

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 12, 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

The meeting opened at 6:00 P.M.

Parks Commission RE: Town Commons

Mr. Dillon stated that the Board did not want to name every common or change them, but would rather focus on the process and that it is not done unilaterally by the Parks Department or American Legion etc. Mr. Black stated that both the Park Commissioners and Board of Selectmen are elected and asked where each entity's empowerment lies and if there are statutes which define the Parks Commission's responsibilities. Mr. Black stated that former Selectman Dann Chamberlain had asked the Parks Commission if it would take over the Smith Pavilion and at that time all parks and commons were put under the jurisdiction of the Parks Commission. The Armstrong Common discussion should be the decision of the Parks Commission, the Board of Selectmen and with consideration of others, i.e. seniors, veterans, etc.

Mr. Dillon stated that the common is not Groton School property and the reason the memorial was put there was because Jack Armstrong's father worked for the Danielson family, and lived in the Shirley Road area.

Mr. Cunningham stated he was not disputing the overseeing and maintenance of the commons, but the Board had an agreement with Groton School and what was to be done. It appears to have been abandoned. Mr. Cunningham noted that the Carol G. Wheeler memorial was the result of a petition with no opposition.

Mr. Saball stated that both entities need to work together and communication is important.

Mr. Keoseian stated the need to develop a process and procedures for the future and he would like a time line from Groton School. Mr. Keoseian proposed meeting with Groton School.

Mr. Dillon stated there were three issues with 1) the Armstrong Common, 2) whether Ms. Carlton would want to change her decision and 3) retention of memorials on original commons.

Mr. Cunningham stated there needed to be a meeting with the American Legion. Mr. Black stated that the governance of the common by the Parks Department would consist of maintenance and Parks has no choice in the name of the commons.

Mr. Keoseian stated that once the policy and procedures was roughed out it would need to be vetted with different organizations.

Mr. Cunningham stated the next step would be to keep pressure on Groton School, noting that Attorney Collins was handling the matter for the Groton School.

The Board should get on the American Legion agenda for discussion of the issues.

Mr. Black stated that there would be a Parks Commission meeting on Wednesday and the Board had been invited to attend and the Legion will be there.

Mr. Dillon stated it would be premature to meet with Ms. Carlton. Mr. Cunningham stated that he would need to see a plan of Groton School before meeting with Ms. Carlton.

Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Saball are available to meet with the Parks Commission on Wednesday and Mr. Dillon may attend also.

Carl Flowers RE: Dan Parker Road

Mr. Flowers stated that he did not live on an abandoned road and he had reviewed over 150 deeds and no deed uses the reference Dan Parker Road. Mr. Flowers stated the first reference to Dan Parker Road was the day it was abandoned. Mr.

Flowers brought the state archives precinct map (1923).

- 1938 James Fitzpatrick lists Shattuck Street as address
- 1942 widow lives on Shattuck Street

Mr. Flowers believes he lives on Shattuck Street. Mr. Flowers want Town Counsel to meet with his attorney April Babbitt. Mr. Saball asked if the issue had been previously reviewed by Town counsel and then stated the issue had been reviewed by Town Counsel in 1983. Mr. Flowers stated the 1983 letter was then Selectman Loretto Moen's opinion and there had been no mention in the minutes. Mr. Saball stated when the abandonment referred to Dunstable Road it goes to the town line of Dunstable. Mr. Flowers reiterated he would like Town Counsel to review all materials with his attorney.

Mr. Keoseian stated he would like to see if proper procedures were taken for the vote of abandonment. Mr. Saball asked if it was a valid abandonment and to see if proper procedures were followed in 1932. The Town will request Town Counsel to review the abandonment.

OTHER BUSINESS

Appointment to Community Preservation Committee- James Cantrill as Parks Department Representative

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint James R. Cantrill to the Community Preservation Committee as Parks Department Representative, term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Unanimous vote.

Open Special Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Saball moved to open the October 24, 2005 Special Town Meeting Warrant and close it on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned to Special Town Meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Approved: _____
Robert W. Nordblom, Clerk

respectfully *submitted*,
for Jean E. Kitchen by,
Kathleen Newell
Office Assistant

Date Approved: October 3, 2005