

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
NOVEMBER 4, 2002  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
“APPROVED”**

Present: Chairman Dann Chamberlin, Clerk Peter S. Cunningham, Administrative Officer Jean E. Kitchen and Administrative Secretary Maria Casey.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Harmonious Development, Shaw’s Supermarket**

Planning Administrator Michelle Collette advised the Board of Selectmen (BOS) that Harmonious Development has been a bylaw since 1978 and gives the BOS the opportunity to review a very basic Architectural Design in conjunction with new construction for businesses. She also stated that it’s the applicant’s responsibility to request a Harmonious Development meeting and that the applicant cannot get a building permit without this process. The BOS submits their comments to the Planning Board and Building Inspector.

The BOS met with Attorney Margaret Bowles of GrayHarris representing Shaw’s, Architect Daniel R. Ellingson, Harriman Associates, and Mr. Bob Pine. Mr. Pine made the presentation of the drawings and Mr. Ellingson summarized the architectural features. Carolyn Perkins, Josh Degen and Bob Lewis were also in attendance from the Planning Board and made suggestions as well.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of a mural on the side of the main building facing Boston Road; however, upon further discussion, concession was made due to the landscape plan, which includes numerous plantings of evergreens providing a sloping canopy that will screen the building from the road and soften the landscape.

In summary, the Board was pleased with the use of gable entrances, parapets screening the mechanical equipment, dormers, wood cornices and moldings, the cupola and the clock tower. The Board however also offered the following suggestions:

- Consider placing the clock tower on the main building in order to break up the large expanse, ideally around the area of the “Shaw’s” sign.
- Consider warmer colors, such as sand or tan, colors more traditional to New England, as opposed to the starkness of white and cream, giving the building more of a “barn-look.”

**Main Street Committee**

*Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint R. Thomas Delaney, Jr., Highway Surveyor; Police Chief Robert L. Mulhern or Police Lieutenant John J. Rooney, alternate; Jane Bouvier as Groton Business & Professional Association (GBPA); Patrick Parker-Roach as Main Street resident representation, Barbara Scofidio as citizen-at-large and Edward J. Kopec as citizen-at-large to the Main Street Committee for the term to expire June 30, 2003. Seconded by Mr. Chamberlin. Unanimous vote.*

**Town Designation as EDA (Economically Distressed Area)**

Ms. Kitchen and Mr. Cunningham met with Claire O’Neill and Mike Logan from Mass Development. They had suggested that Groton designate the Town as EDA in order to be eligible for \$50,000 maximum for site assessments and \$500,000 maximum for cleanup actions, administrated by Mass Development but also have the added benefit of 50% tax credit for full cleanup or 25% tax credit for cleanup with a deed restriction or use limitation, as well as the other incentives of the Brownfield’s Initiative. The Town of Shirley, however, would also have to declare their town EDA designation in order to continue the contiguous tract from Leominster/ Fitchburg through Shirley and then Groton. This mechanism would access federal money to remediate sites that have had industrial use in the past. This designation would avail the Town of Groton for funding needed for any contamination at Station Avenue. The BOS would like a letter sent to Shirley encouraging them to EDA designation.

**Unattended Signs at the Polling Places**

*Mr. Cunningham moved to adopt the Unattended Signs at the Polling Places Policy. Seconded by Mr. Chamberlin.*

*Unanimous vote.*

**Administrative Officer Report**

Ms. Kitchen reported that House Bill 5364 (the bill to change the number of Selectmen from 3 to 5) will have a hearing on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> by the Committee of Local Affairs.

*Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Chamberlin. Unanimous vote.*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Peter S. Cunningham

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*Respectfully submitted,*  
Maria Casey,  
Administrative Secretary

Date Approved: December 9, 2002