

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES APRIL 11, 2011
APPROVED**

Present: Stuart M. Schulman, Chairman; Anna Eliot, Vice Chairman; George Dillon, Jr., Clerk; Joshua A. Degen

Absent: Peter Cunningham

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

Mr. Schulman called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda for the public.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad stated that he has received the resignation from Treasurer/Tax Collector Christine Collins. Christine has accepted the job as Treasurer/Collector for the Town of Westford. Christine's last day will be Friday, May 13, 2011. In the interim, Mr. Haddad has appointed Joan Tallent as the Interim Treasurer/Tax Collector effective May 16, 2011. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board ratify his appointment. Mr. Haddad noted that a cash audit would be conducted once Ms. Collins leaves her position and a reserve fund transfer will need to be made to cover the cost.
Mr. Degen moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Joan Tallent as the Interim Treasurer/Tax Collector at Step 1 effective May 16, 2011 until the position is filled. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.
2. Mr. Haddad distributed proposed article assignments [**Document #1-Article Assignments**] for the 2011 Spring Town Meeting and April 25th Special Town Meeting. After discussion it was decided that Mr. Degen would take all of the 134 Main Street Articles. Mr. Haddad stated that he would speak to the Moderator regarding possible article order changes.
3. Mr. Haddad distributed a report from Lila Grallert [**Document #2-Bottle Report**] asking the selectmen to adopt a resolution in support of a bottle bill amendment that would expand the current bottle bill to include non-carbonated beverages. Lila is a student at UMASS Amherst and a member of the student organization MASSPIRG. Mr. Schulman asked if this adoption would require another bin at the Transfer Station. Mr. Dillon suggested getting the Recycling Committee's input before adopting this resolution.
4. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board ratify his appointments to the Gorton Pool & Golf Center and Relief Dispatchers.
Ms. Eliot moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of the following (1)Pool & Golf Center Employees: Marge Rider, Mike Mossdrop, Carl Morgan, Alexandria Dolph, Bill Beresford, Fred Leger, (2) Relief Dispatchers: Brenda Cassidy and Jonathan Shattuck. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Motion carried (4 in favor, 1 abstention).
5. Mr. Haddad read into the record a letter from Chief Palma listing all the help Groton received at the Groton Road Race on April 17, 2011. [**Document #3-Ltr from Palma RE Road Race**]

EBI MASALEHDAN-PEACE FOUNDATION FUND RAISER BEER 7 WINE LICENSE REQUEST

Ebi Masalehdan wanted to sponsor an event on June 25th from 11am to 7pm at Lawrence Academy fields to help raise funds for the World Music Peace Book. Mr. Masalehdan was requesting a one-day liquor license. Betsy Sawyer a teacher at the Middle School discussed the past seven years and her efforts to publish the book. Ms. Sawyer hoped to have the book finished by June of 2012.

Ms. Eliot moved to approve a one-day beer and wine license to Ebi Masalehdan for June 25, 2011 (rain date June 26, 2011) from 11am to 7pm contingent on a complete application. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Eliot moved to approve a one-day entertainment license to Ebi Masalehdan for June 25, 2011 (rain date June 26, 2011) from 11am to 7pm. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE-HAZEL GROVE PARK-NATIONAL REGISTER

George Moore, member of the Agricultural Commission and John Ott are working to put the Hazel Grove Park on the National Registry. Mr. Ott the head of the Groton Historical Society stated that work needed to be done to be accepted on the registry. A consultant needed to be hired. Mr. Haddad noted that the Park Commission was looking for the best place for fields but a spot on the registry can be sought after regardless of the Park Commission's efforts. The Agricultural Commission will report back to the Board once they have obtained more information.

HALSEY PLATT-PRESCOTT SCHOOL REUSE COMMITTEE

Mr. Platt asked the Board why they voted not to recommend the Article for CPC funds to conduct a feasibility study on Prescott School. Mr. Schulman stated that he was concerned with the money being out of the unrestricted fund that needs to pay for Surrenden Debt. Mr. Dillon stated that he was concerned with funds as well but also a more narrowed vision of what could go there. Mr. Dillon felt a feasibility study was premature and could become expensive. Mr. Degen added that no marketing study had been done by the committee. Mr. Platt expressed confusion as to what was expected from the Committee and what the Charge of the committee was. Mr. Platt stated that the committee has taken it as far as they could go and now need professional assistance. Mr. Degen recommended putting out a survey as well as input from Center Fire Station Relocation Committee, who have targeted the Prescott site as a possible place to put a new Center Fire Station. Mr. Dillon reiterated that the committee needed to narrow down their focus on usage. The Board did not change its mind on not supporting the article on the Town meeting warrant.

POLICE GUN RANGE-BOARD DISCUSSION

Mr. Dillon began by stating that he along with Mr. Cunningham met with Mr. Haddad and Chief Palma to discuss issues brought up at the public meeting regarding the shooting range. Mr. Dillon had another follow-up meeting with Chief Palma and Lieutenant Cullen. The issue of training, operational costs as a result of shutting down the range was hard to pin point. The additional cost of \$10k indicated at a previous meeting by the Chief was a good faith estimate but a higher number may be more realistic given the little control the police department has over varying variables such as mileage, overtime etc. Mr. Dillon pointed out how the Town benefits through in kind donations from NEMLEC and other organizations that use the range. There is additional coverage for events, games, parades etc.

Mr. Dillon recommended the following:

1. Three (3) months use at shooting range limited to Groton Police and the IRS personnel
2. Chief Palma will complete the NRA range audit.
3. Seek funding for a regional indoor shooting range.
4. IRS will utilize the range one day a year
5. Mr. Dillon reported that the range had a combination lock that only three people have the combination for in Town.

Mr. Degen asked why three months and why not close the range forever. Mr. Schulman stated that the three month date gives a checkpoint to the issues and the Board can review everything in three months.

Mr. Degen moved to close the shooting range to all outside organizations except the Groton Police and the IRS. In three months review the NRA Audit and any additional information gathered. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

FUEL STORAGE PERMIT RENEWALS

Mr. Degen moved to approve the fuel storage renewals and to authorize the Town manger to sign said renewals, listed in a memo dated April 7, 2011. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. [Document #4-Fuel Storage Permit Memo]

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Degen attended the CPC reconsideration meeting on 134 Main Street, which voted 5-2 in favor of reconsideration and for consideration of Town Meeting. Mr. Dillon also attended the CPC meeting as well as the Planning Board and Conservation Commission meetings regarding 134 Main Street. Ms. Eliot attended all the 134 Main Street meetings as well as the Groton Electric Light meetings to choose a designer. Mr. Schulman also attended all the meetings listed above regarding 134 main Street.

MINUTES

Mr. Degen moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 14, 2011, as amended. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. [Document #5-Draft 3-14-11 Minutes]

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 21, 2011. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. [Document #6-Draft 3-21-11 Minutes]

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dillon moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
George F. Dillon, Jr. Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted,
Patrice Garvin
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 5-16-11