

Selectmen's Minutes

November 18, 2002

7:00 P.M.



Present: Trey Shupert, Walter Foster, F. Dore' Hunter, Peter Ashton, Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager. Meeting was televised.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Graham Knowland – 29 Esterbrook Road spoke about the neighborhood concerns that would be addressed. He feels the Town has not liveD up to the promises. He feels the Town is aware of the activities and wants enforcement. He is concerned about the Wetlands area. Trey asked that we respond to issues and send copies of Emails.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPOINTMENTS

SEWER COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Steve Barrett was present to discuss the sewer rate and review of Special Circumstances. DORE' HUNTER –Moved to set the rate at 01660 for November, PETER ASHTON - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

DORE' HUNTER - Moved to extend the residential Rebate program until March 31, 2003
WALTER FOSTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING

Jim Kotanchick, Chair of the Board of Assessors presented the Classification package to the Board. He noted that this was the same presentation as last year with revised numbers. He outlined the various classes and shifts available for the Board to vote upon for the upcoming year.

DORE' HUNTER - Moved to maintain the Uniform Tax Rate PETER ASHTON -second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

DORE' HUNTER Moved to not allow the small commercial or open spaces exemptions, PETER ASHTON – Second – UNANIMOUS VOTE.

The Board asked about the status of the CPA implementation. Don noted we get the tax bills out on Dec 31 and we should address issues as they come in.

OUTDOOR LIGHTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Bernie Kosicki spoke about the establishment of the committee. They have a draft bylaw prepared for review and spoke of ways the town could save money. They are waiting for comments and wish to have this presented at Town Meeting. Trey had concerns about the 7 year sunset clause and said that he would have to change over his own lights. He asked about enforcement. Walter thanked them for volunteering to undertake this project. He has reviewed the bylaw and would question the enforcement in the commercial community. He suggested phasing in the changes. Dore' felt that residential was overkill. He felt a phased

approach would be better. He reminded them there is a staff cost. He felt they should omit the residential section and develop a campaign to educate community members of this situation.

Peter agreed with Dore's concerns and he felt we should move to enforce with the commercial properties. He had concern about enforcement and workload increases.

CONCORD ROAD SIDEWALK/TREE REMOVAL HEARING – Trey outlined the options and reviewed each option. David Abbt said the funding is an issue and if Highway were to build it, it would cost less. Dean noted the retaining wall issue and the loss of more trees. He said that the real issue is of perceived safety of the proposed crosswalks. Peter asked if they knew what the total budget cost is if his plan was followed. David said \$120,000 and the retaining wall would be in the \$30,000-\$40,000 cost estimate. Peter felt that he was inclined to stay with the plan proposed by staff. He noted the safety, number of trees lost and budgeting issues. Dore' agreed with Peter. Walter felt he would like to go with the neighbors wishes. He felt on the whole he would be inclined to have one cross walk crossing east to west. Trey felt we needed to move forward now with the staff recommendation; DORE' HUNTER - Move we implement the towns plan with two crossings PETER ASHTON. second 3-1 Foster, Nay. DORE' HUNTER – Moved the removal of the oak located in front of 32 Concord Road PETER ASHTON – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS

FY04 BUDGET DISCUSSION – Trey felt we should have a special meeting to get public input. Dore' felt we should do it during a regular meeting. Peter suggested the 16th after the Cable hearing. Peter noted that the Fin Com should be advised. Peter spoke about the last ALG handout and noted we have a deficit of \$100,000 before the vote taken at the last Board meeting. Dore' felt that public safety was an issue. He noted that the overtime issue still remains an issue and warned of potential station closures from time to time.

Walter is interested to see how the Wednesday feed back goes. He spoke about transfer station issues or other less critical areas.

Trey noted that he has received comments that we are not cutting deep enough. He said we are cutting public safety as opposed to Library. He wanted to see if the fire truck or brush trucks could be fit into the A budget.

FEES DISCUSSION - Don noted that staff has not done any additional work on fees, however, it is clear that the Selectmen must receive at least \$1.00 of compensation annually in order to qualify for benefits. The Board directed that their salaries be reduced to \$1.00. Trey wanted to have the dog license increased fees put on the Town Meeting Warrant for April.

Peter wanted to talk about beach fees and discussion of this with the Recreation Commission.

ARRT – Walter discussed the project and said that the MBTA was trying to charge us and noted that other communities received the right of way for no cost. DORE' HUNTER Moved we vote to authorize the release of excess funds to Maynard when we

have concluded the negotiations for the two Acton segments and have progressed to a point that there is confidence in the final acquisition costs and we are sure we are not going to need those funds. WALTER FOSTER – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

ALG – Peter noted the two issues that have been raised. The school has put on the table the timing of a potential override. They felt the override vote should come before the Town Meeting. Dore' felt that it would be better to vote the override after town meeting. Stabilization money use was discussed by the Finance Committee at the meeting and they were asked to bring it back to the Boards for discussion.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT– The Board discussed the CPA appointment process. The Board makes three appointments to this committee. Walter Foster is the Board's recommendation for the Board of Selectmen's appointment. He will contact the Chairmen of the other five Boards involved to solicit member from each to represent those boards. Peter noted that the Board will review the at large members.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dore' spoke about the meeting he attended regarding MBTA and plans that were presented he felt that they presented a viable solution.

MAKAHA Liquor license issue - We have the public hearing on the 19th

Brookside - Trey noted that he wants all the violations resolved before issuance of permits.

Speed limit on 2A issue. Trey reported that he will send an email copy to the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

F. DORE HUNTER – Moved to approve. PETER ASHTON – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Dog Care Special Permit - Dore' spoke about the addition of from issuance after 6 months in the decision.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Don reported on the upcoming meeting with the Public Safety Building architect, Inspector General has said we have asked for waiver for the Towne Building.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

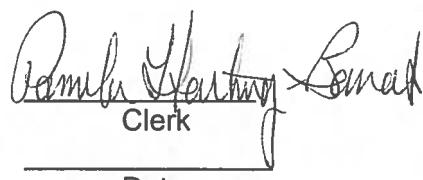
November 18 2002

Brookside – They are entering into loam discussions. They have proposed we keep all the loam and they not pay us the \$40,000 gift. They have written a check for \$182,000 for the loss of the loam. Don has asked they shake the pile and report back. The loam is only worth 2.00 per yard and is worth \$40,000. Don asked if we wanted to make the deal. Walter asked about loam and could it be used or sold.

We should put Mr. Peabody on the list of those deposed.

Grace has asked that we waive all interests and penalties etc, and they will pay the Betterment payment.

Christine Joyce
Recording Clerk


Clerk

Date

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WALTER FOSTER -Moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation. PETER ASHTON – Second. Roll Call Taken, all AYES

Christine Joyce
Christine Joyce
Recording Clerk

DHB
Clerk
12/11/02
Date



November 15, 2002

TO: Board of Selectmen, Sewer Commissioners
FROM: Trey Shupert, Chairman
SUBJECT: Selectmen and Sewer Commissioners Report



NOVEMBER 18, 2002
MEETING BEGINS AT 7:00 P.M.

I. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

II SEWER COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

7:03 SEWER RATE SETTING AND REVIEW OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES -
Enclosed please find recommendations and staff comments from staff for Board consideration.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPOINTMENTS

1. **7:15 TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING** – Enclosed please find materials in the subject regard.
2. **8:00 OUTDOOR LIGHTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE** – Enclosed please find materials from the Town Planner for Board consideration.
3. **8:30 CONCORD ROAD SIDEWALK/TREE REMOVAL HEARING** -Continued from November 4.

IV. SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS

4. **FY04 BUDGET DISCUSSION**
5. **FEES DISCUSSION**
6. **ARRT** – Enclosed please find staff comment regarding ARRT.
7. **ALG** – Selectman Ashton and Foster will report on the status of the ALG Plan.
8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

V CONSENT AGENDA

9. **ACCEPT GIFT** – Enclosed please find a request from Recreation for acceptance of items to be used at the Winterfest Silent Auction for Board consideration.
10. **ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSE** – Enclosed please find a request for a One-Day Liquor License for Winterfest at NARA for Board consideration.

- 11. **ACCEPT GIFT** – Enclosed please find a request from the West Acton Library for acceptance of \$500.00 from the West Acton Merchants Business Professional Association for Board acceptance.
- 12. **SITE PLAN SPECIAL PERMIT #09/06/2002-384, 272 GREAT ROAD** – Enclosed please find a draft decision for your consideration.
- 13. **SITE PLAN SPECIAL PERMIT – 8/14/2002 –383, 52 KNOX TRAIL** – Enclosed please find a draft decision for Board consideration.

VI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

VII EXECUTIVE SESSION

AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WILL BE REQUIRED FOR PURPOSES OF LITIGATION.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Enclosed please find additional correspondence that is strictly informational and requires no Board action.

FUTURE AGENDAS

To facilitate scheduling for interested parties, the following items are scheduled for discussion on future agendas. This IS NOT a complete Agenda.

December 2 – License renewal review- HDC Committee interview

December 16 – Sewer Commissioners, vote 2003 licenses – Starbucks Coffee Common Victualer and Special permit
Jan 13 & 27

GOALS 2002-2003

1. Labor Negotiations & Improve Labor Relations environment (Peter/Trey)
2. Improve Communication with Town Boards (Peter/Trey)
Implement Chairman Round Table - (Trey) (for Dec/Jan)
Revisit 2020 Planning Process for direction to make this process more beneficial towards
Implementation of long-term vision (Trey).
3. Towne Building Reuse (Walter/Dore'/Peter)
4. ALG process be used for purpose of Budget Planning for FY04 (Walter/Trey)
5. Residential and Commercial Growth (Walter/Pam) (PCRC EDC – Continuing to meet)
6. Open Space and Recreation Plan (Peter/Walter) Completed
7. Health Insurance Trust Agreement (Peter) (Peter still working on getting comments from Water District.)
8. Decision on Pentamation Accounting System (Dore'/Peter) (Proposals are being looked at by staff)
9. Process Planning for "Life after NESWC" (Pam/Peter) (John Murray is looking at this)
10. Joint IT process-organizational change (Walter/Dore')
11. Implement an on-going Public Relations campaign regarding budgetary situation (Trey/Walter) (ALG put
plan in place A/B)
12. Provide looking at salary levels in the organization, include liaison with Personnel Board (Trey /Peter) (Need to
look at budget)
Based upon results of Salary Survey, conduct a through review of current salary levels (Trey/Peter) (Need to
look at budget override for Operating budget)
13. Broader community interface with Emerson Hosp.- Board of Health to take elder issues on (Pam)
14. Recreational field lack of space, prison land etc. (Walter)
15. Middlesex Pension alternatives (Walter)

GOALS carried forward

16. Public Safety Facility (Dore'/Trey)
17. Determine future of Vaillancourt House - 17 Woodbury Lane. (Pam) (No dialogue thus far as budgets have
had the bottom fallout, Historical Commission issue and seek suggestions)