

Minutes

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

Staff: Assistant Town Manager John P. Musante; DPW Superintendent Guilford Mooring; Conservation Director Dave Ziomek and LSSE Director Linda Chalfant

Absent: Town Manager Larry Shaffer

Other participants: Jim Oldham, Barbara Ford, Mary Streeter, and Sarah McKee

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

Public Comment

Jim Oldham, Barbara Ford, Mary Streeter and Sarah McKee advocated for Denise Barberet's reappointment to the Planning Board.

Parking Reservation Request – Stavros Center for Independent Living – July 24, 2010

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of 34 metered parking spaces, including 21 metered parking spaces on the West side of Boltwood Avenue from Spring Street to College Street and 13 parking spaces along the East side of South Pleasant Street from Spring Street to College Street on Saturday, July 24, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. to support vendors and handicapped attendees to the event sponsored by the Stavros Center for Independent Living, celebrating the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disability Act.

Closure of Blue Hills Road for Block Party

VOTED unanimously to approve the closure of Blue Hills Road on Saturday July 24, 2010 from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, July 25, 2010 from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. to celebrate the 9th annual neighborhood event.

Pole Hearing – WMECO

Public hearing to re-open the continued public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Email from WMECo withdrawing request to move poles was read into the record.

Closed public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

VOTED unanimously to accept the request from WMECO dated July 6, 2010 to withdraw its request to move poles on Farview Street in Amherst, MA.

The Board requested that WMECO pole activity on Farview be followed up on, that both Christine Gray-Mullen and Allan Carpenter be informed of the findings, and that the Select Board receives an update at the July 26, 2010 meeting.

Approval of the execution and acceptance of the Hawthorne Property

The Select Board VOTED unanimously, under article 17B of the May 3, 2010 Annual Town Meeting, to accept the deed from Rhoda A. Hawthorne for property located at 235 East Pleasant Street, Amherst for open space, recreation and/or community housing purposes.

The Board endorsed the deed and presented to Conservation Director David Ziomek for filing.

Approve Traffic Signal for Eastman Lane/East Pleasant Street

VOTED unanimously to approve the installation of a fully automated traffic signal with a pedestrian crossing cycle at the intersection at Eastman Lane and East Pleasant Street, based on the recommendation submitted by Mr. Mooring in a memo dated July 8, 2010.

Board requested a breakdown of the costs and funding sources for Part 1 of the Spring Street reconstruction from Mr. Mooring.

Agreed without formal vote to have Guilford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works head up the process regarding Safe Routes to School, coordinating the process between the Town, the Schools and the community; and with the regional MPO for coordinating the transportation funding. Mooring agreed and promised to keep the Select Board informed.

The Board approved the Select Board's Town Manager evaluation form, cover memo and staff feedback form, as presented. To approve the draft text of the public announcement soliciting comment for the evaluation, the explanatory text about confidentiality will be replaced with the similar but expanded text from the staff cover memo, and the text about spreading the word to others will be included. Ms. O'Keeffe will alter the text as necessary/appropriate for the different venues including press release, e-mail lists, and ACTV public access channels instead of sending post cards. Ms. O'Keeffe will also manage the process as per the Evaluation Timeline, coordinating with office staff to ensure the Committee Chairs receive an e-mail about providing comment as well.

Ms. O'Keeffe agreed to create the first in a series of working drafts of Town Manager Performance Goals for FY11, based on the Board's discussion for evaluation at the next meeting.

Select Board Committee Appointments

VOTED unanimously to appoint Lynn Grabowski, Public Transportation & Bicycle Committee, for the unexpired term of Christopher Slemph to expire June 30, 2011.

Ms. Stein and Ms. Brewer will determine the status of previous revisions of the Appointed Committee Handbook. The Board members agreed to read the version provided and prepare comments for the next meeting. It was noted this would be a summer long project.

Select Board Committee Reappointments

VOTED unanimously to reappoint Claude Tellier, as the Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee's representative to the CDC and Mary Jane Laus to the Community Development Committee, both with terms to expire June 30, 2013; and Nancy Milch, to the La Paz Centro, Nicaragua Sister City Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2013.

Election Workers Appointment

VOTED unanimously to appoint election workers from the attached lists dated July 9, 2010 and July 12, 2010 to serve in each voting precinct for a term to expire August 31, 2011.

Ms. O'Keeffe to follow up with the Conservation Commission to confirm that John Gerber will continue as their representative to the Community Preservation Act Committee for appointment at the next meeting.

Special Wine & Malt Liquor License - University of Massachusetts Amherst

VOTED unanimously to approve the Special Wine & Malt Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts Amherst for July 22, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Clark Hall for a reception.

Taxi License for Madeline Doane postponed to next meeting, as applicant was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Hawthorne Property: Dave Ziomek and Linda Chalfant talked about preparing plans for Fall Town Meeting regarding the division of Hawthorne land between active recreation and affordable housing so that the approved CPAC appropriation can be credited accurately. Members of the public wishing to be part of determining the future uses for the property can participate in public meetings that will be held on the subject and can contact Mr. Ziomek or Ms. Chalfant for more information.

Fourth of July: Ms. Brewer praised Ms. Chalfant and the LSSE staff for the excellent Fourth of July activities.

DPW Project Plan: Guilford Mooring reviewed the upcoming project plan and discussed general time frames for when projects were expected to come before the Select Board for approval. Ms. O'Keeffe and Mr. Mooring will coordinate on the scheduling. Mr. Mooring also provided updates on Rte. 116 repaving project, reporting it is now well under way; and the Atkins Corner project, which was recently put out to bid by Mass. DOT, noting there is some chance of construction beginning in October or November.

Safe Routes to School Project: Ms. Stein, Mr. Mooring and Mr. Musante explained the Federal program, which seeks to establish better walking routes to school, including studies and recommendations specific to Wildwood Elementary School. The project will be vetted through the Public Works Committee public hearing process, with strong involvement from the School administration and School Committee.

Master Plan Implementation Committee: Mr. Wald reported having begun discussions with staff about the expectations for such a committee to coordinate and track implementation, ensuring that the appropriate boards, committees and other entities are aware of and pursuing the goals that fall under their purview. More will be reported as progress continues.

Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Musante reported on the recent meeting involving local communities considering regionalization of emergency dispatch operations, including a summary of the report and recommendations from the consultant. Decisions regarding participation of each community are expected at a September meeting.

Mr. Musante reported on the letters going out to residents regarding inspection of all properties for the purpose of ensuring accurate and equitable assessments. It was suggested that future letters be revised to explain what an inspection entails, determining number and condition of rooms, etc., and that it is not a judgment on decor or housekeeping.

Mr. Musante reported that a recommendation would be forthcoming to the Board for an increase in the amount of property tax work-off for eligible seniors to \$1000 from the current \$750, as allowed by recent State legislation. It was noted that this was in keeping with Town Meeting's long history of approving the maximum available tax exemptions for qualifying seniors, disabled, veterans, etc.

Mr. Musante reported that the Mill River pools and other Town wading pools were open with free admission, as a way of providing some relief during last week's heat wave. The Senior Center was also open late to provide an air conditioned space. Members suggested improved publicity of available options, proposing use of the Reverse-911 system for future public health emergencies.

Member Reports

Budget Coordinating Group (BCG): Ms. O’Keeffe emphasized that BCG's goal is to collect and incorporate feedback from home committees in regard to the BCG plans, as expressed by each meeting's summary points.

No specific feedback was offered on the June 24 summary points, and it was noted that the next BCG meeting is scheduled for September 23, so there is time if anyone should want to take up the subject again.

Committee on Homelessness: Ms. Brewer reported that progress is being made regarding the differences in recommendation between the Town and the Committee for next winter's temporary shelter plans, thanks to a meeting among representatives from the Select Board, the Committee, and the Town, and particularly to ongoing engagement by Julie Federman. It is expected that there will not be full agreement on all of the three key points (serving food at the shelter, whether it is wet or dry, and whether it is for single or mixed genders) and that consideration of any or all of those that remain unresolved is expected at the July 26th Select Board meeting.

Chair's Report:

Ms. O’Keeffe reported that the Council on Aging Senior Survey Report will be formally presented at the next meeting, providing hard copies to allow for ample time for review in advance.

Ms. O’Keeffe noted Columbus Day prevented signing the warrant at a Monday meeting four weeks prior, as is our model, asking if members would be willing to hold a special meeting Thursday, October 7 or Friday, October 8, 2010 to sign the warrant to allow for the later warrant deadlines that were intended by scheduling Town Meeting to begin the second week of November rather than the first week. Members agreed; Ms. O’Keeffe to notify members of specifics by email.

Open Meeting Law update: Ms. Brewer suggested this be a standard untimed item on each agenda, as the Board reviews information on the changes.

Ms. Stein is exploring the status of the wind turbine legislation and will provide information to members to allow further discussion for the next meeting. At that time the Board will consider whether or not to take a position and if so, how broad or specific a position. Any such letter of support will be publicized on the Select Board’s web page.

Discussion of when to receive hard copy of materials and parking request procedure was postponed to the next meeting due to the lateness of the hour.

Board requested discussion of reorganization of the Select Board web page be placed on a future agenda.

VOTED unanimously to adjourn at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie O’Keeffe, Chair

List of Documents Presented at Meeting

071210 Amended Motions

071210 Draft Motions

2010 Draft Web Evaluation Notice and Post Card Text

2010 Draft Staff Questionnaire for Town Manager Evaluation

2010 Town Manager Evaluation Form

New Taxi License Madeline Doane

Parking Request Authorizations

Parking Requests from Stavros and Blue Hills Block Party

Town Manager's Recommendation for WMECO Pole Hearing Continuance - Farview Way

Hawthorne Property Acceptance and Deed

Public Works Recommendation on Street Improvements

Public Works Recommendation on Installation of Traffic Signal

Public Safety Dispatch Regionalization Consolidation Feasibility Analysis and Assessment

Sample Letter for Assessors Property Inspection Program

Safe Routes to Schools Preliminary Assessment WW Elementary– DOT Office of Transportation Planning

Notes on Committee Handbook and Committee Issues – 8/24/09 SO'K

MMA Senior Legislative Analyst Opinion on Wind Turbine Legislation

List of Potential Liaison Reports

FY09 Town Manager Evaluation Memo

FY10 Town Manager Goals Memo

Draft Letter on Proposed Legislation for Wind Projects Siting

Open Meeting Law – Alternatives to Outside Notice

Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program Preliminary Assessment for Wildwood Elementary Cover Letter

Staff Questionnaire Cover Memo - 2010 draft

Correspondence from Mt. Washington Select Board on State Legislation that Could Affect Your Community

Suggested Corrections to Appointed Committee Handbook

Special Liquor License Application - UMass

Town Clerk Request for Election Workers Appointment

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Open Meeting Law Update

Parking Request Procedure Discussion