

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JUNE 6, 2005
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
“APPROVED”**

Present: George F. Dillon, Jr., Chair; John L. Saball, Vice Chair; Robert W. Nordblom, Clerk; Peter S. Cunningham, Member; Mihran Keoseian, Member; Administrative Officer Jean E. Kitchen, and Kathleen Newell, Office Assistant

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

350th Gala Ball Committee Update

Ms. Connie Sartini and Mr. Don Black were present for this portion of the meeting.

Ms. Sartini provided an update of preparations for the Gala Ball to be held on June 18, 2005 at Groton School. Mr. Black reviewed the events planned for the remainder of the year. Ms. Sartini noted that tickets are still available and that the Gala Ball was turning into a multi-generational event.

Firefighter Mark Schorn – Recognition for 10 Years of Service

Fire Chief Joseph Bosselait and Firefighter Mark Schorn were present for this portion of the meeting.

Chief Bosselait thanked Mr. Schorn for his 10 years of service and dedication. Chief Bosselait noted that 10 years was quite an achievement given the constraints on people's time in today's climate of work and multiple commitments.

Mr. Dillon presented a 10 year service pin to Mr. Schorn and the Board members thanked him for his commitment and service to the Town of Groton.

Town Forest Committee and West Groton Water Department

Mr. Harlan Fitch, Mr. Steve Babin, Mr. Jack Ridsen, Water Commissioner Chris Kelley and West Groton Water District Supervisor Gordon K. Newell were present for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Fitch gave a brief outline of a letter he had sent to Town Counsel. Mr. Fitch stated the West Groton Water District should pursue the required permits so that the Town Forest Committee will know what it needs to do. Mr. Fitch expressed concern about fragmentation of the Town Forest property, and suggested that the access road follow Ames Meadow Road.

Mr. Newell stated that he would read a prepared statement (enclosed herein) and answer any questions that may remain. Summary as follows:

- West Groton Water District has no back-up water source
- Currently viewing 2 sites, one on Town forest property
- Site walk planned for June 11, 2005 @ 8:30 a.m.
- Only 9 acres would be restricted
- Benefit of fire protection and trail maintenance at no cost to the Town.
- Timing is critical to receive SRF loan.

Mr. Dillon asked if the timing of the SRF loan was firm. Ms. Kitchen asked if West Groton Water District had signed a commitment letter. Mr. Newell stated that he had attended a meeting with the DEP and State personnel and if West Groton Water District does not complete the application in time the loan will be passed to the next eligible applicant.

Mr. Nordblom asked what the road easement would be and if the existing trails would be used. Mr. Newell stated 25 feet (the actual path would be 10 feet) with no improvements and existing trails would be used except the last 750 feet of additional trail to the site. Mr. Newell stated that the trail that would be created would provide fire protection access to the property.

Mr. Cunningham referenced the letter and asked if the recently acquired Blood property would merge with the Town Forest property. Mr. Newell stated that the West Groton Water District purchased the Blood property with an EOEIA grant which pays for half of the land and West Groton Water District will place its portion of the land in Article 97 to protect it from development. Mr. Cunningham asked if passive recreation would still be allowed on the Town Forest land. Mr. Newell stated it would except when the well is in place. Mr. Cunningham stated he was skeptical that the deadline could be met with

having to call a summer Special Town Meeting and getting the necessary quorum. Mr. Newell stated that there were 2100 residents in the West Groton Water District who have had red water for the past five years and would be in attendance. Mr. Newell stated that West Groton Water District was trying to retain access to the funding and if the Town Meeting vote was approved and they file for Article 97 amendment, the requirements will have been met for the October deadline.

Mr. Newell noted that there would be a cost to interconnect with Groton Water and they it does not have the water nor does Pepperell. Mr. Newell noted that with the well from the Town Forest property West Groton Water would be able to provide a substantial amount of water to Groton Water District. Mr. Cunningham noted that the Town Forest Committee had recommended West Groton Water provide fire hydrants on the property. Mr. Babin noted that the hydrants would be at no cost to the Town.

Ms. Kitchen asked Mr. Newell if all he was willing to agree to have everything which had been discussed and agreed upon this evening expressed in a legal document. Mr. Newell stated that the West Groton Water District did not have a problem with that and there was a meeting scheduled with the Groton Water Superintendent on June 15, 2005 to discuss feasibility. Ms. Kitchen stated that it will take some time to get the agreement into legal form. Mr. Newell suggested that what was needed was simply an article which asked the voters if they would be in favor of a well site on Town Forest land. Mr. Dillon stated that was an oversimplification of the matter and it would be difficult to have a summer Special Town Meeting. Mr. Newell stated he would contact DEP to see what would need to be done if a Town Meeting were to take place in September in order to meet the October deadline. Ms. Kitchen stated that the legalese would need to be in place for a special town meeting. Mr. Newell stated that the DEP had model leases, but they did not include fire hydrants. Mr. Newell stated that the West Groton Water District would prefer not to own any of the property, however if it would be better they could swap the Town nine (9) acres from another parcel, but the parcel must stay under Article 97.

Mr. Fitch stated that he had heard there was yearly chemical delivery made via trailer truck and was concerned that the trails would need to be expanded to meet that need. Mr. Newell stated that the pump station would be located on the Blood property and any deliveries would be received there; and the Fire Chief's recommendation for the access road would be a 12-foot wide road with a 1-foot wide shoulder on each side.

Mr. Fitch stated it would be more acceptable if the existing road was used instead of going cross country. Mr. Dillon stated that if the Conservation Commission agreed, there would be no problem.

Habitat for Humanity RE: Local Initiative Program (LIP), Saddle Lane 226-47

Ms. Terry Ragot, Megan Foley and Attorney Ray Lyons were present for this portion of the meeting.

Ms. Ragot read a letter from Attorney Robert Collins stating that Mr. and Mrs. Jay Decoteau had donated a parcel of land on Drumlin Hill Road to Habitat for Humanity for the construction of a single family home. Ms. Ragot noted that the deed had been transferred to Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Kitchen gave the Board a brief history of the property stating that the Town had been in court with the owner regarding this property. When the subdivision was built the lot was considered buildable, but it is now a non-conforming lot. The ZBA had denied the lot and the matter went to land court, but the owner had removed it.

Ms. Ragot stated the lot was .8 acres and the Housing Partnership was researching a way to make it buildable, possibly through a Local Initiative Program (LIP) or Chapter 40B housing project. Mr. Cunningham stated that the Town had implemented the Affordable Housing plan and this type of project would keep the Town in good stead with the DCHD. Mr. Keoseian asked why the property had been denied previously. Ms. Kitchen stated that the property was not buildable according to the Town's current code. Mr. Dillon stated that there had been two buildable lots which were taken in common ownership and became one property upon which a home was constructed but the remaining piece lost its buildable status. Ms. Ragot stated that the entire development had been built under flexible buildable guidelines at the time.

Ms. Ragot asked for a vote from the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Kitchen asked that the Board refrain until the next meeting so that abutters to the property could be notified of the proposed project. Ms. Kitchen stated it would also be helpful to have a legal opinion. Ms. Ragot stated she did have a legal opinion and was planning a meeting with notification to the abutters. Attorney Lyons stated it would be helpful to have the Board's approval. Mr. Keoseian, noting that as the abutters had not been informed, stated he could not support the project, until such time as those immediately affected were notified and given opportunity to respond. Mr. Dillon agreed. Mr. Saball agreed with Attorney Lyons stating that there would be opportunities further along in the process for the abutter's to express their opinions. Mr. Cunningham stated the there was a general

consensus of the Board to approve this type of project, but it would be prudent to have the public notified.

Ms. Ragot expressed gratitude to Mr. Decoteau for being a leader in the community in donating land for affordable housing. Ms. Kitchen scheduled an informational public meeting for the project on the June 20, 2005 agenda at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Saball moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:24 p.m., in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining or litigation position. Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; and will reconvene back into Open Session. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Roll call vote: Dillon – yes; Saball – yes; Nordblom – yes; Cunningham – yes; Keoseian – yes.

Mr. Saball moved to reconvene into Open Session at 9:17 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Roll call vote: Dillon – yes; Saball – yes; Nordblom – yes; Cunningham – yes; Keoseian – yes.

Other Business:

Appointment – Police Matron – Brenda Hazard-Taylor

Mr. Dillon moved to appoint Brenda Hazard-Taylor as Police Matron for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Unanimous vote.

Annual Reappointments - Animal Control Officer; Archives Committee; Capital Planning Committee; Chief of Police; Commission on the Handicapped; Dog Officer; Earth Removal Advisory Committee; Earth Removal Inspector; Fence Viewer; Field Driver; Haz-Mat Emergency Response Coordinator; Keeper of Lockup/Constable; Keeper of the Town Clock; Local Inspector; MBTA Advisory Board; Measurer of Wood and Bark; Moth Superintendent; Parking Clerk; Police Matrons; Public Safety Database Coordinator; Recreation Commission; Reserve Patrolman; Road Kill Officer; Sealer of Weights and Measures; Surveyor of Wood and Lumber; Town Diarist; Veterans' Service Officer; Election Workers

Mr. Dillon moved to appoint R. Thomas Delaney, Jr. as Animal Control officer for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Dillon to appoint Lona Bassett and Michael Roberts to the Archives Committee for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Unanimous

Mr. Dillon moved to appoint Jeffrey Gordon; Thomas Naughton, Jr.; James Patierno; Jay Prager; and Steven Webber to the Capital Planning Committee for the two-year term to expire June 30, 2007. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Dillon moved to appoint Robert Mulhern as Chief of Police for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Dillon moved to appoint Margaret McPartlan to the Commission on the Handicapped for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Saball moved to appoint Susan Hogan as Dog Officer for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Saball moved to appoint Edward Perkins to the Earth Removal Advisory Committee for the three-year term to expire June 30, 2008. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Saball moved to appoint Michelle Collette as Earth Removal Inspector for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Saball moved to appoint Bruce Clements as Fence Viewer for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Saball moved to appoint Bruce Clements as Field Driver for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Nordblom moved to appoint Joseph Bosselait as Haz-Mat Emergency Response Coordinator for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Nordblom moved to appoint Robert Mulhern as Keeper of Lockup/Constable for the one year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Nordblom moved to appoint Paul Matisse as Keeper of the Town Clock for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Nordblom moved to appoint Bentley Herget as Local Inspector for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Nordblom moved to appoint Dann Chamberlain as representative to the MBTA Advisory Board for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Harlan Fitch as Measurer of Wood and Bark for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint R. Thomas Delaney, Jr. as Moth Superintendent for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Joan Tallent as Parking Clerk for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint April Melvin; Sarah Mickle; Kathy Morin; and Darlene Touchette as Police Matron(s) for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Lawrence Swezey as Public Safety Database Coordinator for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Peter DiFranco to the Recreation Commission for the three-year term to expire June 30, 2008. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint George Aggott, Ryan Griffin and Keith Keady as Reserve Patrolmen for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Keoseian moved to appoint Steven Mickle as Road Kill Officer for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Dillon. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Keoseian moved to appoint Eric Aaltonen as Sealer of Weights and Measures for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Dillon. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Keoseian moved to appoint Harlan Fitch as Surveyor of Wood and Lumber for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Dillon. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Keoseian moved to appoint Harlan Fitch as Town Diarist for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Dillon. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Keoseian moved to Stephen Babin to the Town Forest Committee for the three-year term to expire June 30, 2008. Seconded by Mr. Dillon. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Keoseian moved to appoint William Miller as the Veterans' Service Officer for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Dillon. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Dillon moved to appoint Lillian Alcott; Barbara Avery; Lona Bassett; Bonnie Biocchi; Martha Campbell; Carol Chalmers; Anthony Corsetti; Joan Cox; Dorothy Davis; Harlan Fitch; Norma Garvin; Louise Gaskins; Joan Guimond; Margot Hammer; Valerie Jenkins; Edward Kopec; Lorraine Leonard; Donna Manley; Cindy Martell; Mary McGrath; Corrine Moyle; Geraldine Perry; Janet Thompson; Ramona Tolles; Marilyn Trecartin; Ann Walsh; Margaret Wheatley as Election Workers for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Unanimous vote.

Annual Reappointments – Special Police Officers – Shirley, Pepperell, Westford

Mr. Saball moved to appoint the following Special Police Officers from Shirley for the one-year term, term to expire June 30, 2006: Officers Steven Clark, George Fichter, James Gerakines, Gregory Gushlaw, Craig LaPrade, J. Gregory Massak, Everett Moody, Jr., Kevin Nickerson, Timothy Schaeffer, Chief Paul G. Thibodeau, and Peter Violette. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Saball moved to appoint the following Special Police Officers from Pepperell for the one-year term, term to expire June 30, 2006: Officers Kenneth Beers, Steven Bezanson, Todd Blain, Steven Burke, Edmund Bussiere, Gordon Candow, Jared Carrubba, Chief Alan S. Davis, William Greathead, Bruce Haskins, Armando Herrera, Alan Lessieur, Eileen Lundstrom, Benjamin McDonald, Stephen Mulkerin, Paul Nelson, Nick Parker, James Peters, David Querze, David Scott, Richard Smith, Richard Timipani, Fabrizio Vestri. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Saball moved to appoint the following Westford Special Police Officers for the one-year term to expire June 30, 2006: Officers Julie A. Beaudion, David Bettencourt, Mark Chambers, David Connell, Edward Cossette, Harvey Cote, Michael Croteau, Kenneth Delaney, Joseph Eracleo, Megan Guthrie, Derek Hartley, Jon-Allen Haslam, Scott Hyder, Michael Jelley, Steven Keins, Amy Landry, Christopher Lenney, William Luppold, Jr., Gregory Marchand, Patrick McCarthy, James McCusker, Thomas McEnaney, Victor Neal, Jr., Daniel O'Donnell, Jr., Ronald Paulauskas, James Peloquin, Michael Perciballi, Donald Pick, Marc Proia, Christopher Ricard, Edward Rochon, Jr., Dennis Rogers, Joseph Roy, Walter Shea, Joseph Shields, Stephen Timothy, Joseph Walker, David Welch, Robert Welch, Jr. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Minutes

Mr. Saball moved to approve the Regular Session Minutes of May 23, 2005. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Saball moved to approve and not Release the Executive Session Minutes of May 16, 2005, as amended. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. 4 in favor, 1 abstention (Keoseian).

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

Ms. Kitchen noted that there would be a Growth Management Advisory Committee (GMAC) meeting with the Assessors on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Dillon noted that there would be a Goals & Objectives meeting on June 14, 2005 and the liaison positions would be updated.

Mr. Nordblom noted that it would be good if the Board could attend the GMAC meeting on Wednesday.

Mr. Saball moved to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Approved: _____
Robert W. Nordblom, Clerk

respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Newell
Office Assistant

Enclosure: Letter from West Groton Water District, dated June 6, 2005

Date Approved: June 20, 2005