

## **MINUTES**

**Select Board Members:** Stephanie O’Keeffe, Diana Stein, Jim Wald, Alisa Brewer and Aaron Hayden.

**Staff:** John P. Musante

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

### **Announcements**

**Western Mass Saves:** Ms. Stein encouraged participation in the program, for green reasons and to help the high school win a photovoltaic panel for the cafeteria: [www.westernmasssaves.com](http://www.westernmasssaves.com)

**Empty Bowls:** Ms. Brewer noted it would be held 3/14 at The Pub, Select Board members and Town Manager will be participating; people are encouraged to buy tickets early because it sells out

**Eva Schiffer's Memorial Service:** Ms. O’Keeffe announced the Memorial will be Sunday, March 27th at 2:00 p.m. at the ARMS auditorium

### **Public Comment**

Mindy Domb and Amy Vickers expressed concerns about the potential for running a sewer line to Pelham (cost, fairness, process, necessity) when the Amherst Woods neighborhood has been requesting sewer service for a long time. Mr. Musante explained that the sewer line is part of a project to upgrade Amherst's water treatment plant in Pelham; it would not result in free sewer service for Pelham residents -- if there are hook-ups to the line, they would need to pay; the work is unrelated to the Sewer Extension Master Plan, due by late summer, which will guide where and when new sewer lines will be added in Amherst; and any Memo of Understanding between Amherst and Pelham would have to come to the Select Board. Ms. O’Keeffe said that discussion and clarification of the issues will continue at Select Board meetings as necessary, through budget discussions and the MOU.

### **New Precinct 1 Polling Location – North Congregational Church**

VOTED unanimously, to return the designated polling place for Precinct 1 from the Immanuel Lutheran Church to the North Congregational Church located at 1199 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA and authorize the Town Clerk’s office to perform notice and posting as required under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 54, Section 24.

### **2011 Redistricting Guidelines**

Agreed, without formal vote, to seek applicants for a Districting Advisory Board, per the info provided by Town Clerk Sandra Burgess. Diana and Alisa will coordinate with Sandra on getting information on to the News section of the Town web site, and how the CAF will be dealt with, to solicit applicants for appointment at the 3/21 Select Board meeting.

### **Right of First Refusal on Request for Removal from Chapter 61 – parcel 3D-21**

VOTED unanimously, consistent with Chapter 61, Section 8, to elect not to exercise its right of first refusal and thus, not purchase the parcel of land located on the eastern side of Flat Hills Road; otherwise known as Parcel 22, formerly a portion of Parcel 21, Amherst Assessors Tax Map# 3D

### **Introduction to Draft “Complete Streets” Proposal**

Agreed, without formal vote to support adoption of a "Complete Streets" policy for the Town, noting that while the draft policy presented by Rob Crowner and Lynn Grabowski is strong and much-appreciated, the Board will await further feedback from staff, other committees, as well as specific feedback from Select Boardmembers, to refine the draft policy before we consider it for formal approval.

### **FY12 Budget**

Questions and comments on the FY12 Budget regarding 2011 as a property assessment re-valuation year and the need for good analysis of and education about how valuations are determined; efforts by the District Attorney's office to coordinate trial scheduling to reduce costs to municipalities for participating officers and tracking of paid time off usage for expense reduction. Such discussions will continue, and the focus March 7 will be on the prioritized additions/restorations proposed by the Town Manager.

### **Gateway Process**

VOTED 4-0-1 absention (Hayden) to to adopt the Gateway Process Support Statement of 2/25/11 provided by Ms. O'Keeffe, amended to read: "The section of North Pleasant Street connecting our downtown and the UMass campus has the potential to be vibrant and attractive. The Select Board enthusiastically supports a strong public process, as proposed by the Amherst Redevelopment Authority, to gather input for shaping what the former “Fraternity Row” parcel will become, and we encourage all to participate. We appreciate the University’s generosity in their willingness to convey the land for our mutual benefit, to enable taxable development on the land, and to give the community the opportunity to help determine the nature of that development. The Gateway Process is a true Town - Gown partnership, and we look forward to its results."

### **Town Manager’s Report**

**January meeting with Mass DOT** re: improving the safety of the Meadow St./116 intersection; new lights and improvements to lanes and sight lines will happen this summer

**Safe Routes to School:** moving forward, Public Works Committee to have a public hearing on 3/1; Mass DOT will hold one 3/24 at Wildwood. Noted good project page on DPW web site, and good communication with Wildwood PGO and others.

**Regional Dispatch:** process is moving forward, more to report on which communities will be part of the MOU soon.

**Bond issue for roads and Hawthorne:** Standard & Poors reaffirmed our AA Stable bond rating; will be seeking bids 3/1; full overview and rating report at 3/7 meeting, when we sign all the paperwork.

**Solar at former landfill:** reviewing RFP submissions, expect to report on next steps at next meeting.

**Lincoln Ave traffic calming:** recent barrier plan scrapped due to feedback; alternatives are under consideration by the PWC and will be addressed at 4/5 public hearing (prompted discussion of enforcement on Lincoln and in general around town; using officers as dedicated to traffic patrol or other single-duty primary responsibilities hasn't been considered optimal resource utilization, but could be considered again in context of whether increased issuance of violations could pay for more officers; other enforcement possibilities include digital speed check devices; question about whether data supports decreased traffic volume with speed tables, due to drivers choosing other routes).

**New Parking Machines:** recommendations forthcoming at 3/7 meeting.

**UMass Master Plan:** met with Nancy Buffone, Todd Diacon and Dennis Swinford for brief overview of concepts to date; they support having Town public safety, public works, and planning staff being actively involved as plans move forward; community meeting 3/1 at Campus Center; will be more, including one to be planned for downtown, though all are welcome at all the meetings.

**New APD hires:** three new officers have been hired and are in the Police Academy presently, to graduate in the summer.

**New HCOG Director:** met and discussed possibility of expanding Amherst's participation in the COG, beyond current participation in power program.

**Farmers Market:** meeting with reps this week to discuss accommodation of the market during the Spring St. lot reconstruction and improvement, planned for this summer.

### **Chair's Report**

#### **Library Trustee Appointment Plan**

Board agreed without formal vote to meet jointly with the Library Trustees at 6:00 p.m. on April 4, 2011 to elect a Trustee to fill the vacancy from resignation of Kathy Wang, and that interested candidates should be asked to submit letters detailing why they are interested in the position, what skills and qualifications they would bring to it, what their vision is for the Library, and how they view the role of a Trustee. Ms. O'Keeffe will convey process to Pat Holland, for consideration at the March 1, 2011 Trustees meeting, with the expectation for plans to either be confirmed or recommended for revision, with the latter being considered at our March 7, 2011 meeting.

#### **Recent Meetings & Events**

Board requested an update on the house break-ins for the March 21 report on neighborhood issues; Ms. O'Keeffe to relay to the Chief

#### **Election Warrant March 29, 2011**

VOTED unanimously to authorize the December 8, 2009 Special Election Warrant.

#### **Posting Draft minutes**

Discussion of posting draft minutes and dealing with non-local proclamation requests to be postponed to next agenda.

#### **New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Janra Roberts – Green Transportation Taxi**

VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Janra Roberts, 105 East Street, Front Apartment, Hadley, MA 01035 with the Green Transportation Taxi Company.

**New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Jeremy Cone – Green Transportation Taxi**

VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Jeremy Cone, 893 West Street, P. O. Box 0677, Amherst, MA 01002 with the Green Transportation Taxi Company.

**Transfer of Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Joel Jean-Claude – Gottago Taxi**

VOTED unanimously to transfer the existing Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Joel Jean-Claude, 738 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01003 from Safari Transit Taxi to Gottago Taxi Company.

**Special All Alcohol Liquor License – Roy Johnson of Hurricane Boosters**

VOTED unanimously to approve the Special All Alcohol Liquor License to Roy Johnson of Hurricane Boosters, 200 Triangle Street, Amherst, MA for Saturday, March 12, 2011 from 6:30 p.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Valentine Hall, Amherst College for a fundraiser to benefit Amherst High School Athletics, AND, for a rain date of March 13, 2011, for the same hours and at the same location, if the original date is cancelled.

**Special Wine & Malt Liquor License – Brenda Ryan-Newton University of MA**

VOTED unanimously to approve the Special Wine & Malt Liquor License for Brenda Ryan-Newton of the University of Massachusetts for March 6, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Herter Gallery – Herter Hall, UMass, Amherst for a reception.

**Committee Appointments**

VOTED unanimously to appoint Roger Webb to the Board of Registrars for a term to expire June 30, 2013.

VOTED unanimously to **confirm the Town Manager’s appointment** of Lauren Dickey to the Recycling and Refuse Management Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2013.

Adjourned 9:59 p.m.

Submitted by Stephanie O’Keeffe, Chair

**Documents Distributed at Meeting**

2011 Precinct Guidelines  
Annual Town Election 2011 revised  
BCG Report  
C41 §11  
Chapter 61 – Cows Parcel 3D-21  
Comment for Code of Student Conduct  
Committee Appoint  
Committee Confirmation  
Committee Handbook Revisions Proposed  
Complete Street Policy Proposed  
Gateway Statement of Support

Growing More Food in Amherst Meeting  
Library Vacancy  
Ltr of Support Streets Proposal  
Motions 02-28-2011 Final  
Press Release New Police Officers  
Rollback Taxes Re c61 Withdrawal  
Reprecincting Booklet  
Sec 3 Committee Handbook Draft Revisions  
Special Liquor Licenses  
Taxi License Applications 02-28-11  
TM Report – Safe Routes to School Wildwood