

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

Present: Joshua A. Degen, Chairman; Stuart Schulman, Vice Chairman; Anna Eliot, Clerk; Peter Cunningham; George Dillon, Jr.

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Patrice Garvin, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Degen called meeting of the Board to Order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the announcements and agenda.

TAX CLASSIFICATION PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Schulman move to open the public hearing. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Schulman read the legal notice. Mr. Haddad stated that the hearing needed to be continued until November 17th at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Schulman moved to continue the Tax Classification Hearing until November 17, 2008 at 7:15pm. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER REPORTS:

Mr. Haddad reported that the FY10 budget process had begun and distributed the budget memo to department heads. Mr. Haddad reviewed the budget timeline. Mr. Haddad stated that the by-law states the Town Manager has to present a budget by December 31st. Mr. Dillon asked if the budget excluded health and benefits. Mr. Haddad stated that it did and that those were the budget busters. Mr. Haddad requested level funding because there were many unknowns at this point in time. Mr. Dillon asked about capital expenses. Mr. Haddad stated that he was looking to create a 5 year plan for major capital. Mr. Haddad commented on state aid and how that number is uncertain. Mr. Haddad was looking to eliminate the marathon budget hearings of the past and to manage the budget much more efficiently.

STREET LIGHT UPDATE:

Mr. Palma stated that 199 lights were identified that could be turned off in Town to save money. Mr. Palma explained the criteria for public safety concerns. Mr. Dillon asked about efforts to locate the street lights proposed to turn off. Ms. Collette suggested using the GIS to overlay with GELD information to create locations for the suggested poles and then placing it on-line for residents. Ms. Eliot suggested having a public hearing once this part of the process is completed so residents could voice their concerns.

BLOCK PARTY POLICY

Mr. Palma stated the need for this policy and how residents each year request road closing permits.

Mr. Schulman moved to approve the Block Party Policy as recommended by the Police Chief. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR VARIANCE, PRIVATE DRIVEWAY

David Ross representing Sara Hopkins requested a variance from the Board regarding the new driveway that is needed. Mr. Ross stated that in the regulations a fully paved driveway was requested causing financial burden to the owners. Mr. Degen explained why the driveway regulations were adopted and that the Stormwater Management Committee and Highway Surveyor have requested the entire driveway be paved. Mr. Delaney stated that a compromise could be made if part of the driveway was paved. Ms. Collette stated her concerns with the abutting property. Mr. Schulman suggested a plan to share one driveway. Ms. Eliot asked about catch basins. Ms. Hopkins stated that the shared driveway was discussed and the other lot is still under agreement. Mr. Ross stated that there were no plans for drainage and infiltration trenches and the added costs of those items. Mr. Degen stated that the plan from the Stormwater Committee laid out 19 conditions and that the request before the Board was a driveway variance. Mr. Degen suggested the owner coming back to the Board because at the present time nothing can be

granted without more information on drainage.

Mr. Schulman moved to continue the variance request for 108 Smith Street, subject to the submittal of additional information to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PRESCOTT SCHOOL DISCUSSION

Mr. Degen commented on the Affordable Housing Consultant hired by the Town to identify areas for affordable housing. A presentation was made to the School Committee identifying the Prescott School as a possible affordable housing site. The town is awaiting word from the Attorney Generals office to determine the use of the building. Ms. Eliot stated that the deed restriction needed to be answered before the Board could proceed. The rest of the Board felt that a legal opinion needed to be sought before moving forward. The Board decided to wait until Mr. Haddad hears from the Attorney Generals office in regards to Prescott.

ANNUAL GREEN SALE

Mr. Degen read the request for the Annual Green Sale at the Williams Barn.

Mr. Schulman moved to authorize the Groton Woman’s Club to hold their Annual Plan Sale on Saturday, December 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Williams Barn on Chicopee Row. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LIASON REPORTS

Mr. Schulman commented on the Board of Health hearing regarding Clover Farm. Mr. Cunningham asked about the walk of the parameters of the Town bounds between Townsend, Shirley and Ayer and Groton, and if it could be scheduled.

MINUTES

Mr. Schulman moved to move to approve the October 8, 2008 work session minutes. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Schulman moved to approve the October 10, 2008 work session minutes. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Schulman moved to approve the October 14th, final round interviews. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Mr. Schulman moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
Anna Eliot, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted,
Patrice Garvin
Administrative Assistant

Date Approved: 12-15-08