

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES MARCH 19, 2012
Un-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 updated the Board on the new website. The new site was up and running and Mr. Haddad thanked Mr. Bulger for his efforts. Mr. Haddad also reported that the search for the Desktop Specialist position has been completed. Mr. Bulger and Ms. LeBlanc conducted the search and have recommended that he appoint Jessica O'Toole of 321 Riverbend Drive, Groton, MA to the position. Ms. O'Toole has 7 years of experience in IT which includes programming, systems administration, and website design. This is a Union position and will be paid according to the SEIU Town Hall Library pay scale at Grade 5, step 1 (\$17.35/hour). Pursuant to Section 4-2(c) of the Groton Charter, please consider this as official notification of this appointment. Mr. Bulger reviewed the hiring process that was conducted and that Ms. O'Toole is familiar with the new Police and Fire software.
Ms. Schulman moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Jessica O'Toole as the Desktop Specialist. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.
2. Mr. Haddad stated that the Town Manager Report item regarding the ratification of two new police officers will need to be discussed at the next selectmen's meeting.
3. Mr. Haddad reported that the Ayer Board of Selectmen has approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Groton. Mr. Haddad noted that this was a very important step for both Towns as we continue to determine the viability of using the Town of Ayer's Treatment Plant for our Lost Lake Sewer System. Mr. Haddad added that the vote of the Ayer Board of Selectmen was unanimous. **[Document 1-MOU]**
4. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to ratify his appointment of Norman Garvin to the Historical Commission.
[Document 2-Interest Form N. Garvin]
Mr. Degen moved to appoint Norman Garvin to the Historic Commission for an unexpired term to expire June 30, 2014. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.
5. Bob Collins addressed the Board. Mr. Collins stated that one of his clients, who wishes to remain anonymous would like to purchase the Sacred Heart Church. Once purchased the church is going to be rehabilitated as a Senior Center and donated to the Town. Mr. Collin's client does not wish to continue until it can be made certain that the Town wants the gift. Mr. Haddad stated that he spoke to counsel and that the Town needed to stay out of all design, procurement etc. Mr. Schulman asked what the procedural hurdles were for the Town. Mr. Collins stated that he would contact all the boards. Mr. Degen asked if the Council on Aging has been contacted. Mr. Collins stated that they have not been contacted. Mr. Cunningham asked if there were zoning issues. Mr. Dillon mentioned Thomas Moore's interest in the building. Mr. Collins stated that he has spoken to Mr. Fahey of Thomas Moore and that some items from the church may be available but it still needed to be worked out. Mr. Haddad stated that he would report back to the Board.

6. Mr. George Barringer stated that the street parking needed to be updated. Mr. Barringer was concerned with the on street parking on 119 and the proximity to the crosswalks making it treacherous to cross the street for pedestrians. Mr. Haddad stated that he would follow up with the Board.

BARBARA SCOFIDIO-LOCAL BUSINESS INITIATIVES

Bob Wright and Barbara Scofidio strongly urged the Board to help in their efforts to promote shopping local. Ms. Scofidio thanked the Town for their support with the recent banner and indicated that this was the first step. Ms. Scofidio stated that there would be a town wide event that supported local businesses and profits would be given to local nonprofits. The Giveback Day is scheduled for June 2nd. Mr. Degen encouraged residents to shop local. Ms. Eliot noted the recent map that was created by the Economic Development Committee. Ms. Scofidio stated that she would follow up with Mr. Haddad.

PRESCOTT RE-USE COMMITTEE UPDATE [Document 3-Prescott Re-Use Report 3-19-12]

Mr. Platt stated that there would be a public hearing on the Prescott School on April 10h. Mr. Platt also noted that there will be a public presentation at Town meeting. Mr. Platt stated that the Architect, Mr. Bargman has estimated the cost to renovate the Prescott School for a Fire Station would be 7.6 million dollars. Mr. Platt briefly reviewed a decision list that was made by the Re-Use Committee. Two other options were realized by the Re-use Committee. 1. Commercial Space with professional officers, retail shops and other rent paying groups. 2. An Inn with 30 rooms, restaurant and a possible function space. If the Town wants to keep space for public functions and wants to pay for it the school could be a Senior Center, home for the Historical Society, Earl Carter Memorabilia and this space could be balanced with commercial use. The benefit to the Town is that it brings people into the center to patronize other establishments, tax revenue, revitalize center, preserve a key building and provide residents with services that they want in Town. The committee recommended that the town not be the developer of the building due to public bidding laws and available tax credits. The Committee recommended a long term lease or outright sale of the building. Finally the committee recommended that the Town keep rights to access the front yard and parking areas.

The committee felt the selectmen needed to advocate for one idea and bring that to Town Meeting. However, the fire station decision needed to be made before any other option is looked at for Prescott. Mr. Platt thanked the Board and asked for questions. Mr. Cunningham asked if the Inn option could be combined with commercial use. Mr. Platt stated that the Inn was mutually exclusive. Mr. Platt explained how an Inn could work. Mr. Degen suggested the idea of a Tax Incentive Financing (TIF) for the developer who purchases the building. Mr. Dillon asked about the earthquake building code if the building were to become a fire station. Mr. Platt stated that the code required seismic considerations if became a fire station, which could be costly.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm into the Conservation Commission Meeting. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
Peter S. Cunningham, Clerk

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

Date Approved: