

MINUTES

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

Absent: None

Staff: Town Manager John Musante,

Other: Mary Wentworth, Human Rights Commission Chair Reynolds Winslow, Human Resource Director Eunice Torres, CDBG Advisory Committee Members Claude Tellier and Jana McClure.

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

Public Comment

Mary Wentworth, 22 Lessey Street spoke, urging Select Board again to organize a Task Force to advise Town on resources needed to deal with effects of Climate Change, citing the Berkeley CA model and to include neighborhood networking for shared resources in times of emergency.

Jim Wald noted the death of Paul Jones and the memorial service scheduled for 5:30 on 11/28 at North Congregational Church.

Resolution in support of the Central Corridor Rail Coalition

VOTED unanimously to approve the Resolution and Memorandum of Agreement for the Central Corridor Rail Project, materials dated November 21, 2011.

Meeting Schedule

Unanimously to approve scheduling Select Board meetings dates for 2012 as follows: Tuesday, January 3; Friday, January 13 and Monday January 23; Monday, February 6 and February 27; Monday, March 5; March 19; March 26 and early morning Friday March 30 to sign Annual Town Meeting warrant; Monday, April 9, Wednesday, April 18, and Monday April 23; and all the Town Meeting Dates including April 30, May 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23 and 30; June 11, 13, 18 and 20; and Monday June 25.

Annual Street Closure Request for Merry Maple Event

VOTED unanimously to approve the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce request to close the following streets and prohibit parking on Friday December 2, 2011 for the annual Merry Maple event as follows:

- 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 unanimously to approve the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce request for free parking throughout the downtown Amherst area for Small Business Saturday, November 26, 2011 and Annual Greeting Card Day Saturday, December 3, 2011 and free parking in the Boltwood Garage and the Town portion of the CVS lot, but not at street meters and other lots on Saturdays and Sundays beginning Saturday, December 10 through Sunday, December 25, 2011.

Proclamation of Human Rights Day

Human Rights Commission Chair Reynolds Winslow provided background information on the proclamation, which was read aloud by Ms. Stein.

VOTED unanimously to proclaim December 10, 2011 as Human Rights Day in Amherst and encourage all Amherst citizens to be mindful of human rights principles and urge all municipal, state, federal and international bodies to incorporate said principles into their laws and policies as a means to move toward the creation of a human rights culture, which is a “lived awareness” of human rights principles.

HR Director Eunice Torres informed the Board of plans for a candlelight vigil on the Common December 9, 2011 and an educational event regarding Haiti in the Town Room December 10, 2011. Further details about both events will be made available on the Town website.

Town/Commercial Relations Committee Charge

VOTED unanimously to approve the revised charge presented for the Town/Commercial Relations Committee, reducing the membership from 11 to 7, dated Draft March 14, 2011.

Board requested the charge format be updated to reflect our new 'standard' formatting.

Minutes

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of October 18, 2010; October 25, 2010; November 8, 2010; November 22, 2010; January 10, 2011; February 28, 2011; April 11, 2011; August 8, 2011, August 22, 2011 and September 6, 2011, as amended.

Ms. O'Keeffe will supply amendments to office staff.

The Select Board agreed without formal vote to support the CDBG recommendations to the Town Manager, as outlined in the packet documents. Information on the project applications and the funding recommendations were presented by Committee members Claude Tellier and Jana McClure. Select Board members asked questions about the process and the prospects for funding non-recommended Town programs through the budget and capital plan. The tough choices the CDBG Advisory Committee had to make within the constraints of the grant were acknowledged and noted with appreciation. Dave Ziomek noted how highly DHCD officials regard Amherst's process and provision of so much information on the Town's web site.

APR Consideration

Board announced that the MA Department of Agricultural Resources are considering the acquisition of an 18-acre parcel in North Amherst belonging to the Szala family, Assessor's Map 1D, Lot 1 near Sunderland Road, as described in their letter dated November 7, 2011.

Post Town Meeting Wrap-up

Positive notes included having gotten through a lot of important business in a relatively short period of time; good and informed deliberation on the issues -- people seemed particularly well-prepared; the audio situation seemed much-improved; the support and constructive recommendation on the form-based zoning and the rezoning of the North Amherst and Atkins Village Centers suggest successful adoption of those measures in the future; much support demonstrated for sustainability issues and resource protection; continued growth of Master Plan as reference, indicating its importance as a guiding document, even without consensus on its guidance.

Areas to improve on include finding more meaningful and less time-consuming ways of recognizing committee service; consideration of guidance or specific guidelines for presenting effective and readable visuals (and looking into options for dimming the lights as appropriate); improve structure for participating in TMCC activities during the meeting (this session-- survey of TM start time; other sessions -- TMCC elections.)

Pro and con views were presented on the concept of starting Town Meeting at 7:00 rather than 7:30.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Musante reviewed status of various grants, noting the Town was not awarded the Mass Works grant for Pine St. and was still awaiting news on PARC grants for War Memorial Pool and Puffers Pond.

Memo providing feedback and after-action analysis of the Halloween Storm was distributed. Select Board noted appreciation of report and information, offering post-storm feedback including need to anticipate more info that people want to know, such as how to get rid of tree debris, what to expect of water supply, etc. Feedback to WMECO could include the potential benefits of restoring power to full streets and neighborhoods because of the angst created by "haves" and "have not's"; feedback to UMass could include more clarity about off-campus students and resources available to them; Town Meeting precincts and representatives could provide structure or assistance related to Citizen Emergency Response Team concept noted in memo.

Mr. Musante reported meeting Congressman Jim McGovern, current representative of Amherst's soon to be Congressional district; also noted serving as auctioneer for Annual Rotary Auction broadcast on Amherst Media. Mr. Musante reported he has increased time to approximately three-quarter time.

Member Reports

Ag Com: Ms. Stein reported summer markets had concluded. Winter markets planned for Meadow Street location, to be open from November through April, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; and at Middle School beginning 12/4 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Desire to expand Saturday downtown market to area on Spring Street and Boltwood Avenue to include more Amherst farmers noted with intent to petition for change before permits are granted for next spring. Any help or suggestions from the Town Manager would be appreciated.

CPAC: Ms. Stein reported there is \$546,365 available after servicing debt and deadline for FY13 applications is 12/9. Plan is for committee to consider applications over four meetings, with public hearing on scheduled for February 16, 2012.

Board of Health: Ms. Stein reported on process involving house condemnation and regulations for outdoor wood-burning boilers. Board is also looking to change the emergency preparedness region Amherst is part of in order to access greater amount of grant funds.

Regional School District Planning Committee: Ms. Brewer reported being appointed to newly-established Committee by Town Meeting, along with Andy Steinberg and Katherine Appy.

OML: Ms. Brewer reported that Attorney General's Office has ruled on remote participation. Select Board establishes local acceptance and policy. Noted goal is to learn more about details and interpretations; solicit input and determine policy for Amherst by end of fiscal year.

BCG: Ms. O'Keeffe reported next meeting date of 11/30; agenda to begin to discuss OPEB liability across the Town, Schools and Libraries.

Council on Aging: Ms. O'Keeffe reported on ceremony held last Friday celebrating the Volunteer Award granted by AARP to Chair Dan Clapp, nominated by COA and Senior Center.

Chair's Report

Ms. O'Keeffe indicated Finance Committee budget guidelines included in this evening's packets and on the budget page of web site. Ms. O'Keeffe reported interview by UMass students for UMass news program regarding off-campus issues and bylaw fines.

Calendar Preview

Ms. O'Keeffe highlighted items to be acted on at scheduled meetings on December 5 and 12, noting the possibility that a third meeting would need to be scheduled sometime after that if there are additional annual license renewals to approve.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra A. Roussel, Assistant to the Town Manager

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting – Also Available in the Online Packet for the Meeting Date

2011 Halloween Storm After Action Meeting Summary

2011-11-21 Agenda - final

2011-11-21 Draft Motions

Merry Maple Tree Lighting Parking Request

Human Rights Day Proclamation 2011

TCRC Charge

TCRC charge redraft - July 27 2011

2012 CDBG Recommended Proposals

Affordable Housing Purchase CDBG Proposal

Amherst Survival Center CDBG Proposal

Big Brother-Big Sister CDBG Application

Center for New Americans CDBG Proposal

Childcare Modernization CDBG Proposal

Craigs Doors CDBG Proposal

Motions

Emergency Assistance CDBG Proposal
Income Surveys CDBG Application
Valley CDC CDBG Proposal
Citizen comment on CDBG proposals
Fin Com Prelim FY 13 Budget Guidelines
CDBG Grant Advisory Committee Charge
Central Corridor Rail Project and Statements of S
Note from Jonathan Tucker Re Rail resolution
Proposed Meeting Calendar jan-mar 2012
SB Proposed Meeting Calendar apr-june 2012
APR Consideration Location Map
2010Draft Minutes: 10-18; 10-25; 11-08; and 11-22.
2011Draft Minutes: 01-10; 02-28; 08-08; 08-22; 09-06 and 4-11.