning Amendment – Accessory Livestock or Poultry:** Mr. O’Keeffe presented and described the existing by-laws that regulate livestock in town. This by-law implements the national trend for raising small livestock at home as part of the local economy. The proposal carefully regulates the number of low impact livestock one can keep in a residential neighborhood. The Planning Board heard from proponents that it should have little impact on a neighborhood because of loose animals and waste management. The Health Dept also reported that properly managed livestock will have little impact on a neighborhood and that the problem is what to do about those that are not well managed. The Planning Board would like to work out better regulations that would limit impact to neighborhoods.

Ms. Stein moved to recommend to Town Meeting to refer back to Planning Board Article 9 – Zoning Amendment – Accessory Livestock or Poultry.

Mr. Hayden seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Article 10 – Zoning Amendment – Farm stands & Farmland: Mr. O’Keeffe presented this technical proposal: State law changed adding a new category of protected agricultural use on farms less the 5 acres in size. Since our bylaw references State bylaw it needs to be updated as well.

Alisa Brewer asked if Agriculture Committee approved.

Jonathan Tucker replied they know of the article and did not take an explicit decision on it.

Ms. Stein moved to recommend to Town Meeting Article 10 – Zoning Amendment – Farm stands & Farmland.

Mr. Hayden seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Article 11 – Zoning Amendment – Medical Use Definitions:** Mr. O’Keeffe presented this technical fix which better defines categories of medical practices that were part of a by-law change last year. It closes a gap between individual medical offices and medical group practice. Also makes explicit that a medical group practice will provide service in one area of medicine. And the medical center definition needed to change to use the new definitions and be clearer.

Ms. Stein moved to recommend to Town Meeting Article 11 – Zoning Amendment – Medical Use Definitions.

Mr. Hayden seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Member Reports**

Flag Design Contest: Ms. Stein presented a brief history of the contest and recommended that all 8 entries be posted on the web to allow the Town to vote for the top 6 to send to the Design Review Board and Historical Commission. People will vote starting Oct 30<sup>th</sup> and can vote for 2 weeks.

**Finalize Select Board Budget Policy Guidelines.** Guidelines will be presented to the Town Manager on Wednesday after the Statewide vote on propositions 1 and 3. (If they pass we may have to redraft the policies.)

Diana Stein moved to adopt the updated budgetary guidelines as presented in the document of Oct 29.

Mr. Hayden seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Town Manager’s Report**

- The Winter Shelter will open two weeks late, Nov 15<sup>th</sup>. This shelter has enhancements from last year including provisions for sleeping which require improvements to the First Baptist Church building including adding sprinklers and getting the approvals a revised sprinkler system requires.

## SELECT BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 1, 2010 – 6:30 p.m.

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- The delay will help allow the sprinkler work to be done. We chose to open late rather than get a 35 day temporary certificate of occupancy now to minimize the possibility of having to close the center in the middle of December if there were further unforeseen delays. Milestone Ministries is actively recruiting and making preparations for the opening on Nov 15<sup>th</sup>. Because this year's operation includes sleeping and other amenities there are much higher requirements by the State and everyone is working very hard to get it open with all the requirements met.
- PVRTA Advisory Board: Mr. Musante was appointed as Amherst's representative and he has gone to his first meeting during which they appointed a new chair, Northampton's Mayor Claire Higgins. It is important to have a chair from the northern part of the district as we make our case for continued improvement of the public transportation system - There are more than a million riders from Amherst.
- Sunderland Road Sidewalk Recommendation: The Select Board received a letter from the Survival Center requesting approval for a sidewalk to their new facility from the center of North Amherst. We need to consider the process to go through when we receive a request like this. We have a backlog of road and walk repair and construction and need to fit this into that list. DPW should look into feasibility and cost.

Stephanie O'Keeffe noted that in a vacuum we have no idea what the DPW priorities might be and should get their advice.

- Center for New Americans at Bangs Center helps recent immigrants acquire the skills to be independent in US. There is a conceptual agreement to find space for them at the top floor of the Bangs Center for admin space and classrooms. It is a good fit with human services suite at the Bangs center, Big brothers and sisters, LSSE and other programs. Finalizing the agreement will realize some rental income to help maintain the Bangs Center.

Diana Stein wondered where they get the money.

John Musante was not sure but it seems there will be several sources.

- Recent & Upcoming Activity: Mr. Musante attended SAFE Graduation. He also judged Trivia Bee which raised over \$8,000 in support of the Public Schools.
- Mr. Musante will have more staff meetings to meet with every Town employee in the first few weeks of becoming Town Manager. He is meeting with ARA which has an RFP going through the gauntlet to be sure it is OK. He met with the Finance Committee to take the current budget and use it to make the future budget. During the day he is working to take the budget guidelines and create the Town Manager's budget for January.
- The community is invited to tour the Hawthorne property (the property purchased by CPA for developing affordable housing and playing fields) on November 6<sup>th</sup> starting at Wildwood parking lot and going from 9am to 11. On Nov 9<sup>th</sup> there will be a public forum at 7pm to discuss plans. Purchasing the property has been a multi-year effort to define uses and raise the funds to implement them – we will look back and see this was a good thing.

Alisa Brewer asked about the site visit schedule in light of the Select Boards current discussions of scheduling policy. There is never a good time for everyone; this schedule was set up to make it available for the largest number of people.

Diana Stein wondered how is the search is going to find a new Senior Administrative Assistant and new Finance Director. John Musante said that applications are trickling in, the deadline is Nov 27<sup>th</sup> or later as needed to get the best person – we are just beginning to get applications. He would like to make an offer at the end of November.

**Member Reports**

- Mr. Hayden gave an update on the plans for the Mayor of Kanegasaki's visit next week.
- Alisa Brewer announced that the CDBG hearing on applications is tonight, \$200,000 is available for social services and there are \$362,000 in social service proposals and \$1.3m in proposals for non-services – an unenviable task to select which to recommend for funding. The final decision on which to forward to the State will be worked out at the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and public hearing. Committee on Homelessness got proposals in with help of the Staff (during the crunch time of getting the shelter opened).
- Diana Stein attended a meeting on Health Care with State rep Ellen Story and representatives from various organizations that dealt with people getting health care during the recession - A decrease in numbers of cancer patients may be attributed to people not seeking early help because of the cost.

**Chair's Report continued.** Ms. O'Keeffe attended the SAFE fire safety course graduation of 4<sup>th</sup> graders, the State Fire Marshal mentioned that our program is the best in the State for 3 reasons; our program was the first to seek feedback on how well information was being learned, the instructors are committed to teaching their successors, teachers are committed to the program and are helping the fire fighter instructors be better teachers. The Daffodils planted for the 250<sup>th</sup> will come up again soon. There is an effort to plant 2100 new bulbs and 5 new trees that has many collaborators. It is a wonderful effort and we really appreciate Mr. Mooring and his crew for their care of the daffodils.

**Executive Session**

Stephanie O'Keeffe moved to convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing reviewing executive session meetings.

Alisa Brewer seconded

Roll call vote:

Brewer; Aye

Hayden; Aye

O'Keeffe; Aye

Stein; Aye

Wald; Aye

**CALENDAR PREVIEW**

11/2: Election Day – Ballot Questions on State Sales Tax Rollbacks

11/7: Dinner Event with Mayor of Kanegasaki, Japan

**11/8 SB Mtg** and First Night of Fall Town Meeting (Other Potential TM Dates: 11/10, 11/15, 11/17, 11/22 and 11/29)

**11/10 SB Mtg – 6:00 p.m.** Public Hearing for New All-Alcohol License – Clearwater Restaurant

**Other 2010 Select Board Meetings:** 11/22, 12/6, 12/20 (SB will only meet 11/15 and 11/29 if TM is in session.)

Respectfully submitted;

Aaron Hayden