

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN-REGULAR SESSION MINUTES-10/1/01
"MINUTES APPROVED"**

PRESENT: Chairman Peter S. Cunningham, Clerk Dann Chamberlin, Member Thomas P. McCuin, Jr. and Administrative Officer Jean E. Kitchen.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

COMMUNITY GATHERING

Mr. Cunningham announced the successful Community Gathering held for the events of September 11, 2001. Donations for the New York Police and Dire Widows and Children's benefit Fund totaled \$340. He expressed appreciation for the participation of the High School Chorus, the local clerics, the other guests and the Selectmen.

EARTH REMOVAL HEARINGS – Decoteau and Bowman

Mr. Cunningham moved to address the first two items on the agenda. It was seconded and voted unanimously. Present were Mr. Decoteau, Mrs. Bowman, Mr. DeWolfe, David E. Ross Associates representative, and Mrs. Michelle Collette, Planning Board Administrator. Mrs. Collette indicated that this is the first time the Board of Selectmen has heard the Decoteau's. She said there was a site walk on September 28, 2001. Some recommendations:

1. Building permit be granted before any removal of earth from the site
2. Some distance desired
3. Postpone action on Bowman's lot. More particulars needed, re: location of pool, etc.
4. Would like to see a buffer between lots

Mr. DeWolfe, who will be doing both jobs, explained the plan to the Selectmen. There was an exchange of questions and answers for clarification. Mrs. Collette and Ms. Kitchen gave some historical background regarding these two properties. Mr. Chamberlin indicated that he wanted to support the Earth Removal Advisory Committee. Mr. McCuin indicated that the Board was more or less bound by the Bylaws. Mr. Cunningham indicated that the Board needed to have more specific information regarding the amount of material to be removed and the location of the pool. Mrs. Bowman asked for an extension of their request until October 9, 2001 at 7:45 PM. This request was moved, seconded and voted unanimously.

WEB SITE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Mr. Cunningham moved the appointment of Steve Webber as a member of the Web Site Committee, term to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

NORRIS ESCROW RELEASE

Ms. Kitchen reported that Mr. Norris has complied with requirements and therefore recommended release. Mr. Chamberlin moved to request that Attorney Henry Miller release \$25,000 held in escrow to David L. Norris, as per the Use and Occupancy Agreement dated July 25, 2000. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

BOOK RECYCLING

At 7:30 PM Ms. Christine Long from the Groton Recycling committee introduced Ms. Tucker Smith, the Groton School community Service Coordinator. Ms. Smith gave the background of the Groton School students selecting this as their community project. In addition, she gave an explanation of the Permanent Repository (van) for unwanted books. Most books come from public libraries and schools. During the winter, book "drop off" will be at the Groton Public Library. There will be a Belated Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Sunday, October 21, 2001. Ms. Smith extended an invitation to the Board to attend.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICE CAPTAIN

Chief of Police, Mulhern introduced new Police Captain Saball. The Board was given an overview of his responsibilities. Chief Mulhern further expressed pleasure at being able to complete his administrative staff with this appointment. At this point, the Chief pinned on the Captain's bars with his family in attendance. Congratulations were expressed by each member of the Board.

BID AWARD FOR WORK AT SENIOR CENTER

Mr. Chamberlin moved to award the bid for the repairs and painting exterior walls at the Senior Center to 1s^t Environmental contractors, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$10,880, contingent upon receipt of HDC approval. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

CROSSING GUARD APPOINTMENT

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of Beth Anne Senecal as a Crossing Guard, term to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

MINUTES

Mr. Chamberlin moved approval of the March 12, 2001 regular session minutes. Ms. Kitchen indicated she had written the letter to Mass Highway asking their support for the design, which moved the Four Corners Restaurant. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved approval of the September 24, 2001 regular session minutes. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

YARD SALE

Ms. Kitchen presented a request to hold a multi-family yard sale at Legion Hall Common on Saturday, October 13, 2001 from 9 AM to 1 PM. The sale is to benefit the non-profit organization, New England Valkyries. Discussion ensued regarding the frequency of granting such requests.

Mr. Chamberlin moved approval of the request. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

TREE REMOVAL

Ms. Kitchen further presented a request for the removal of a tree at Squannacook Hall. Mr. Tom Delaney, Highway Surveyor, gave a description of the condition of the tree and recommended that the Board stop by and take a look.

HIRING TEMPORARY HELP

Ms. Kitchen requested permission of the Board to hire temporary help for the Town Administrator's office during the Administrative Secretary's illness. There are funds available. Permission was granted.

SIDEWALK RAMP

Mr. Chamberlin inquired about the sidewalk ramp on the Rail Trail. Mr. Delaney clarified some relative concerns of the Board, one of which is the sidewalk must be ADA acceptable.

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

There were three applicants for two positions. It was emphasized that the town needed people with the qualifications of the two persons recommended.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of James M. Patierno as a member of the Capital Planning Committee, term to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of David Powell as a member of the Capital Planning Committee, term to expire June 30, 2004. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

RETIRED FIRE CHIEF CONNOLLY

Mr. Cunningham announced the death of Retired Fire Chief Connolly last Wednesday. His wake is being held at Badger's on Monday and Tuesday and the funeral on Wednesday morning at 10 AM at St. James Church. Mr. Chamberlin recalled the exceptional job he did for the Town of Groton, particularly when he and Mr. Ben Black administered the department after his retirement.

BANDSTAND DEDICATION

The Bandstand will be dedicated on October 13, 2001 at 2 PM. The Groton High School chorus and the Fitchburg Military Band will perform.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service is being planned at the Smith Social Pavilion (Bandstand) in memory of the Hanson family, which was lost in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack. It will take place on October 28, 2001 at 2 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCuin moved to go into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations, not to reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded. VOTE: Mr. Chamberlin-Aye, Mr. Cunningham-Aye, Mr. McCuin-Aye.

Approved: _____
Peter S. Cunningham, Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,
Louise Gaskins