

**Minutes**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Select Board**

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

Absent: None

**Staff:** Town Manager John P. Musante; Linda Chalfant, LSSE Director; Barbara Bilz, Assistant LSSE Director/General Manager Cherry Hill Golf Course; David Ziomek, Conservation and Development Director; and Stephanie Ciccarello, Energy Task Force Coordinator.

**Other:** Hwei-Ling Greeney (Amherst Community Connections Director); Todd Cromack (President, Amherst Lions Club); Cameron Kackley (UMass SGA Secretary for Sustainability); Daniel Allalemdjian (Mass DOT - MassRIDES); Laura Quinn and Kevin Noonan (outgoing and incoming Exec. Directors of Craig's Doors).

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

**Public Comment**

Director of the Amherst Community Connections agency Hwei-Ling Greeney expressed concerns about proposed PVTa fare increases and their impact on the homeless.

**Lions Club Service Award**

Amherst Lions President Todd Cromack presented an award to Cherry Hill General Manager and LSSE Assistant Director Barbara Bilz for her assistance in making the Club's "Glow Ball" golf tournament fundraiser such a big success.

Mr. Cromack also praised the Town Manager for his assistance and support with helping to re-establish a strong Lion's Club in Amherst.

**Taxi Licenses**

VOTED unanimously to approve a new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Ajeet Fuller of Leverett, MA; Richard Harvey of Montague, MA; and Adam Zucker of Leverett, MA on behalf of Ambassador Taxi Cab and Transportation.

VOTED unanimously to approve a new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Mitchell Snider of Amherst, MA on behalf of Green Transportation, Inc.

**Parking and Street Closure Requests**

**Extravaganja Festival**

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of eighteen (18) metered parking spaces on the South side of the Spring Street Parking Lot and two (2) metered spaces on the west side of Boltwood Avenue, specifically the 4th and 5th metered space moving south from Spring Street on Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the UMass Amherst Cannabis Reform Coalition’s Extravaganja Festival.

**League of Women Voters Annual Book Sale**

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of the first eight (8) metered parking spaces on the west side of Boltwood Ave., originating at Spring Street moving south towards College Street beginning Thursday, May 3, 2012 through Sunday May 6, 2012 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day for the Amherst League of Women Voters Annual Book Sale.

**Cushman Village Annual May Day Celebration**

VOTED unanimously to approve the blocking off of Henry Street in Cushman Village for their annual May Day celebration on Saturday, May 5, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### **Garden Club of Amherst Annual Plant Sale**

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of eighteen (18) metered parking spaces on the South side of the Spring Street parking lot for their Annual Plant Sale set-up on Friday, May 11, 2012 beginning at 6:30 a.m. through no later than 6:00 p.m. for the Garden Club of Amherst.

### **Bay State Bike Week Festivities**

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of thirty-four (34) metered parking spaces by closure of the Main Street parking lot on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for a Bike Rodeo and on Friday, May 18, 2012 from 6:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for the Annual Bike Breakfast and Bike Show.

### **Annual Cultural Survival Bazaar**

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of ten (10) meter bags on the West Side of Boltwood Avenue originating at Spring Street intersection, moving south towards College Street for vendor use for the Cultural Survival's 7th Annual Bazaar on the South Common from 8:00 a.m. Friday, May 25, 2012 through 9:00 p.m. Monday, May 28, 2012.

### **Amherst Sustainability Festival**

Sustainability Coordinator Stephanie Ciccarello described the upcoming Sustainability Festival to be held on the Town Common April 21, 2012. The event will feature music, activities and vendors promoting energy-savings and other green options.

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of twenty one (21) metered spaces on the west side of Boltwood Avenue originating at Spring Street moving south towards College Street on Saturday, April 21, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the Amherst Sustainability Festival.

Cameron Kackley from UMass talked about plans for a student and community clean-up of Kendrick Park for that same date and was advised to follow-up with the Town Manager's office.

Dan Allalemdjian from MassDOT spoke about the benefits of partnering with the Town for the MassRIDES ride share program. He promoted the NuRides program in which participants earn reward points for choosing energy-saving commute options, and the Emergency Ride Home Program which provides reimbursement to participants for rides home when emergency circumstances impact their green or rideshare commutes (participation requires formal agreement with Town via Town Manager).

### **Revision to Town's Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Policy**

Ms. Ciccarello spoke about the small revisions necessary to update the Town's Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy to current Green Communities program standards for submission as part of the Green Communities application due May 29.

VOTED unanimously to approve a revised Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy for the Town of Amherst as presented, to govern the replacement of all non-exempt municipal vehicles with fuel efficient vehicles, whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable, said policy to apply to all divisions and departments of the Town of Amherst.

### **Seasonal Wine and Malt Liquor License Renewal**

The Town Manager explained that the Board was unable to extend the seasonal liquor license term to incorporate the Winter Fest activities next year without special legislation. The possibility of a special license for the event was discussed.

VOTED unanimously to renew the Seasonal Wine and Malt Liquor License for Cherry Hill Golf Course, 323 Montague Road (Manager: Barb Bilz) for operations from April 1, 2012 through January 15, 2013.

### **Special Liquor Licenses**

VOTED unanimously to approve a Special All Alcoholic License for Danielle Laferriere and Greg Wardlaw on behalf of Amherst College Catering for a catered student event in the Friedmann Room at the Keefe Campus Center, Amherst College Wednesday, April 4, 2012 from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

VOTED unanimously to approve a Special All Alcoholic License for Tony Maroulis on behalf of the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce for a Margarita Tasting at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, 125 West Bay Road, Amherst, MA Wednesday, March 28, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### **Committee Appointment**

VOTED unanimously to confirm the appointment of Christiane Meyer Healey of Amherst, MA to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2013, as recommended by the Town Manager.

### **Winter Shelter Update**

Conservation and Development Director Dave Ziomek and Craig's Doors representatives Laura Quinn and Kevin Noonan spoke about the success of the Shelter this year, provided information on Town oversight, the services and reporting provided by Craig's Doors, and the utilization by shelter guests. It was agreed that all has gone well this year thus far. It was noted that Ms. Quinn is the outgoing Executive Director and that Mr. Noonan is the new Executive Director of Craig's Doors. A more detailed report will be provided following the shelter's closure for the season.

### **Voting and Assignment of Select Board Positions on Town Meeting Warrant Articles**

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 30, 2012 Annual Town Meeting Article 1 – Reports of Boards and Committees. Ms. Stein was assigned to speak to the article on behalf of the Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 30, 2012 Annual Town Meeting Article 2 – Transfer of Funds – Unpaid Bills. Ms. Stein was assigned to speak to the article on behalf of the Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 30, 2012 Annual Town Meeting Article 3 – Acceptance of Optional Tax Exemptions. Ms. Brewer was assigned to speak to the article on behalf of the Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 30, 2012 Annual Town Meeting Article 4 – Authorization for Compensating Balances. Ms. Stein was assigned to speak to the article on behalf of the Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 30, 2012 Annual Town Meeting Article 8 – Retirement Assessment. Ms. Brewer was assigned to speak to the article on behalf of the Board. Noted need for Town Manager to verify amount printed in draft warrant, which differs from amount in Finance Director's packet. Board noted its support of the article regardless.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 30, 2012 Annual Town Meeting Article 10 – Regional Lockup. Ms. Brewer was assigned to speak to the article on behalf of the Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 30, 2012 Annual Town Meeting Article 14– Reserve Fund. Ms. Stein was assigned to speak to the article on behalf of the Board.

### **Minutes**

Board members deferred review of minutes presented to the next meeting date.

**FY13 Budget Discussion:** Ms. O'Keeffe noted the Board would discuss the Town Manager's restoration and additions list at the next scheduled meeting, in the context of his recommendation to the Budget Coordinating Group (BCG) that his only additional funding priority at this time and under current state aid projections is the afterschool program tuition subsidies. Mr. Musante expects to determine a funding recommendation jointly with the School Superintendent for the April 5, 2012 BCG meeting and April 9, 2012 Select Board meeting.

## **Town Manager's Report**

Mr. Musante reported on the appointment of Dr. Kumble Subbaswamy as the new University of Massachusetts Chancellor by the Board of Trustees this evening.

An announcement of Human Resource Director Eunice Torres' retirement, effective March 30, 2012, was provided. The Board offered their thanks to Ms. Torres for her years of service and offered their best wishes in her retirement. Timeline for recruitment was discussed as follows: April – advertise; May – interviews and job offer; with a start date to be determined.

Mr. Musante provided an update on issues relative to the Safe & Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative, followed by a report on early St. Patrick's Day disturbances. A meeting with downtown bar owners is scheduled for Friday March 30, 2012. Follow up inspections are scheduled for Gharabegian Properties following the floor collapse tragedy averted at a College Street rental. A team effort involving Amherst Police, Fire, Health and Inspections Departments with the Landlord's cooperation was commended. Mr. Musante noted the team is working to collaborate with owner for follow up on other properties.

Amherst Police Department training session with Burlington, VT police regarding off campus issues provided all members of the Amherst Police Department with training on Community Based and Problem Oriented Policing. The training coincided with an annual in house review of our change to Sector Based Policing. Training was conducted by Lt. Jen Morrison of the Burlington, VT Police, a department and community that has many of the same issues and concerns. Amherst plans to continue to work with and communicate with the Burlington Police Department in an attempt to share ideas on what successes each department has had, including changes and additions to by-laws, mutual patrol initiatives, and trainings. An example of sharing included a recent ordinance that deals specifically with vagrancy and pan handling problems.

Mr. Musante reported on recent and upcoming events including:

3/12 – 3/15: UMass Chancellor Candidate Luncheons with Alumni and Community Leaders, noting he was able to attend two of the four events.

3/16: Amherst College President's Luncheon for Community Leaders.

3/23: PVPC/PVTA/MassInc Forum on Region-wide Transportation Needs and New Financing Strategies. Mr. Musante noted the forum examined over \$1B of highway and transit investment needs in the Pioneer Valley region, ever-widening funding assistance gaps, and potential new financing mechanisms which could help the Pioneer Valley to maintain its high level of transportation mobility while supporting sustained economic competitiveness and progress. As part of this event, the key findings and recommendations of a recent MassINC research report entitled, "Moving Forward with Funding: New Strategies to Support Transportation and Balanced Regional Economic Growth" were highlighted.

3/27: to speak at Campus and Community Coalition (CCC) Lamplighter Awards ceremony.

3/29: PVTA Public Hearings in Amherst 2-4 pm and 5-7 pm at the Bangs Center regarding potential fare increases to close estimated \$1.8 M budget gap.

4/12: Welcoming Reception 2 – 4 pm for new Building Commissioner Rob Morra and Code Enforcement Officer Jon Thompson at Town Hall, Town Room. Community invited.

Mr. Musante was asked to provide an update on the Boltwood Place project, specifically when construction is expected to be done and what parking plans are planned for the building's future residents.

## **Member Reports**

Select Board members provided updates on the activities and schedules of committees to which they serve as liaison. Ms. O’Keeffe reported on BCG and Campus and Community Coalition; Ms. Stein reported on JCPC, Agricultural Commission, Board of Health and the Kanegasaki Sister City Committee; Mr. Hayden reported on the work of the Zoning Subcommittee; Mr. Wald on the Local Historic District Study Committee; and Ms. Brewer updated the Board on the Regional School District Planning Committee.

## **Chair's Report**

Ms. O’Keeffe spoke about extensive and multi-faceted efforts by the Town on Town-Gown issues, emphasizing Mr. Musante's efforts and her own, through CCC and beyond, in hopes that the community understands what a priority this is for the Town and the University. She also spoke about delivering remarks at the recent Tibet Day event and the Girl Scouts 100th birthday celebration; and attending the Amherst Follies fundraiser for the Senior Center, together with Ms. Stein.

Unanimously by roll call vote: O’Keeffe, aye; Stein, aye; Wald, aye; Brewer, aye; and Hayden, aye, to go into Executive Session, per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, section 21a, subset 6 to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. It was also announced that open session would not reconvene at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

**ADJOURN** The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John P. Musante, Town Manager

## **List of Documents Presented at the Meeting - Available in the Online Packet for the Meeting Date**

Draft Motions  
Amherst Sustainability Festival Parking Request  
NuRide Flyer Amherst  
MassRIDES Partnership Sign Up  
Emergency Ride Program Sign Up  
NuRide Sample Email Notice  
City of Cambridge Bicycle Parking Guide  
Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy  
ATM Articles for Consideration  
Memo from Assessors Regarding Article  
Memo from Finance Director on Background Info  
Invite for Rob Morra and Jon Thompson Welcome Reception  
PVRTA Fare Increases Proposal  
PVRTA Pioneer Valley of MA Transit  
BCG Summary Points  
Draft Minutes March 5, 2012  
Extravaganja Festival Parking Request  
League of Women Voters Annual Book Sale Parking Request  
Cushman Village May Day Celebration Road Closure  
Garden Club Plant Sale Parking Request  
Bay State Bike Week Parking Request  
Cultural Survival Bazaar Parking Request  
Seasonal Liquor License Renewal  
Taxi Driver Applications  
Special License Applicants Amherst College and Amherst Chamber of Commerce  
Town Manager Recommendation for Appointment to Conservation Commission