

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Weiss, Kusner, Brewer (6:33 p.m.), Greeney, Awad
Shaffer
Seaman, Recorder

OPENING REMARKS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Weiss read from a memo composed by Guilford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works, in regard to snow removal and the materials used to sand the roads. Weiss also mentioned that the routes were different than in past years. Information about snow removal will be available on the Public Works page on the Town website.

Laurence Siddal of 120 Strong Street spoke to the Board about letters he had submitted to them a year ago and then again recently pertaining to the intersection of East Pleasant and Strong Streets, and the need for a traffic light. Mr. Siddal had an accident report detailing the number of accidents and injuries that have taken place over the past four years. Weiss asked if Shaffer had spoken to Guilford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works, about the issue. Shaffer responded that he had, and they were looking at how the traffic calming study that was presently taking place on Lincoln Street could potentially be used for this intersection. Siddal stated that he was most interested in personal safety. Shaffer stated that he would speak to Mooring and have him prepare a report on the issue for the Select Board in two weeks.

Terry Franklin spoke to the Board about the Cannabis Coalition/Extravaganza Event and the fees for Police coverage. Shaffer explained that the fees were being charged because of the size of the event, and the budgetary constraints that the Town is facing. John Werner, President of the Cannabis Coalition has a meeting to discuss the fees with the Town Manager on Thursday, December 6, 2007.

SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

Public Hearing – CDBG Public Hearing

- Public hearing called to order at 7:10 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 7:47 p.m.

Roy Rosenblatt, Director of Community Services, spoke to the Board about the status of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money that the Town has been awarded. The Board discussed options for spending the money, and how different projects were planned. The idea of creating a single room occupancy housing area was discussed as a possibility of how future grant money could be used. **VOTED:** Weiss, Kusner, Greeney, Awad, “Aye”, Brewer, “No”, that some funds in the current CDBG application be allocated to allow a feasibility study to be conducted for establishing a single room occupancy unit.

250th Anniversary Financial Appropriation and Discussion

Barry Roberts from the 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee spoke to the Board about what the 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee was planning to do for the celebration, and what the committee was doing in terms of fundraising. Roberts explained that the Committee would be asking the Town for approximately \$25,000, and wanted to know how he should go about asking for it. Shaffer responded that he would speak with John Musante, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director and include it in his budget. Shaffer stated that he could set up a time to meet with Roberts to discuss the specifics.

Campus and Community Coalition Retail Partners Committee

Shaffer read an email from Martha Nelson-Patrick, Director of Community Relations for the University of Massachusetts, asking for a member of the Board to serve on the Campus and Community Coalition Retail Partners Committee. Shaffer gave a brief description of what the Coalition's functions were.

VOTED unanimously, to appoint Hwei-Ling Greeney as the Select Board Representative on the Campus and Community Retail Partners Committee.

Town Manager Evaluation

Weiss read from a document prepared by Town Counsel to help gain public understanding of the process of the Town Manager's evaluation. Each Board member had individually submitted a report to the Chair, who composed a report to give to the Town Manager. The Board discussed whether to make the report public. Shaffer stated that after reading the document, he would come back to the Board to discuss the issues that were expressed. Weiss requested that each member of the Board submit a list of goals that they would like the Town Manager to achieve over the next year.

VOTED unanimously, to deliver to the Town Manager the composite report of his performance during his first year in office.

Water Supply Protection Committee Charge

Discussion was held relative to the additions to the Water Supply Protection Committee Charge, and whether three staff liaisons were necessary for this Committee. The Board decided that they were, as each staff member was directly involved in the work that the Committee conducts.

VOTED unanimously, to readopt the Water Supply Protection Committee Charge as amended.

Nyeri, Kenya Sister City Committee Charge

VOTED unanimously, to approve the Nyeri, Kenya Sister City Committee Charge as amended.

2008 Election Date

The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of scheduling an earlier election next year, and what the effects would be on those who are looking to run specific seats on Town Boards and Committees.

VOTED unanimously, not to change the 2008 Election Date.

Budget Reports

Weiss stated that at a previous Budget Coordinating Committee meeting it was mentioned that the budget reports be given to both the Select Board and Finance Committee at the same time, and he wanted the Board's opinion. The Board discussed the potential issues that could arise with presenting the reports to both bodies at the same time.

VOTED unanimously, to deliver the budget reports to the Select Board and Finance Committee at the same time, on a trial basis.

Citizen Complaints

No action taken.

Liaison Assignments

No action taken

Downtown Graffiti Problem

No action taken.

Approve Minutes

VOTED unanimously, to approve the minutes, as amended of the *November 5, 2007* Select Board meeting.

VOTED unanimously, to approve the minutes, as amended of the *November 7, 2007* Select Board meeting.

VOTED unanimously, to approve the minutes of the *November 15, 2007* Select Board meeting.

VOTED unanimously, to approve the minutes of the *November 15, 2007* Emergency Select Board meeting.

VOTED unanimously, to approve the minutes, as amended of the *November 28, 2007* Select Board meeting.

Committee Appointments-Select Board

VOTED unanimously, to appoint Janet Winston, Design Review Board, for a term to expire June 30, 2010.

VOTED unanimously, to appoint Jaime Tidlund, Agricultural Commission, for a term to expire June 30, 2010.

VOTED unanimously, to appoint Amber KaCey, Nyeri, Kenya Sister City Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2010.

Committee Appointments-Town Manager

VOTED unanimously, to appoint Steve Dunn, Water Supply Protection Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2010.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Taxi Business License – Gottago Taxi

VOTED unanimously, to approve the Taxi Business License for Gottago Taxi, 256 North Pleasant Street. Amherst, MA (Owner: Gangi Bakarani) for December 3, 2007 through December 31, 2008.

Taxi Driver License

VOTED unanimously, to approve the Taxi Driver License for Gangi Bakarani, 16 Damon Road, Northampton, MA for Gottago Taxi for December 3, 2007 through December 31, 2008.

Taxi Driver License

VOTED unanimously, to approve the Taxi Driver License for Bathie Pouye, 16 Damon Road, Northampton, MA for Gottago Taxi for December 3, 2007 through December 31, 2008.

Taxi Driver License

VOTED unanimously, to approve the Taxi Driver License for Mamadou Ndiaye, 16 Damon Road, Northampton, MA for Gottago Taxi for December 3, 2007 through December 31, 2008.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Common Victualler – Arigato Steakhouse

VOTED unanimously, to approve the Common Victualler license for JNK Enterprise, Inc, d/b/a Arigato Steakhouse, 37-39 Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA (Manager Raymond Connors).

Renew Annual Licenses

VOTED unanimously, to renew the attached list of licenses, dated November 30, 2007, for January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008, subject to the conditions that are attached to the licenses being renewed.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously, to adjourn the open meeting at 9:52 p.m.