

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – REGULAR SESSION MINUTES – 11/13/01**

**"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 6:55 PM.

**ROAD OPENING PERMIT – R.C. Black Co., Inc.**

The work will begin down the shoulder of Hazel Road for the purpose of a water main installation. Ms. Kitchen reported that the Highway Surveyor had no problem with the road opening. It will be completed by November 16.

Mr. McCuin moved the approval of a Road Opening Permit for R.C. Black Co., Inc. to install a 6” water main for 300’ along the shoulder of the roadway on Hazel Road for the purpose of a water main installation. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Collective Bargaining**

Mr. Chamberlin moved to go into executive session in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining, to reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

At 8:10 PM the Board reconvened in open session.

**FIRST NIGHT**

Nancy Prevost received a license to host First Night in Groton. This will be a non-alcoholic family festival of arts. Ms. Prevost talked about a tentative program. Many of program people all volunteered there performance or provided the entertainment at cut rates. She also discussed the schedule. The charge will be \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. They will create the largest greeting card with a message to wish peace to send to New York City and hope to use the foyer of Town Hall to do this. The Selectmen agreed to keep the Town Hall open til 5:30pm for the greeting card program. First Night organizers will have also arranged for the bells ring on Main Street at midnight.. The Selectmen do not license the vendors at Grotonfest, so Ms. Prevost was told she did not need a license. The Police Department supports the endeavor and is involved in the event.

**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)**

Mr. Cunningham said the purpose of the discussion was for the LEPC to talk about what Groton is doing in its capacity to respond, in light of the recent events in the country. Members of the LEPC were present for the discussion.

John Hewitt, LEPC Chairman, said the committee is meeting weekly. Included in these meetings are representatives from the public safety departments, Board of Health, GDRSD, Lawrence Academy, Groton School, and the local businesses. They are updating the comprehensive plan; looking at individual department plans. The plans are being put on CD.

Bill Shute, LEPC, said there are protocols in place to handle anthrax calls. Questions can be answered now. The Police and Fire Departments have been trained to handle this. A regional group is working on hazmat has received a start up certification, the next step will be provisional certification and then final certification. Only a few towns have final certification.

Mr. Chamberlin said he was grateful to those who prepare for these emergencies. The Selectmen thanked the LEPC for its work.

**McMANUS PROPOSAL**

There will be a hearing on Nov. 14 regarding Mr. Mc Manus proposal for a moratorium. Many departments have discussed this proposal. The Planning Board does not support this and is sending a letter stating its position. Many departments have

addressed growth. The proposal lacks legal standing for an outright ban. When you have a moratorium it prompts landowners to submit a plan. Mr. Cunningham had problems with many aspects of the proposal.

Mr. Chamberlin said the document should not be taken seriously, as the Board of Health cannot impose a moratorium. He challenged the Board of Health to show the people whose health is compromised because of infrastructure concerns. Town boards have been addressing growth. Mr. McManus's proposal expanding water and sewer which is contradictory because it would promote growth. The proposal does not mention financing of infrastructure repairs.

Mr. McCuin said the author is intent on moving forward. The proposal is offensive to the public safety departments, etc. because it claims they have shirked their duties. It attempts to tell every elected board what to do over the next 3 years. Mr. McManus said that the claim is based on Chapter 111 Section 122 – Prevent and Rid Town of Nuisance. This has confused public health and public safety departments. The Board of Selectmen has control over safety. The Board of Health has the auspices over health issues.

The consensus was that the Selectmen were not in support of the proposal. A letter will be sent stating that the Board unanimously opposed the proposal and that it took strong exception to it.

Mr. McCuin said the proposal dismisses the work the Town and GMAC has done on growth analysis.

## **MINUTES**

Mr. Chamberlin moved to accept the Regular Session Minutes of October 15, 2001, as amended. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved to accept the Regular Session Minutes of October 29, 2001, as amended. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved to accept the Executive Session (session 1) Minutes of October 15, 2001, as amended. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved to accept the Executive Session (session 2) Minutes of October 15, 2001. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved to accept the Executive Session Minutes of October 29, 2001, as amended. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Disband Groton Public Library Building Committee (LBC)**

Mr. McCuin moved to disband the Library Building Committee with the Trustees and Library Director to assume remaining responsibilities left with the LBC. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

### **350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Appointment**

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Lili R. Ott to the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for a term of 5 years, to expire on June 30, 2006. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

### **Perambulation**

Mr. Cunningham noted that the Selectmen perambulated the bounds between Groton and Ayer. The one on Sandy Pond Road had been hit. (Groton and Ayer were facing the wrong way). The Selectmen will perambulate the bound between Groton, Littleton and Westford on December 1.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:15 PM the Selectmen adjourned by unanimous vote.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully Submitted,

Dann Chamberlin, Clerk

Jean E. Kitchen  
Administrative Officer