

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Weiss at 6:35 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Weiss, Kusner, Brewer, Greeney, Awad
Shaffer
Arcamo, Recorder

OPENING REMARKS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was a discussion regarding Budget Coordinating Group (BCG) being put on the next agenda. Ms. Greeney provided the members of the Select Board with the BCG's charge. She also requested that the following be discussed in a future meeting: the use of Kendrick Park, graffiti problems, and that the Town Manager provide a report about the traffic problem at the intersection of Strong and East Pleasant Streets. Mr. Weiss said that discussion of Public Works issues will take place in January.

Mr. Kusner announced that he will not seek re-election to the Select Board in April 2008, he stated he would be on sabbatical for the Spring semester and will be in Pennsylvania to take care of his father who lives there. He thanked his colleagues, the Town Manager and staff for "putting up with him during his tenure for the last three years."

Diana Stein questioned public reports regarding the \$800,000 in Community Development Block Grant money and the \$300,000 in administrative costs. Mr. Shaffer explained the grant and administrative costs.

Ed Cutting, a UMASS student, asked if the Select Board and Town manager were aware of anti-discrimination laws. Said the Town risked losing grants from HUD and the Department of Education for treating the Boy Scouts different from other organizations. Mr. Shaffer responded that he was aware of non-discrimination laws. Mr. Weiss announced that the Boy Scouts issue would be addressed later in the meeting.

Bill Elsasser expressed concerns about homelessness.

SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

Select Board Liaison Assignments

Select Board members chose committees and boards on which they would serve as liaisons. Discussion will continue at the January 7, 2008 Select Board meeting.

Select Board Meeting Structure

No Action taken.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Shaffer discussed the Boy Scouts situation, saying that Kendrick Park was not owned by the Town

until last year, but that the trust's executor allowed for the Christmas tree sale before the Town owned it. Mr. Shaffer stated that he was approached by a Boy Scouts representative earlier this year to ask if they could have the Christmas tree sale at Kendrick Park and Mr. Shaffer preferred not to have that happen and suggested that the Boy Scouts investigate other locations. The representative came back to him a month or so later because he had not found a suitable location and asked to use Kendrick Park for one more year. Mr. Shaffer said he granted use on a one-time basis and suggested that the Boy Scouts contribute one dollar (\$1.00) per tree to the Town; the representative agreed. Mr. Shaffer stated that he has no hostility to the Boy Scouts and hopes that they raise money to continue with their fine programs. Mr. Weiss asked about guidelines for park use. Mr. Shaffer responded that Town Common is under the Select Board's authority. Mr. Weiss commented that despite the Boy Scouts situation not being a great situation, they were expected to benefit by selling more trees and due to donations because of the publicity. There was more discussion and questions about Kendrick Park and Mr. Shaffer said that a committee charge is currently being drafted by Town staff. When the committee is formed, he will make recommendations for the future of Kendrick Park.

Mr. Shaffer stated that he and Mr. Weiss talked to Town Counsel regarding Plum Brook and the use of Community Preservation Act funds.

Scheduling Town Meeting Dates

VOTED unanimously to approve the 2008 Annual Town Meeting and Election Calendar. The Annual Town Meeting dates are as follows: April 28 & 30, 2008, May 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21 & 28, 2008; and June 2, 4 & 9, 2008 in reserve.

Budget Discussion – Reorganization/Budget Techniques

Mr. Shaffer explained that he had met with John Musante and Maria Racca for twenty hours to review the departmental budgets. He said there is a soft hiring freeze and is looking into conservative expenses. He also stated that there be a proposal to reorganize, Leisure Services, Conservation, Planning and Inspections Departments. Mr. Weiss asked about the \$300,000 deficit, Mr. Shaffer said that he was working on it. Mr. Shaffer also said the Town is negotiating with firefighters, police officers, Department of Public Works and the SEIU contracts.

Goals for Town Manager

A Select Board meeting will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2008, to discuss the Town Manager's budget.

Consent Calendar

VOTED unanimously, to approve the minutes, as amended of the October 19, 2007 Select Board Meeting.

VOTED unanimously, to approve the minutes, as amended of the October 20, 2007 Four Board Meeting.

VOTED unanimously, to approve the minutes, as amended of the October 20, 2007 Four Town Meeting.

VOTED Weiss, Kusner, Greeney, Awad, "Aye", Brewer abstained, to approve the minutes, as amended of the November 19, 2007 Select Board Meeting.

VOTED unanimously, to approve the minutes, as amended, of the December 3, 2007 Select Board Meeting.

Committee Appointments-Town Manager

VOTED unanimously, to appoint Stephen Mabee, Water Supply Protection Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously, to adjourn the open meeting at 9:37 p.m.

Approved minutes, as amended at the March 3, 2008 Select Board Meeting.