

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES MARCH 10, 2008  
APPROVED**

**Present:** George Dillon, Jr., Chairman; Joshua A. Degen, Vice Chairman; Stuart Schulman, Clerk; Peter Cunningham; Mihran Keoseian

**Also Present:** Jeff Ritter, Interim Administrative Officer; April Iannacone, Office Assistant

*Mr. Dillon called the regular meeting of the Board to Order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda for the public.*

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles, RE: Planning Board Submissions**

**\*\*Amend Chapter 218, Zoning Code**

Ms. Collette, Town Planner stated that the modification to the by-law would bring zoning map up to date.

**\*\*New Station Avenue Parking Restrictions**

A draft of the amendment has been approved by the Planning Board and sent to Town Counsel. This article would provide the town with the ability to manage the parking. Ms. Collette noted that the amount of pervious pavement is not counted towards impervious pavement provision. Mr. Keoseian asked if parking restrictions would discourage business from locating to the area. Mr. Delaney did not think the parking was restrictive. Ms. Collette noted that more parking would be benefit everyone.

**\*\*Update Water Resource Protection District Map**

Ms. Collette stated that the West Groton water supply has a new well in the Town Forest, zone 2 and 3, which brings the water resource map to compliance.

**\*\*Harmonius Development Review**

Ms. Collette updated the Board on the changes with the proposed article.

**\*\*By-Law Prohibiting Illicit Discharges**

Ms. Collette stated that illicit discharge provisions require catch basins and storm drains and that there are systems that illegally and regularly discharge without permission. Ms. Collette added that there is an enforcement problem.

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article, RE: Star House Lane Acceptance**

Mr. Delaney noted that Starhouse Lane is in good conditions and in need of no repairs. Mr. Dillon stated that the residents should have copies of the Town regulations. Mr. Degen stated that if the town accepts it as a public way it has to be surveyed before Town Meeting. Ms. Collette stated that Legal Counsel needed to be consulted on the issue.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

Mr. Ritter stated that they were closing in on the next step in the warrant process which would be to send it to Town Counsel for review and comment. The version before the Board is the latest marked up version for further refining, and after input from the Board Patrice will send to David Doneski sometime tomorrow.

Mr. Dillon stated that the warrant currently has 3 questions for information which will be on the ballot. The first is the Charter. The second is for provisions for the Prop 2 ½ bond for the Groton Dunstable Regional High School for land for the High School to exclude the debt for the Casella Property. The total is currently \$2.5 million. The third question is and override for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District which is similar to the question last year regarding the operating budget.

Mr. Cunningham asked if the School Committee would be voting on whether to request the override at their next meeting.

Mr. Dillon stated that this was based on what they had anticipated. The budget is still about \$135,000 to \$136,000 short so the possibility of the override would be in that range.

Mr. Degen stated that these questions on the warrant were for informational purposes only and would not require a vote at Town Meeting. They will be at the Annual Election on the Ballot.

Mr. Dillon stated that the Capital Planning Committee has met and that there are two minor capital items coming out of the Stabilization Fund.

**Special Town Meeting (STM) Warrant**

Mr. Dillon stated that a Special Town Meeting is normally held within the Annual Town Meeting. The STM refers to actions proposed to be taken that will affect the current Fiscal Year status, and it is used for line item transfers. The Selectmen need to open the warrant and set the day and time of the closing.

*Mr. Degen moved to open the Special Town Meeting warrant on Monday, March 10, 2008 and close the warrant on Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Schulman seconded. Unanimous vote.*

**REPORT OF THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Mr. Ritter stated that there would be a Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting on Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Lost Lake Fire Station. MEMA Region 1 Director Kevin Tully would be attending this meeting to help the town go through the emergency command operations. He then reminded the Board about the Legislative briefing with MMA on Friday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. The meeting would take place at the Lowell City Hall and any Selectmen interested in attending can let him know and he will RSVP for them. The Town Counsel screening group met again today and has narrowed the field down to 3 law firms. They will begin interviewing next Monday afternoon. He will be attending a Chamber breakfast tomorrow morning at 7:30 on Devens. On Monday March 31<sup>st</sup> Dick Heaton from H&H Associates will report back to the BOS regarding affordable housing. He will be meeting with Mike Bruno from Keyspan on Wednesday this week regarding the house explosion and possible reimbursement. Tom and Michelle would be back in within the next few weeks to update the Board on the sidewalk clearings and a map of the current sidewalks being cleared.

**SELECTMAN LIAISON REPORTS**

Mr. Cunningham stated that the Squannacook River Rail Trail Committee had met and they have created a preliminary report on the background site and environmental issues. He then stated that he had heard that the earmark for the funds is not going to happen now.

Mr. Ritter stated that he got a phone call about the earmark that was approved and that money has already been spent on other rail trails in the district. The funding goes towards the projects that are most mature. The town will be back in line for funding starting in July, and they would set up a joint meeting with both towns to discuss the project.

Mr. Cunningham stated that he would be attending a Chamber of Commerce breakfast on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Degen stated that he had attended the meeting with the affordable housing consultants last Friday. One of the things that will be discussed at the end of the month would be the various options of what type of organization would be best for the town to create in trying to meet this goal. The work that the consultants will be doing will determine how to handle this project as a town, and a mechanism to put things into place.

Mr. Degen then stated that he and the Chief had attended a seminar for homeland security grants which provided additional information. He believed it was something worth exploring.

Mr. Dillon stated that the problem with most grants is that they gradually decrease. They are good in most cases for the short term, but after taking on these different rolls you must maintain them after the funding ends.

Mr. Dillon stated that he, Val and Jeff had met with representatives from the town's insurance provider. It was a good constructive meeting. There are things that they needed to look at and things that needed to get done.

Mr. Ritter stated that he had received a follow up call this morning and they are anxious to get a response back in writing by this Wednesday.

Mr. Cunningham stated that it has been a good exercise with this and the legal to let them know we are shopping around for better rates and services.

**ADJOURN**

*Mr. Degen moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Schulman seconded. Unanimous vote.*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stuart Schulman, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ respectfully submitted,  
April Iannacone  
Office Assistant

Date Approved: May 19, 2008