

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 22, 2003
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
"APPROVED"**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

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

APPOINTMENTS

CHAPTER 40B – WASHINGTON GREEN, ROUTE 40, ASSESSORS' MAP 233, PARCEL 98

Attorney Ray Lyons was in attendance and represents HCR Construction Company, Inc. regarding this 40B application. He stated that he has had informal discussions with the other appropriate boards. He informed the BOS that there have been a few changes since the original application. The units have been reduced to 44 units; they will maintain 100' from the wetlands area; there is going to be a large knoll natural area now and there is more separation between the house and additional footage away from the Groton Electric Light substation. This proposal is for 44 units and 15 buildings. There will be two phases of this project as required by the bank. There will be local preference for municipal employees. There is on-site sewage, which is now interspersed rather than one location.

Dr. Susan Horowitz inquired what the applicant was going to do with the topography issues and site line problems and inquired if this application will go in front of the Planning Board.

Attorney Lyons stated that there would be both two and three bedrooms; the price range is \$249,000 to \$285,000.

The BOS requested additional affordable units and prefers two handicap units rather than one and additional phasing in of this project as there are other 40B projects in the works.

GROTON SCHOOL PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Mr. John McMillan was in attendance on behalf of the Groton School. Groton School requested to apply pesticides on the campus for aesthetic purposes. The product they will be using is likened to Grubex. The campus is approximately 20 acres.

Mr. Chamberlin noted that the BOS was in receipt of a response from the Groton Water Department stating that if "Town Water is required, the Owner shall use the appropriate backflow devices on the fill lines and fire hydrants are not an acceptable use for filling the trucks and shall not be used."

Mr. Cunningham requested that Mr. McMillan send a one-page summary of what the pesticide was that was applied, how much, what area, etc. Mr. McMillan agreed to comply.

Mr. Cunningham moved to authorize Groton School to use and apply pesticide for aesthetic purposes on the campus. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.

NOD ROAD CLOSURE

The Riverfest Committee requested the closure of Nod Road. Chief Mulhern was in attendance for this portion of the meeting and stated that he was not in favor of road closures for the following reasons:

1. Nod Road is not a dead end street and is a connector to several roadways, Sand Hill and Common Street. Both of these roads can then be used to access Hollis Street and Longley Road and also to Chicopee Road.
2. Two connections from Nod Road to North Main Street with the small island that would require traffic control.
3. There is a state boat launch off Nod Road approximately five hundred feet in from the intersection of North Main Street that is open for boaters during this event.
4. I do not support road closures for extended periods of time unless it is necessary.
5. I believe that two detail officers are needed at this event to monitor traffic and assist the pedestrian traffic at North Main Street and Nod Road and also near the boat launch area entrance on Nod Road. The event usually is a family type event but does draw a fairly large crowd.

The Chief, however, would recommend two detail officers with no road closure. He would be willing to consider posting the road local access only. This plan has worked well in the past and should be continued. The police department would also be willing to do some vehicle traffic counts if the Selectmen would find the information helpful.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Chamberlin noted that Groton is celebrating Arbor Day this year with a tree planting ceremony at the Town Field on

Saturday, May 10, 2003. Groton has been deigned worthy of the appellation, "Tree City, USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The annual observance of Arbor Day is a qualifying standard for the award. The Friends of the Trees are requesting May 10, 2003 as Arbor Day in Groton.

Mr. Hartnett stated that Josh Degen has decided to withdraw the article for long-term growth study. At this time, the price may be too high and the timing is not good. He plans to meet with Growth Management and Capital Planning and perhaps suggest the Fall Town Meeting for this article.

Announce Possible Agricultural Preservation Restriction – 122 Old Ayer Road

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 7, Section 40I requested that the Department of Food & Agriculture (DFA) notify the local Board of Selectmen of the State's intent to purchase, rent, sell or significantly change the use of one or more acres of real estate. Pursuant to that section, the DFA is considering acquiring an interest in approximately 30 acres of land within the Town of Groton for inclusion in the Agricultural Preservation Restriction. The property, which is currently used for agricultural purposes, is privately owned and will so if it becomes a participant in the APR Program. The development rights would be acquired to secure the presentation of land for agricultural purposes as provide in MGL Chapter 132A, Sections 11A-D and Chapter 184, Sections 31, 32 and 33.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cunningham moved to enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B for the purpose of holding an initial screening of candidates for employment and will reconvene into Open Session. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Roll call vote: Chamberlin - yes; Cunningham - yes; Hartnett - yes.

TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER APPOINTMENT

Mr. Hartnett moved to appoint Christine H. Collins as Tax Collector/Treasurer at Grade 14, Step 5 contingent upon review of the Personnel Board. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.

Approved: _____
Thomas D. Hartnett, Clerk

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Casey
Administrative Secretary

Date Approved: May 19, 2003

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