

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Weiss at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Select Board members Gerald Weiss, Anne Awad, Alisa Brewer, Hwei-Ling Greeney, Town Manager Laurence Shaffer, Kate Seaman, Hope Crolius, Larry Ely, Select Board member Robert Kusner was absent.

OPENING REMARKS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Greeney spoke to the Board about Earth Hour and urged people to turn off the lights in their homes for one hour on Saturday, March 29, 2008.

Ms. Greeney mentioned that the NAACP will have a Candidate's Night on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at the Bangs Community Center for those who are participating in the Annual Town Election.

Ms. Greeney showed the Board a flier that was displayed on a light post outside of Bruegger's Bagels. Ms. Greeney read a letter from a citizen who felt that the flier was very inappropriate.

Ms. Brewer mentioned that the Farmers' Market was holding an event at the Red Barn at Hampshire College on Saturday, March 29, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Brewer spoke about Keno-to-go, mentioning that current lottery sales agents and other agents can start selling Keno-to-go unless an appeal was filed within a 21 day period. The Select Board opted to take no action.

Isaac BenEzra spoke to the Board about the Select Board candidates being interviewed and shown on Channel 15.

Bill Elasser stated that he would be going away and wouldn't be picking up trash in the downtown area for a few weeks.

SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

Comprehensive Planning Committee Update

James Wald, Chair of the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC), updated the Board on the status of the Master Plan and how it came to the stage it's currently at. The Board and Mr. Wald spoke about possible Town Meeting input and the formation of a committee for implementation of the Master Plan.

Public Shade Tree Committee – Fundraiser

Hope Crolius, Chair of the Public Shade Tree Committee, distributed materials to the Board and discussed the progress the Committee has made. She outlined the fundraiser for Amherst's 250th Anniversary.

Public Shade Tree Committee – Arbor Day Proclamation

VOTED unanimously (4-0), to proclaim April 26, 2008 Arbor Day.

Presentation – Richard Heinberg Energy Process

The Board heard from Larry Ely who spoke about Richard Heinberg and the specifics of the events that would be taking place on April 27, 2008.

VOTED unanimously to co-sponsor the Richard Heinberg Power Point Presentation and coffee reception on April 27, 2008 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Amherst College, the lecture at Hampshire College at 7:00 p.m. on April 27, 2008, and further instructs the Town Manager to communicate with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the Franklin County Planning Commission to notify the various cities and towns of the April 27, 2008 Heinberg Presentations.

Town Manager’s Report

Mr. Shaffer spoke to the Board about the status of the Kendrick Park Committee. Mr. Shaffer mentioned the makeup of the committee as well as several subcommittees that would report to the Kendrick Park Committee.

Mr. Shaffer gave an update on the budget stating that it looked like the funds could be restored to the Pool and the Human Services budget based on the health insurance rates that the Town would be working with. The Board agreed to have a budget discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Approve Minutes

VOTED Awad, Greeney, “Aye”, Weiss, Brewer, abstained, to approve the minutes, as amended, of the *March 10, 2008* Select Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously, to adjourn the open meeting at 8:20 p.m.