

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

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

Members Absent:

Staff: Acting Town Manager Dave Ziomek

Other: Ray Olson, Robert Barkett, E.J. Barkett, Hwei-Ling Greeney, Andy Steinberg

Meeting called to order by Ms. O’Keeffe at 6:31 p.m.

Public Comment: Ray Olson from North Brookfield introduced himself to the Select Board. Mr. Olsen reported on intent to buy the Bioshelters property, clean it up and resume hydroponics and aquaculture.

SELECT BOARD’S ACTION

Common Victualler License: White Hut

VOTED unanimously to approve a Common Victualler license for White Hut, Inc., 1A Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA 01002, to be open Sunday through Wednesday 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday 11 a.m. – 2 a.m.; Manager Robert Barkett.

FY 13 Budget Policy Guidelines Discussion

Ms. O’Keeffe to incorporate new suggestions and revisions into the draft Budget Policy Guidelines for further revision or possible approval at the October 24 meeting. Membership to consider Hwei-Ling Greeney’s suggestion to restore the Human Services funding line to the budget, further indicating that an article requesting same will be brought forward for Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Greeney also suggested including "human capital" as a restoration if revenue exceeds that which is needed for level services. Ms. O’Keeffe to seek feedback from Town Manager about the issue.

Finance Committee Chair Andy Steinberg, praised the Board’s process and philosophy and emphasized the need to think beyond the next budget year for the future costs of new spending commitments. Mr. Steinberg also spoke about reserve use and why the Town Meeting article to fund the housing study was a justifiable use of free cash.

Article 3: Capital – War Memorial Pool

VOTED unanimously to recommend November 7, 2011 Special Town Meeting Article 3: Capital – War Memorial Pool; Ms. Stein assigned to speak on behalf of Board.

Article 4: Capital – Puffers Pond

VOTED unanimously to recommend November 7, 2011 Special Town Meeting Article 4: Capital – Puffers Pond; Mr. Hayden assigned to speak on behalf of Board.

Article 5: Housing Market Study

VOTED unanimously to recommend November 7, 2011 Special Town Meeting Article 5: Housing Market Study; Mr. Wald assigned to speak on behalf of Board.

Article 9: Watershed Land Purchase – Parcel 1

VOTED unanimously to recommend November 7, 2011 Special Town Meeting Article 9: Watershed Land Purchase – Parcel 1; Mr. Hayden assigned to speak on behalf of Board.

Article 10: Watershed Land Purchase – Parcel 2

VOTED unanimously to recommend November 7, 2011 Special Town Meeting Article 10: Watershed Land Purchase – Parcel 2; Mr. Hayden assigned to speak on behalf of Board.

Board agreed without formal vote that there was no need for formal presentation on Article 18 from Committee on Homelessness prior to voting a position on October 24. Board felt they had spent sufficient number of hours on the issue of dissolving the committee and creating a new structure for dealing with sheltering and housing issues

Special Town Meeting

VOTED unanimously to schedule an additional Special Town Meeting for Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the Amherst Middle School to accommodate the Amherst School Committee's article submission.

Ms. O'Keeffe to contact School Committee Chair Irv Rhodes and Superintendent Geryk to suggest provision of explanatory materials about the warrant article submitted for the 2nd mailing for the Special Town Meeting prior to Monday.

Sheltering/Housing Committee Charge

Board noted satisfaction with the draft Housing and Sheltering Committee Charge as written. Ms. Brewer will circulate as written to the members of the former COH and HP/FHC for final comment. Membership agreed that a new section needs to be added about Committee composition, to include a formerly homeless individual if possible. Ms. O'Keeffe to provide updated charge for the October 24 meeting to include suggested wording with formatting changes, noting expectation to vote at that time.

Open Meeting Law Update:

Ms. Brewer reported that the Ethics Commission is revising the Conflict Of Interest test to have the questions apply to elected and appointed municipal employees, noting comments are being sought; more info is available on the Massachusetts Municipal Association web site.

Ms. Stein spoke with the Attorney General's Office, and they confirmed that the Select Board can set a quorum for a committee and it can be less than "half plus one." The Kanegasaki Sister City Committee's charge, for example, lists membership of 15 and a quorum of 5, and that was considered legitimate by the AGO. Ms. Stein will seek to get this information from them in writing, so the Select Board has it to refer to when questions arise.

Acting Town Manager's Report: Mr. Ziomek reported on the following:

Update: Mr. Musante is doing very well; having meetings with Mr. Ziomek, hoping to be back soon.

Spring St. and Spring St. Lot construction: Good progress occurring, noting lot and street will be open nights and weekends with the hope for final paving to occur the first week of November, as well as completion of the Grace Church sidewalk. New parking machines will be installed there and in the Main Street and Amity Street lots upon completion of paving. Final details for Spring St. lot will be the islands and sidewalks. Meetings with Amherst College scheduled to ensure Spring Street project is on track to coincide with reopening of the Lord Jeffery Inn. Ms. O'Keeffe and Brewer expressed concerns and asked questions about why the parking lot project had taken so long, noting numerous complaints from businesses and downtown parkers. Mr. Ziomek provided assurance of report on findings to the Board.

Sheltering Update: Contract expected to be completed in coming days with aim for November 1 shelter opening.

Personnel Update: Beth Wilson hired as Wetlands Administrator, replacing Stephanie Ciccarello who filled the new Sustainability Coordinator position. Interviews are beginning for new Code Enforcement Officer position, and the process of filling the Building Commissioner's position to begin soon.

CDBG Process: Due to posting issue, hearing was postponed to early November; presentation of recommendations to Town Manager for Select Board's review to follow.

Green Communities Act: Town will apply for designation in early spring; Stephanie Ciccarello is handling, with Facilities Director Ron Bohonowicz providing much assistance.

Fire Department: Open House this weekend was great. Congratulations offered on SAFE program graduation, which is taking place at this time.

Member Reports:

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee: Mr. Hayden reported that the Warrant Review would be October 20 at 7:00 in Town Room.

Recycling & Refuse Mgt Committee: Mr. Hayden reminded all of the October 19 forum on the future of waste in Amherst to be held 7:00 p.m. at the Amherst Media studios.

Public Transportation and Bicycling Committee: Mr. Hayden reported the Committee has been working with Public Works Committee and Public Shade Tree Committee to update Complete Streets proposal; will come back to us soon.

Public Works Committee: Mr. Hayden reported that the Committee is looking to update their charge.

Personnel Board: Ms. Stein reported that the Select Board would receive a list of changes made to the Personnel Manual for consideration and approval at the October 24 meeting.

Joint Capital Planning Committee: Ms. Stein reported that the Committee met and prepared recommendations on the capital articles for Fall Town Meeting.

Kanegasaki Sister City Committee: Ms. Stein indicated the Committee is looking to revise their charge and modernize their approach to the sister city relationship.

Other activities: Ms. Stein noted attendance at the Chamber Dinner, the MMA legislative breakfast, and the Amherst College President's inauguration ceremony, noting Mr. Wald provided wonderful remarks.

CDBG Advisory Committee: Ms. Brewer noted the hearing would likely be postponed to first week of November.

LSSE Commission: Ms. Brewer noted the Commission is meeting November 3 to consider War Memorial Pool article; also meeting November 9 to consider Director's LSSE budget request to Town Manager for FY 13.

Public Art Commission: Mr. Wald indicated the Commission is planning the next biennial and also looking at options for dealing with the Kendrick Park sculpture, which is at the end of its one-year arrangement.

Town Commercial Relations Committee: Mr. Wald reported the Committee reviewed relevant warrant articles tonight and had submitted charge revisions to the Board for future consideration, primarily reducing membership from 11 to 7.

Budget Coordinating Group: Ms. O'Keeffe reported that the first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2011.

Council On Aging: Ms. O’Keeffe reported that she would have to miss the next meeting, because it is scheduled at the same time as BCG.

Amherst Housing Authority: Ms. O’Keeffe reported candidates are being interviewed for the Executive Director position.

Campus and Community Coalition: Ms. O’Keeffe reported the group plans to meet Wednesday, October 19, 2011.

Conservation Commission: Ms. O’Keeffe reported that the Conservation Commission had cancelled their last meeting for lack of quorum and rescheduled for October 26. Mr. Ziomek reported briefly on recent meeting regarding dogs and said that the October 26 agenda is too full to continue that discussion, noting it was to be continued on November 9. Public comment continues to be submitted in writing; however the Commission will not allow further public comment at the November 9 meeting, only deliberating among themselves on the issue.

Chair's Report:

Ms. O’Keeffe reported ongoing conversations with University officials about off-campus student behavior and accountability; reviewing a process for enforcing the Code of Student Conduct off campus.

Ms. O’Keeffe will be presenting information on two warrant articles at the October 20 TMCC Warrant Review and providing remarks at the October 21 Chamber Breakfast.

Reminder provided for scheduled Coffee Hour with UMass student leaders and administrators next Monday.

It was recommended Board members read the Amherst Business Improvement District (BID) materials available in the online packet in advance of receiving the web packet.

CDBG Advisory Committee Charge

VOTED unanimously to approve the revised charge for the CDBG Advisory Committee, as amended. Ms. O’Keeffe to prepare the amended charge and send to the office for distribution to CDBG Advisory Committee members, Ms. Brewer and staff person Nate Malloy and for appropriate postings on the Town web site.

Future of Cooley Dickinson Hospital Resolution

VOTED unanimously to call on the administrators and board members of Cooley Dickinson Hospital to keep the public informed about the criteria they will use to ensure the future health and welfare of our community hospital.

Board requested copies of the resolution be sent to CDH President & CEO Craig Melin, Congressman John Olver, Senator Stan Rosenberg and Representative Ellen Story.

Taxi Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffer License for Courtney Whitely, Amherst, MA on behalf of Ziqui Taxi Company.

VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffer License for Eric Ellis, South Hadley, MA on behalf of Celebrity Cab Company.

Committee Appointments

VOTED unanimously to appoint Joan Temkin, Amherst, MA to the Amherst Cultural Council for a three year term, whose term shall begin as of the date of appointment October 18, 2011 and expire June 30, 2014.

Board requested Acting Town Manager determine status of draft audit of Town buildings.

Board also requested more information on pricing scenarios related to sewer expansion for the next meeting.

Reminder for review of revised charge for TCRC at future meeting.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra A. Roussel, Assistant to the Town Manager

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting

10-18-2011 Draft Motions Revised
White Hut Common Vic Application
FY 13 Budget Guidelines
Assignment Sheet for Special Town Meeting
Watershed Land Pelham
PARC Application War Memorial Pool
War Memorial Pool Timeline
PARC Application – Puffers Pond
Gateway Project – next steps
Watershed Land Shutesbury
Proposed Sheltering Housing Committee Charge
School Committee Request for Article
Calendar – Northampton invite 10/19/11
CDBG Advisory Committee Charge
Cooley Dickenson Hospital Proclamation 2
Taxi Driver Applications Eric Ellis and Courtney Whitely
Appointment to Amherst Cultural Council – Temkin
Warrant Special Town Meeting