

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Select Board Members: Alisa Brewer, Aaron Hayden, Stephanie O'Keeffe, Diana Stein and Jim Wald
Town Manager: John Musante; Finance Director Sandy Pooler and Comptroller Sonia Aldrich
Others: Walter Wolnik; Katherine Dorfman; Louis Greenbaum; Robert Hegner; Steven Cecil; Terry Rooney; Danya Teitelbaum; John DeVillars and Eric Graber-Lopez.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. O'Keeffe at 6:32 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Walter Wolnik spoke about CATV's existing capability and contractual obligations regarding live broadcasts in locations outside of Town Room. Mr. Wolnik stated the IT Director had indicated next locations to be wired were the Town Hall 1st floor meeting room, Bangs Center Large Activity Room and Amherst Police Station Community Room. Mr. Wolnick also reported a "road box" was needed and questioned if capital funds were available for some or all of the work.

Resident Katherine Dorfman, 164 Wildflower Drive, cited concerns in regard to Article 24 - Term of Lease for the Old Landfill. Ms. Dorfman cited her opinion that in the rush to go green the Town is overlooking environmental concerns. Ms. Dorman also stated that in her opinion it was reckless to rush into such an enormous industrial project.

Louis Greenbaum declared his opposition to a bus stop/shelter and the requisite land taking planned in the area of 742 Main Street in front of the Jewish Community Center in conjunction with Article 7 - Main Street Reconstruction Rights of Way and Easements. Mr. Greenbaum cited historical character in addition to his conviction that the intersection was wide enough without the addition of a bus pull off.

Robert Hegner requested the Select Board consider tabling or revising Article 24 - Term of Lease for the Old Landfill to address some residents' concerns with the condition of the landfill cap.

KENDRICK PARK PRESENTATION

Peggy Roberts, Chair of the Kendrick Park Design Committee introduced Steven Cecil of The Cecil Group. A presentation for the recommended design concept for Kendrick Park was provided. The proposal was positively received by the Select Board, who cited appreciation for the work of the committee and the public's input. Terry Rooney, Chair of the Public Art Commission, cited the potential for inclusion of public art in the form of a fountain to represent Tan Brook. Danya Teitelbaum of Ware questioned whether the design had capacity for a farmers market. Mr. Cecil indicated the space could accommodate 17 to 25 vendors ideally, however parking and other criteria make the site ideal as an additional farmers' market rather than the primary. The Committee reported intent for a formal recommendation to the Town Manager to include a timeline, followed by a plan for funding.

FY 11 – 3RD QUARTER BUDGET UPDATE

Comptroller Sonia Aldrich and Finance Director Sandy Pooler reviewed year-to-date revenue and expenditures reports thru March 31, 2011, the end of the third quarter of FY 11.

FY 12 WATER AND SEWER RATES

VOTED unanimously, acting as the Sewer Commission, as prescribed by the Amherst Town Government Act, to increase the sewer rate from \$3.25/100 cubic foot, to \$3.35/100 cubic foot, effective July 1, 2011.

It was noted the water rate required no vote, as the rate remains unchanged for the second year in a row.

WARRANT ARTICLES MAY 2, 2011 TOWN MEETING

ARTICLE 20 – COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 20, Part A - Annual Appropriations from Estimated Receipts; Diana Stein assigned to speak on behalf of Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 20, Part B – Budget Reserve; Diana Stein assigned to speak on behalf of Select Board at Annual Town Meeting

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 20, Part C - for acquisition of the Stosz Property; Diana Stein assigned to speak on behalf of Select Board at Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 21 – TRANSFER OF LAND AT WENTWORTH FARM

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 21 - Transfer of Land at Wentworth Farm; Alisa Brewer assigned to speak on behalf of Select Board at Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 25 – AUTHORIZE WEST STREET LAND ACQUISITION

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 25 - Authorize West Street Land Acquisition; Alisa Brewer assigned to speak on behalf of Select Board at Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 26 – BYLAW AMENDMENT – WETLANDS PROTECTION

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 26 - Bylaw Amendment – Wetlands Protection; Alisa Brewer assigned to speak on behalf of Select Board at Annual Town Meeting

SOLAR PROJECT PRESENTATION – BLUEWAVE CAPITAL

John DeVillars and Eric Graber-Lopez of BlueWave Capital explained the concept for reuse of the old landfill as a site for solar and summarized the expertise their team brings to the project. Audience members expressed concerns after Select Board members and audience questions. Board members agreed allowing the Town Manager to enter into the necessary contracts enables the due diligence process to proceed. If the Town or DEP believes the project represents a health or safety risk at any point, the project won't move forward. There will be formal and informal opportunities through permitting and smaller meetings that will provide further opportunity for residents to share concerns and related engineering and science information.

The Select Board requested that a schedule detailing the process be included on the web site and that Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permit hearings be held locally, if possible.

The Select Board requested discussion for a future agenda include DEP assessment of the state of the cap on the old landfill and, any necessary actions required as a result.

ARTICLE 24 – AUTHORIZE TERM OF LEASE FOR OLD LANDFILL

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 24 – Authorize Term of Lease for Old Landfill; Stephanie O'Keeffe assigned to speak on behalf of Select Board at Annual Town Meeting.

REVIEW TOWN MEETING PLANS AND EXPECTATIONS

The Select Board agreed to schedule a meeting immediately preceding the first six annual town meeting dates, without public comment on the agenda, given the short time frame for business, beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending by 7:20 p.m. Board will reassess meeting dates from that date forward, as needed. It was also agreed to request the office provide one script for the full Town Meeting with updates on individual articles as necessary only. The Board reaffirmed the benefit of recommending the article for all the reasons already stated, unless there is new or Select Board specific information to add.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Gateway Project public meetings and visioning workshops to be held April 28 – 30. The full schedule is on the web site and included in the packet this evening and that all were invited to attend.

The winter shelter will close its doors on a very successful first season April 30 in the morning, meaning the last night of operation will be April 29. Further reports on the season will be available after Town Meeting.

Mr. Musante reported increased collaboration between UMass Police and Administration, Amherst Police and Administration and area landlords discouraging large scale end of semester parties with the emphasis on public safety.

LICENSE - GREEN RIVER AMBROSIA MEADERY

VOTED unanimously to approve a Special License for the sale of wine produced by or for Green River Ambrosia, LLC of 26 Grinnell Street, Greenfield, MA to be sold in sealed containers for off-premise consumption in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138, Section 15F and, provide, without charge, samples of wine to prospective customers at the North Amherst Farmers Market, an outdoor agricultural event certified by the State Department of Agriculture Resources at 81 Sunderland Road, Amherst, MA on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. from May 1, 2011 through November 20, 2011 in sealed containers for off-premise consumption.

MINUTES

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the Select Board's March 21, 2011 meeting, as amended at the meeting.

Board agreed to review proposed updates to Committee Appointment Handbook at pre-town meeting Select Board meetings, if possible.

MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Stein reported Agricultural Commission to hold meeting on May 3 at Bangs Center to discuss options for selling more local food in Amherst.

Ms. Stein indicated Board of Health is involved with discussions with DEP and Public Works regarding the cap on the old landfill, noting all reports thus far are positive, with no indication of public health concerns. Amherst is also part of discussions about how public health services might be shared among Hampshire County towns.

Mr. Hayden reported on success of prior weekend's Sustainability Festival despite rainy weather depressing turnout. High interest in energy conservation options among attendees, while artisan vendors may have had smaller crowds.

Ms. Brewer reported LSSE Commission meeting to be held April 28 to consider recommendations on the Hawthorne Project.

Ms. O'Keeffe reported on the April 27 Conservation Commission meeting to be held to solicit public feedback regarding a draft policy for agricultural use of conservation land.

Ms. O'Keeffe also reported on an interview she had been involved with by UMass journalism students for a video project about last year's bylaw fine increases and neighborhood issues.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. O'Keeffe noted both she and Ms. Stein would appear on WMUA's Focus on May 1 to talk about the Town Meeting warrant. Ms. O'Keeffe also reminded members of the need to finish and approve recent meeting minutes.

Meeting adjourned the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

List of Documents Distributed at the Meeting:

4-25-2011 Final Agenda	Article 25 - West Street property GIS
4-25-2011 Draft Motions	Kendrick Park Schematic Design
3-21-2011 Draft Minutes	Kendrick Park Program
3-08-2011 Press Release Solar Project	Recommendation for Sewer Rate Increase
4-14-2011 Letter re decision to not use Arsenic Soil for Landfill Regrading	Green River Ambrosia Request for Ag License for Farmers Market Sale
4-15-2011 Amherst Bulletin Editorial Landfill Project	Green River Ambrosia Dept of Ag Approval
4-22-2011 Amherst Bulletin Opinion Landfill Project	Green River Ambrosia Police Chief Approval
4-06-11 BlueWave Presentation on Solar Project	Vermont Yankee Resolution
Article 21 Wentworth Farm	The State of Amherst's Old Landfill – submitted by Diana Spurgin of Tanglewood Road

Minutes Prepared by John P. Musante and Debra A. Roussel