

MINUTES

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

Staff: John P. Musante

Absent: Aaron Hayden.

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

SELECT BOARD’S ACTION

Annual Street Closure Request for Merry Maple Event

VOTED 4 - 0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce request to close the following streets on Friday December 3, 2010 for the annual Merry Maple event:

- Close the Main Street parking lot in front of Town Hall from 12:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Prohibit parking in the Spring Street parking lot, north side only, from 2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Close Boltwood Avenue, between Spring Street and Main Street, from 12:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Block off part of a lane on North Pleasant Street from the Pub Restaurant to the Town Common to allow for Horse Drawn Carriage rides.

Free Parking Request for Holiday Season

VOTED 4 - 0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce request for free parking throughout the downtown Amherst area at parking meters and in the “Pay-and-Display lots for the annual Greeting Card Day, on Saturday December 4, 2010 in the “Pay and Display” lots, but not the meters, from Saturday, December 11 through Saturday, December 24, 2010.

Ag Commission Chair Ruth Hazzard provided detail to promote the two new Winter Farmers Markets at Swartz Farm on Meadow Street and at the Middle School, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

PSTC Chair Hope Crolius and Tree Warden Alan Snow thanked the many entities who have supported the Town's trees this year, including: Hadley Garden Center, which recently donated 30 trees and some shrubs; individuals who have made contributions to the Public Shade Tree gift fund; the Planning Department, for getting the grant to inventory the species and condition of 60% of the Town's trees; the IT Department, for incorporating that info into the GIS system for public and municipal access; the Town, for appropriating \$10,000 per year for new trees over the last several years; Public Works’ tree crew for planting and tree care; the Alpha Tau Gamma fraternity, for fundraising to keep the Grayson Elm healthy and to purchase and plant new disease-resistant elms; and Artemis Gardens for pruning the locust trees at Bangs Center.

The Board reviewed process and other elements related to the recent Town Meeting. Key points included: Board productivity during a busy time; tremendous work by Select Board/Town Manager’s office staff; great info from Planning Dept regarding zoning articles, noting it was good to have had it made available early; great work by TMCC to inform people via activities like warrant review and posting Town Meeting information online; some frustration over repetitiveness of comments during Town Meeting; lessons from Article 8: nearly successful, will likely get a little more detail-prep and people prep for future; appreciation for acknowledging Massachusetts Teacher of the Year (Amherst's own Dr. Wilma Ortiz), the address by Mayor of Kanegasaki and the passing of Eva Schiffer; engagement by UMass student and SGA rep on Article 14.

Board agreed, without formal vote to support the Community Development Committee's recommendations to the Town Manager per the memos provided for the CDBG application, after receiving a detailed summary of the funding requests and of how recommendations were made from Dave Z, Claude Tellier, Alisa Brewer and John Musante.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Extend Seasonal Liquor License – Amherst Cinema Center

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve the extension of the Amherst Cinema Arts Center's seasonal wine and malt license until January 15, 2011 due to the extenuating circumstances of the delay in granting their license.

Board postponed consideration of Carol Johnson's intention to request an extension to the Cinema's seasonal liquor license annually until more information is available from the State Alcoholic Beverage Commission about the criteria and circumstances under which we have the ability to grant such extensions.

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur Licenses

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for John Ray Johnson, Whately, MA on behalf of GottaGoTaxi.

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Alexander Scott Rae, Amherst, MA on behalf of Celebrity Cab.

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur Licenses – Jasper Fradkin –

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Jasper Fradkin, Northampton, MA on behalf of Tiznit Valley Cab.

Special All Alcohol License – Amherst College

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve the Special All Alcohol Liquor License for Amherst College for December 4, 2010 from 5:00 PM – 11:00 PM at the Lewis Sebring Commons, Valentine Hall, Amherst College, for a private birthday party.

Special All Alcohol License – University of Massachusetts

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve the Special All Alcohol Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts for November 27, 2010 from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM at the Fine Arts Center Atrium, UMass Amherst for a reception.

Committee Appointments

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve the appointment of Amanda Barrow to the Human Rights Commission, for a term to expire on June 30, 2013.

Human Rights Day Proclamation

The Human Rights Day proclamation was read and HRC Co-Chairs Reynolds Winslow and Victoria Oliva talked about the vigil on the Town Common at 5:30 p.m. on December 10th and the community gathering at Town Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to celebrate the occasion.

The Board VOTED 4 - 0, 1 absent (Hayden) to authorize the Human Rights Day Proclamation, proclaiming December 10, 2010 as Human Rights Day.

Town Manager's Report:

Winter Shelter: it is open, and all is well; many thanks to staff, the Committee on Homelessness, Jerry Gates and the First Baptist Church; 10 guests per evening on average so far; no problems to report; shelter must close on 11/22 and 11/30 due to strict State requirements under Temporary Shelter Permit (temp status goes away upon completion and approval of sprinklers and showers); Alisa noted that a fundraiser for the FBC's renovation work on behalf of the shelter will be at the Harp 11/24 at 7:30 p.m.; and that volunteers or those wishing to tour the shelter must make arrangements with Milestone Ministries ahead of time.

Construction on the Spring St. Parking Lot: needs reconstruction, and work will address vehicular and pedestrian safety issues, disability access issues on street, lot and sidewalk areas. Considerable design work with DPW, DAAC, PWC and other Town committees over a couple of years. Want lot to be successful long-term for the Farmers Market, and want to ensure that they are accommodated during 4 - 6 week construction displacement, possibly by moving them to the lot in front of Town Hall for that period; meeting with John Spinetti on 11/23 and larger Farmers Market group in a few weeks to discuss. Town's long-term support for market was noted: approve use of lot every year (no rent charged and sacrifice of parking meter revenues); design plans created for optimal market accommodation.

Kendrick Park Design Process: subset of original committee appointed to new committee to review consultants design plans. Will be public input on designs. Goal to have update to SB in spring and recommendation to TMgr by May.

Finance Committee Guidelines: Recently issued. Call for level-funded budgets, which still require cuts because cost of doing business increases each year. Projections are for a \$2.1 million shortfall to be a worst-case scenario; State tax collections have exceeded projections in last few months, but are expected to flatten out.

Water Notice: Water customers will receive letter explaining recent water issue -- required by Mass DEP

93 Fearing St.: Received letter from Deputy Chancellor Todd Diacon explaining UMass intent to keep property as graduate or faculty rental property; no intention for lighted walkway. Issues of DCAM process continue, but no role for SB in that currently.

Liaison Reports

Personnel Board: Ms. Stein reported that revisions to the Personnel Handbook are nearly done; a summary of changes will be brought to the Select Board when complete

Energy Task Force: Ms. Stein reported that accomplishments under the Climate Action Plan have been drafted and will soon be finalized

Flag Design Contest: Ms. Stein reported that voting continues to end of month and steps will be taken to address problem of plow design having fallen off several submissions

Campus and Community Coalition: Ms. O'Keeffe reported that the full committee talked about the problems with Four Loko; and that the Municipal Strategies subcommittee will be making recommendations on the Code of Student Conduct, currently under review.

BCG: Ms. O'Keeffe reported BCG would meet next week.

HP/FHC: Ms. Brewer reported that there were guests at the last meeting addressing issues related to the Olympia Drive project, which is moving forward.

LSSE Commission: Ms. Brewer reported that they plan to put forth a capital request to re-open the War Memorial Pool.

Chair's Report:

Ms. O’Keeffe reported that she and Mr. Musante attended the Veterans Day Ceremony and will be attending a meeting with ACTV reps about their space situation

Calendar Preview:

Upcoming public hearings were noted: 12/6 -- annual tax classification hearing, and new liquor license applications from Fresh Side and Lumberyard (in old Wunderarts Gallery location); and new liquor license application on 12/20 for Lit (old Taco Villa and Atlantis location).

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 9:03 p.m.

Submitted by Stephanie O’Keeffe

Documents Submitted at Meeting

- 11-22-10 Agenda
- 11-22-10 Motions
- Merry Maple – Street Closing and Holiday Parking
- Ag Commission Report – Winter Farmers Market
- 2011 CDBG Recommended Proposals
- Revised Design Process for Kendrick Park 10-28-10
- FY 12 FC Budget Guidelines
- Amherst Cinema Request for Extension of Seasonal Liquor License
- Recommendation for Extension of Seasonal Liquor License
- Taxi Driver Licenses
- Special Liquor Licenses
- Human Rights Day Proclamation
- Taxi Driver License – Jasper Fradkin