

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 28, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.
Town Room, Town Hall

ATTENDANCE

Select Board Present: Alisa Brewer, Connie Kruger, Andy Steinberg, Jim Wald, Doug Slaughter

Select Board Absent: None

Staff: M. David Ziomek, Interim Town Manager; Guilford Mooring, Superintendent of public Works

Other: Rudy Perkins

Meeting called to order by Ms. Brewer at 6:36 p.m.

Ms. Brewer acknowledged the outpouring of support both for the family of John P. Musante, our Town Manager who had passed away unexpectedly last week, and for the staff. The American flag on the Common was lowered to half-staff in honor of Musante's service to the Town from the date of his death until his internment. Appreciation for the staff who worked through the circumstances of the last week was noted.

Rudy Perkins of Cherry Lane spoke about the possibility of Amherst's participation in a municipal coalition of towns against the Kinder Morgan Tennessee Gas pipeline proposed, noting the Select Board and Town Meeting's vote against the pipeline at the Spring Town Meeting. The primary purpose of the coalition is to prevent the construction of the pipeline through political, legal and other means, in addition to the moratorium by Berkshire Gas. Mr. Perkins offered his written comments for the Select Board.

Naming of New Roadways

Mr. Ziomek noted documents available in the packet on the background of the request regarding the naming of two streets in South Amherst near the new rotary, which include a map of the roadways dated September 25, 2015. Superintendent Guilford Mooring provided explanation of Town Meeting votes accepting the ways, however the naming of the ways, which were chosen to acknowledge the contribution of two of the owners of Atkins Farms Market Pauline Lannon and Harold Gould had never been done.

VOTED unanimously to approve the names of roadways, as recommended by the Planning Board at their meeting of August 19, 2015 and shown on Sheet 6 of 7 of the "Plan of Land in the Town of Amherst, Hampshire County Bay Road, West Bay Road and West Street, Altered and Laid Out By the Town of Amherst," dated December 2011, Gould Way for the street that lies to the west of Atkins Farms Market, intersects with West Bay Road and heads in a southerly direction and Lannon Lane that lies to the south of Atkins Farms Market, intersects with West Street and heads in a westerly direction to an intersection with Gould Way.

Stop Signs

Ms. Brewer noted this was her neighborhood and wanted it noted in the minutes that she had no involvement in the request for paving or signage requested. The bars referenced in the material are the lines painted at the point at which vehicles must stop. Ms. Brewer requested the citizens receive a written response to their request. Questions by members on consistency of process for approval were noted. Mr. Mooring reviewed the process, noting the citizen request is reviewed by Town engineers to ensure the necessary criteria required in the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Standards is met. If the signage is approved, it moves forward to Select Board, if it is not, the response is reported to the Select Board with the analysis as to why not. The Select Board has forwarded to the Public Works Committee for review and opinion.

VOTED unanimously to approve the installation of stop signs and stop bars at the intersections of Berkshire Terrace and Farview Way and Old Town Road and Farview Way, with the installation of stop signs and bars installed on Berkshire Terrace and Old Town Road where they intersect with Farview Way, as recommended by the Public Works Director.

Mr. Mooring noted signage will be posted within a two week time period assuming the signs are in stock. A map that illustrates the locations and orientations of the signage dated September 28, 2015 was provided.

Town Manager Report

Ms. Brewer noted Mr. Ziomek had been appointed as the Interim Town Manager, in addition to his duties as the Assistant Town Manager and Director of Conservation and Development. Mr. Ziomek thanked the Board and acknowledged the memorial service for Mr. Musante and offering thanks to all the department heads, especially Chief Nelson, Chief Livingstone, Superintendent Mooring, Facilities Director Bohonowicz and Health Director Julie Federman, in addition to the wonderful staff who stepped up and helped him and the Musante family over the last week.

Mr. Ziomek acknowledged a letter from the Institute of Municipal Clerks and offered congratulations to Sandra Burgess on the designation as Master Municipal Clerk.

Mr. Ziomek offered updates on various projects and meetings with senior staff providing updates and information on various hiring processes, the LSSE move, the planning department transition, roadway improvements, as well as budget, town meeting preparations and the Wildwood school building project. The foundation is in on the Habitat home on the Hawthorne site. DPW and Conservation collaborated on a project in Orchard Valley to address a long standing issue with flow and pond level. A second public information meeting on solar is planned for October 27, 2015. A website is being launched providing the historic information, as well as the information from the first session and will be updated as we go along.

Ms. Kruger offered her thanks to Mr. Ziomek for the way in which he assumed the leadership role under these challenging circumstances, providing a calm steady hand to continue forward.

Member Reports

Members reported on attendance at various meetings. Mr. Slaughter provided the particulars of a recent PVTa Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Wald reported briefly on the work of the Public Arts Commission towards creation of a Cultural Arts District intended to encourage the arts in our community. Ms. Brewer noted the CDBG Advisory Committee is especially stressed in relation to a need for committee members. Mr. Steinberg reported on the Town Meeting Electronic Voting Committee's preparations for drafting the bylaw change and capital request for Town Meeting, as well as updates regarding the proposed Bike Share Program. Ms. Brewer noted it was her expectation that the program will not come back before the Select Board until there is specific information on the commitment necessary. Mr. Steinberg presented the proclamation translated in Japanese for Kanegasaki's anniversary, thanking Ms. Kruger and Ms. Puppel for their assistance in preparation. Ms. Kruger spoke about the Amherst Affordable Housing Trust's trip to Westfield, looking at what Westfield has been able to achieve. Ms. Kruger and Mr. Steinberg both reported on attendance at the Campus and Community Coalition meeting, working on the coming year's agenda. Ms. Kruger indicated she is traveling to Boston with Mr. Burgess and Mr. Pooler tomorrow to testify before the Joint Committee on Revenue, providing oral testimony to promote the Act passed at Annual Town Meeting to allow the Town to negotiate special tax agreements for housing incentives. Mr. Wald reported on the current grant cycle for the Amherst Cultural Council and provided news on the work of the Design Review Board in North Amherst design. Ms. Brewer reported on the upcoming forum for the school building project. Ms. Brewer reviewed Select Board liaison responsibilities and past practice, reviewing the list and members determining preferences for service.

Chair Report

Ms. Brewer reviewed recent events attended and calendar items upcoming.

Mr. Steinberg explained the need to appoint a temporary clerk, referencing his travel out of the country.

Temporary Clerk Appointment

VOTED unanimously to approve the appointment of Connie Kruger as Temporary Clerk of the Select Board in the absence of the Clerk from September 30, 2015 through October 14, 2015.

Committee/Board Appointments

VOTED unanimously to appoint Sondra Radosh to the Amherst Cultural Council through June 30, 2018.

Special Liquor Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Top of the Campus Inc. for a Special Wine & Malt License for service at a reception to be held on September 29, 2015 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Kellogg Conference Room, Engineering Lab II, UMass Amherst; Meredith Schmidt, Director.

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Top of the Campus Inc. for a Special Wine & Malt License for service at a reception to be held on October 8, 2015 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Goodell Lobby, UMass Amherst; Caroline Nofio, Director.

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Top of the Campus Inc. for a Special All Alcohol License for service at a reception to be held on October 8, 2015 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Bernie Dallas Room, Goodell, UMass Amherst; Meredith Schmidt, Director.

Minutes

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of May 11, 2015, May 18, 2015, June 8, 2015 and June 15, 2015, as amended.

VOTED 4-0 with 1 abstention (Wald) to approve the minutes of July 8, 2015 as amended.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Submitted by M. David Ziomek, Interim Town Manager

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting – Available in the Online Packet for the Meeting Date

Agenda

Draft Motions

Memo and Maps from DPW on Naming of Ways

Planning Board Action on Naming of Ways

Memo, Map and Illustrations from DPW on Stop Sign Installation

Resident Letter on Stop Sign Request

Handout – Possible Municipal Anti-NED Coalition

Handout – Sandra Burgess Master Clerk Certification

Special All Alcohol License Applications for Top of the Campus Inc. 9/29/15 and 10/08/15

Select Board Draft Minutes 05-08-2015, 5-11-2015, 6-08-2015, 6-15-2015, 07-08-2015,