

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

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

Absent: None

Staff: John P. Musante, Town Manager; David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager/Conservation and Development Director; Amy Rusiecki, Assistant Public Works Superintendent; Maria Geryk, Superintendent of Schools; Ron Bohonowicz, Facilities Director

Other: Gerry Weiss, Karen Jones (Public Transportation & Bicycling Committee), Rhys Davies, David Schmidt, Jeff Kalman, and Janet Keller.

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

A moment of silence was offered in acknowledgement of the passing of Amherst’s first Town Manager Allen Torrey along with words of remembrance by Town Manager John P. Musante.

Public Comment

Resident Gerry Weiss spoke about the Town's risk of falling below the 10% threshold for affordable housing, and the possible consequence of that allowing "unfriendly" 40B development. Mr. Weiss requested a status update and public discussion in the near future. Karen Jones of the Public Transportation & Bicycling Committee spoke about planned May Bike Week events and the related parking lot reservation requests before the Select Board.

MSBA Statements of Interest

Superintendent Maria Geryk and Facilities Director Ron Bohonowicz summarized the request to the Select Board from the Amherst Public Schools to submit once again a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) related to possible future consideration of state funds to partially fund improvements to either or both the Wildwood and Fort River Elementary Schools.

VOTED unanimously, having convened in an open meeting on March 18, 2013, the Amherst Select Board, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated 2013 for the Fort River Elementary School located at 70 South East Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future

1. Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.
2. Elimination of existing severe overcrowding.
3. Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments.
4. Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.
5. Short term enrollment growth.
6. Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements;

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

VOTED unanimously, having convened in an open meeting on March 18, 2013, the Amherst Select Board, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated 2013 for the Wildwood Elementary School located at 71 Strong Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future

1. Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.
2. Elimination of existing severe overcrowding.
3. Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments.
4. Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.
5. Short term enrollment growth.
6. Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements;

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Liquor License Change of Manager and Officer/Director

VOTED unanimously to approve a Change of Manager from Chet Satienpoch to Kanit Boonnag for Thai Corner Inc. d/b/a Thai Corner Restaurant, ABCC License #02400090-11.

VOTED unanimously to approve the new officers/directors, as presented in the petition for transfer of ownership dated March 18, 2013 for Thai Corner Inc. d/b/a Thai Corner Restaurant, ABCC License #02400090-11.

2013 Paving and Roadwork Plan

Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Amy Rusiecki reviewed the paving and roadwork plan for the 2013 construction season as provided in the Select Board packets this evening. Ms. Rusiecki answered the Select Board's specific questions about scheduling and logistics. Residents of the Dana and Blue Hills neighborhoods spoke about the need for speed humps on both streets and the risks of adding them to one but not both, or doing them at separate times. One individual suggested the neighborhood might be willing to contribute financially to a short-term fix if that would help. Public Works staff will continue to explore options with neighbors for best short and long-term solutions for that area, and apprise the Select Board of the process and resolution.

The need for support of the Governor's transportation plan was emphasized, hopeful that passage would provide much needed resources to help address the large backlog of road paving and sidewalk work.

North Amherst Local Historic District Study Committee Status Update

Select Board member Jim Wald reviewed the State-mandated process for creation of local historic district study committees, which provides for the option of existing Local Historic District Committees, like the Dickinson District committee, to perform the study for the possibility of additional districts. At its recent first meeting, the Dickinson Local Historic District Committee considered the option and instead requested that the Select Board form a new and separate committee to study the potential for a North Amherst Local Historic District. In the meantime, people interested in serving on the new committee are encouraged to fill out Citizen Activity Forms.

Food Truck Regulations Update

Select Board Chair Stephanie O’Keeffe reported on valuable feedback received from staff, and that there were still some remaining questions to be answered. Ms. O’Keeffe noted that no additional public comment was received and that the expectation is to have the regulations ready for approval at the April 8, 2013 Select Board meeting.

Rental Regulations and Permitting Update

Assistant Town Manager/Conservation and Development Director Dave Ziomek, Janet Keller and Select Board Chair Stephanie O’Keeffe reviewed the draft rental regulations as recommended by the Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods Work Group to the Town Manager. The group discussed the goals of the regulations, the process of creation, and the specifics of the plan to implement, noting common concerns and misconceptions that had been cited. Select Board members were encouraged to send any suggestions for edit to Mr. Ziomek’s attention.

Town Manager’s Report

The Town Manager reported on **Pre-St. Patrick's Day Situation and Spring Planning**, noting that prior arrangements with downtown bar owners proved successful in eliminating the long entry lines and their associated problems on March 9. A number of house parties were also reported on; a major disturbance at the Townhouse Apartments with an estimated 2,000 people in attendance required Amherst Police response with assistance from UMass Police and State Police. Mr. Musante indicated that excessive drinking and injuries related to violence and falls continues to tax the Town's emergency response resources to the extreme. For spring, the Town is requesting specific assistance from the University for ambulance support, the opening of University Health Services on weekend nights to avoid repeated transport to Cooley Dickinson Hospital in appropriate cases, and patrol support from UMass Police. Select Board members expressed strong support for the Town Manager’s requests, as well as frustration with the University's response to the Townhouse situation, as well as the University's ultimate failure in accepting responsibility for impacts of students’ behavior off-campus.

A **Preliminary Town Meeting Warrant Article List** was reviewed, with the caution that adjustments would be made including the elimination of articles. The Select Board encouraged use of the consent calendar by the Moderator.

Staff Recognitions highlighted appreciation and praise for Vera West Davis, who is retiring as Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief after 30 years of service to the Town. Debbie Gordon, who has served the Select Board and Town Manager's office with skill, friendliness and dedication and was instrumental in bridging the transition period in the Town Manager's office has accepted a transfer to the Fire Department. Additionally, Susan Waite, Amherst’s Recycling Coordinator was recently recognized with an International Women's Day award from the Amherst League of Women Voters for her great work and innovation in "greening" the Town's waste profile.

The Town Manager provided Town Counsel’s opinion that the notice provided to remove the Cushman parcels from Chapter 61 status, triggering the Town's right of first refusal option, was incomplete. A notification letter to that effect was presented for the Select Board’s signature. A complete notice is necessary for the 120-day response period to begin.

Empty Bowls - Survival Center Fundraiser was reported as a fun and successful event with many Select Board members, the Town Manager and other Town officials and local dignitaries, along with a few hundred community members participating.

Mr. Musante provided details of a meeting with the **Loomis Communities** CEO and the Applewood Director for updates on plans and activities.

High praise for **ARHS Musical "Oklahoma!"** with excellent work noted by students and staff, further demonstrating the school's commitment to the arts.

Mr. Musante spoke of his plans for attending the **ICMA - Northeast Regional Summit** in Portsmouth, NH, an important networking and professional development conference, were shared along with a reminder of the upcoming **Senior Follies**, an important fundraiser for the Senior Center, to be held March 24 at the Buckley Recital Hall at Amherst College.

Select Board members provided **Member Reports** on the schedules and activities of the committees to which they serve as liaisons and representatives as follows:

Ms. Stein: Flag update -- plan for presentation at April 8 meeting; State House arrangements to be determined. KSCC, CPAC, Community Read Program and Junot Diaz event

Mr. Wald: JCPC, Historical Commission, Design Review Board

Ms. Brewer: Regional School District Planning Committee and Board

Ms. O'Keeffe: Campus and Community Coalition and spring neighborhood clean-up by UMass Sororities and Fraternities. Ms. O'Keeffe noted she had not yet completed the letters in support of Governor's revenue proposal.

Parking Meter Reservation Requests

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 Saturday, May 4, 2013 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.; and the reservation of the first four (4) metered parking spaces on the west side of Boltwood Ave., originating at Spring Street moving south towards College Street and the reservation of the first four (4) metered parking spaces on the south side of the Spring Street Parking lot beginning at the Boltwood Street entrance from Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. through Friday May 3, 2013 to 6:00 p.m. and again on Saturday, May 4, 2013 beginning at 2 p.m. through Sunday May 5, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.; for the Amherst League of Women Voters Annual Book Sale.

Bay State Bike Week Festivities

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of all the metered parking spaces in the Spring Street parking lot on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 from 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. for a Bike Rodeo.

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of all metered parking spaces in the Main Street parking lot on Friday, May 17, 2013 from 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for the Annual Bike Breakfast and Bike Show.

Florence Savings Bank ATM

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of four metered parking spaces in front of 98 North Pleasant Street and Souper Bowl on the west side of North Pleasant Street on March 26, 2013 at a cost of \$5.00 per meter per day for installation of a replacement ATM for Florence Savings Bank.

The Select Board suggested that nearby businesses be notified about the parking reservation involving replacement of the ATM for Florence Savings Bank.

Special Liquor Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve a special all alcohol license for the Amherst Chamber of Commerce margarita tasting at the Eric Carle Museum on March 27, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Joan Temkin, Marketing Director.

VOTED unanimously to approve a special wine and malt license for a cash bar for the Senior Pub Night at the Amherst College Keefe Campus Center, Thursday, March 28, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.; Charles Thompson, Manager.

VOTED unanimously to approve Special Liquor License Applications for the University of Massachusetts for receptions to be held on the following events, dates and times; Judy Bardswell, Clerk:

Wine & Malt	April 20, 2013	5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Fine Arts Center Atrium, UMass Amherst
All Alcohol	April 27, 2013	6:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Recreation Center, UMass Amherst

Taxi Driver/Chauffeur

VOTED unanimously to approve a new taxi driver license application for Peter Belden on behalf of Ambassador Taxi Company for the calendar year 2013.

VOTED unanimously to approve a new taxi driver license application for Russell A. Russo on behalf of Aarons Transportation for the calendar year 2013.

Minutes

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of February 11, 2013 and February 25, 2013 as amended.

Committee Appointments

VOTED unanimously to confirm the Town Manager's appointment of Robert Brooks to the Conservation Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2014.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Submitted by John P. Musante, Town Manager