

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES JUNE 27, 2011
APPROVED**

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

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

Ms. Eliot called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad reminded that Board that at their last meeting the Town Clerk Michael Bouchard discussed the appointment to the Board of Registrars. The Board voted to appoint Dorothy Davis to the board of Registrars. Ms. Davis has declined the appointment based on the fact that she wanted to continue as an election worker which she could not do as a member of the Board of Registrars. Therefore, the Board needed to take the matter up again. Mr. Bouchard is now recommending that the Board reappoint Susan Slade to the Board of Registrars for a new three year term. Mr. Cunningham wanted to give the Democrats another chance to resubmit because they were not informed that an appointment on the Board meant that one could not serve as an election worker. The Board would take up the matter at their next meeting.
2. Mr. Haddad stated that the MRPC has developed a Walkability Project. The objective of this task is to work with MRPC communities to produce a walkability assessment for downtown areas based on existing conditions, local points of interest, trail inventory work etc. and then produce recommendations based on its findings. The report will take into an account the complete streets concept while analyzing ways to improve pedestrian circulation throughout downtown areas and promote healthy transportation options. Groton has expressed an interest in circulation improvements in the downtown area within our Master Plan. Both the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Groton participate in this project. Mr. Dillon asked if there was any cost to the town. Mr. Haddad stated that there were no costs to the town and asked for a formal vote.
Mr. Dillon moved to participate in the MRPC Walkability assessment program. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.
3. Mr. Haddad respectfully requested permission from the Board to take vacation from July 11, 2011 through July 18, 2011. Mr. Haddad noted that he would be out of the office for a total of five days. Mr. Haddad will be appointing Michael Bouchard as Acting Town Manager during his absence.
Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Michael Haddad as the Acting Town Manager while Mark Haddad is on Vacation, week ending July 16, 2011. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.
4. Mr. Haddad gave the Board an update on the renovations at Legion hall. Mr. Haddad recommended having the Board of Selectmen's meeting on July 18, 2011 at Legion Hall, to officially reopen the building.
5. Mr. Haddad gave the Board an update on the Town Hall Parking Lot.
6. Mr. Haddad commented on the recent resignation of the Building Commissioner. Mr. Haddad expressed the opinion that having the inspector cover the two different towns was not an advantage. Mr. Haddad mentioned this because the Inter-Municipal Agreement was expiring June 30th and asked the Board if they wanted to continue the agreement with Boxborough. Mr. Haddad noted that building permits have increased. Mr. Degen stated that he would like to see the position advertised regionally, including Boxborough. Mr. Degen added that if no candidates emerged then look at different options. Mr. Haddad stated that the Boxborough Administrator was very surprised by the resignation and recommends the Town of Groton having one inspector. Mr. Dillon was in favor of seeking candidates to cover both Towns. Mr. Dillon asked if the position was made whole what happened to the Assistant Inspector. Mr. Haddad stated that the Assistant Inspector would need to be let go if Groton retained a full time Inspector. Ms. Collette urged the Board to consider one inspector. Mr. Haddad stated that the position would be posted with the IMA.

LOST LAKE SEWER COMMITTEE-UPDATE

Angela Garger, Tom Orcutt and Carol Quinn were present to update the Board of the Lost Lake Sewer Committee. Ms. Quinn stated that work is still being done and the committee would like to continue in an advisory capacity. Extensive work has been done with the USDA to develop a median income and survey responses. The committee recommends one sewer commission. Ms. Quinn stated that their task has been done and the Board needs to decide what is next. Mr. Haddad concurred that the committee has done its job and decision making by the Board and Sewer Commission needed to be next. Two options are to build a sewer plant or contract with another town for an inter-basin transfer. Mr. Haddad noted that a policy needed to be drafted with input from the Lost Lake Sewer Committee. Mr. Degen had concerns with the inter-basin transfer and its impact on four corners and would like to see this explored more. Mr. Dillon wanted to see more alternatives presented to the Board. Mr. Dillon asked what the committee was looking for at this point. Ms. Quinn stated that the committee wanted to stay in place as an advisory committee but the Board of Selectmen is the decision makers. Mr. Haddad noted that Woodward and Curran have gone beyond their original scope and that any more work would require an appropriation. Mr. Haddad stated that he would keep the discussions going and would bring it back to the Board. Mr. Haddad stated that changing the charge of the Lost Lake Committee was premature at this time.

CONTINUATION OF ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

[Document 1 -Committee Interest Forms] [Documents 2-J. Degen Disclosure Form]

Mr. Schulman moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Brian Jones as a Special Police Officer for the Town of Tynsborough to expire June 30, 2012. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Schulman moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of John Fransquo to the Groton Pool & Golf Center. Mr. Cunningham seconded the Motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Cunningham moved to ratify the Town Manger's appointment of Littleton's Special Police Officers as indicated in a letter from Chief Kelley dated 6/24/11 to expire June 30, 2012. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Cunningham moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of the following to the Dog Bylaw Review Committee to expire June 30, 2011: Tom Delaney, George Moore, James Cullen, Sue Hogan, Mike Bouchard. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Dillon moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of the following to the Emergency Management Committee: Stephen Byrne, Joseph Bosselait, Martha Campbell, Francis Cusak, Daniel Daigneault, Edward Doucette, Tom Delaney, Heather Emslie, Carl Flowers, Norma Garvin, Mark W. Haddad, Sara Hewitt, Anthony Hawgood, Susan Horowitz, Kevin Kelly, Holly Jareck, Elaine Johnson, Leroy Johnson, Robert Johnson, Stephen Legge, Catherine Lincoln, Joel Magid, Steven Mickle, Mark Miller, George Moore, Steven Moutlon, Thomas Orcutt, Gordon Newell, Donald Palma, Benjamin Podsiadlo, Kathy Puff, Earl Russell, William Shute, Laurie Smigelski Lawrence Swezey. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Cunningham moved to ratify the Town Manager's appoint of the following to the Regional Emergency Planning Committee: Donald Palma, William Shute, Joseph Bosselait (alternate). Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Dillon moved to ratify the Town Managers appointment of Joseph Bosselait as the Community Emergency Response Coordinator. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Dillon moved to appoint Peter Braudis to the Groton Military Community Covenant Committee to expire June 30, 2012. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Gus Widmayer to the Economic Development Committee to expire June 20, 2012. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion Motion unanimously carried.

ZBA Appointment Discussion-Josh Degen recused himself

The Board discussed briefly how they wanted to structure the reappointments for the ZBA.

Mr. Dillon moved to reappoint Bruce Easom and Megan Mahoney to the Zoning Board of Appeals, as alternates to expire June 30, 2012. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Dillon moved to reappoint Robert Cadle and Cynthia Maxwell to the Zoning Board of Appeals as full members to expire June 20, 2014. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

There are now two vacancies for alternates on the ZBA. Carol Quinn and Joshua Degen have submitted committee interest forms to serve on the ZBA. At this point Mr. Cadle stated that he did not wish to have Mr. Degen serve on the ZBA. The Board decided to split the vote of the remaining alternate vacancies. Mr. Cunningham hoped that if they Board decided to appoint Mr. Degen the ZBA could move past prior animosities.

Mr. Cadle was skeptical of the appointment of Mr. Degen and whether it would work. Mr. Schulman asked about the ethics committee's opinion of a sitting selectmen sitting on the ZBA. Mr. Schulman suggested checking with Town Counsel on the ethics opinion. Mr. Dillon agreed the Town should check with Counsel. Mr. Dillon added that the Board does not supervise the ZBA but there have been procedural issues in the past with the ZBA which caused the Board to step in.

Mr. Degen stated that even though he submitted a form to be a full member being an alternate would be fine. Mr. Degen stated that he served on the Planning Board for eight years and understands zoning. Mr. Schulman was concerned that being a sitting selectman and a member of the ZBA would hold too much power for one individual and was unnecessary. Mr. Schulman wanted to have Mr. Degen be able to meet with the ZBA before the Board made his appointment. Ms. Eliot stated that the Board would take up the appointment of Mr. Degen at the August 29th Board of Selectmen meeting.

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Carol Quinn as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals to expire June 30, 2012 and to take up the appointment of Joshua Degen as alternate to the ZBA on August 29, 2011. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Eliot stated that she would like to set aside the July 18th meeting as a goal setting meeting. Mr. Schulman reported that he attended several community events. Mr. Degen spoke about the Affordable Housing Trust Meeting he had attended. Mr. Degen reported that the developers, concerned with deadlines, are hoping the Board of Selectmen gets reengaged in the project. Mr. Haddad noted that the Town has never been through a 43D Expedited Permitting process but Michelle Collette is on top of the process. Mr. Cunningham reported that he is meeting with DCR to discuss the Squannacook River Rail Trail and will report back to the Board. Mr. Dillon attended a recent Eagle Scout ceremony.

MINUTES

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 16, 2011. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. [Documents 3-Draft Minutes 5-16-11]

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the executive session meeting minutes of May 16, 2011 and not to release. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. [Documents 4- Draft ES Minutes 5-16-11]

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the special meeting minutes of May 26, 2011. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-2 abstentions, Cunningham & Schulman. [Documents 5-Draft Minutes 5-26-11]

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Degen moved to adjourn at 8:58pm. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned

Approved: _____
Peter Cunningham, Clerk

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

Date Approved: 8-1-2011