

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES FEBRUARY 23, 2009
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 agenda for the public.

TOWN MANAGER

1. Mr. Haddad presented the Board with the copy of changes he would like to make regarding the Personnel Board.
2. Mr. Haddad updated the Board on the street lights shut-offs and residents can adopt a light. Mr. Haddad stated that shutting off the lights could save the Town 10-11 thousands dollars in savings.
3. Mr. Haddad reported on the Cy Pres draft, enclosed in the Selectmen's packet. Mr. Haddad noted the cy pres petition would be sent to Town Counsel.
4. Mr. Haddad commented on being able to sign off as Town Manager for certain expense Bills. The Board wanted to retain the signature authority for Town Counsel bills and anything that exceeds \$2500.
5. Mr. Haddad reported on the institution of the Form of Intent and that it is a working document. Mr. Haddad would keep the Board updated on the programs progress.
6. Mr. Haddad notified the residents that Brush collection would be extended indefinitely. Mr. Degen clarified and stated that brush on the side of the road would not be picked up by the Town.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION LETTER OF SUPPORT, CPC APPLICATION

Craig Auman, member of the Conservation Commission stated that money is given to the fund annually. To receive money from the state the Town needs to put up the money first. Ms. Eliot stated that she supported the application. Mr. Cunningham asked if there were any good property opportunities that have come up. Mr. Dillon was concerned with the limited funds the CPA has and the 13 applications it has received this year. Mr. Degen stated that if the state could not match CPA funds then the Board needed to prioritize which applications they support. Mr. Degen stated that given all the applications would be discussed next week the Board should wait to support any applications, including the Conservation Application.

Mr. Schulman moved to authorize a letter of support from the Board of Selectmen supporting the Community Preservation Committee Application allocating \$100,000 to the Conservation Fund. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CVL, GROTON WELLNESS CENTER

Dr. Evans stated that he submitted his completed application and he has committed not using the grill. Mr. Degen commented that in the original presentation to the Planning Board a kitchen and teaching facilities was never mentioned. Mr. Cunningham asked if he the Condominium Association has weighed in on this.

Public

Christopher Stephenson a business owner in Mill Run has not seen any petition to support the CVL and stated that there was a parking issue. Debbie Nicholson a real estate broker was told that Mill Run could not have any sit down restaurants. Mr. Giger expressed concern that the grassy area may become a place where outside eating occurs. Kerry Stephenson, owner of a spa in the Mill Run Plaza stated theater were parking issues and advertising has been done

Mr. Degen referred to two letters from the Planning Board and tabled the discussion until the Board had a chance to see the letter referenced in the Planning Board conditions.

BY-LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE/PERSONNEL BOARD

Personnel Board

Robert Flynn gave a history of changes made and the philosophical difference he has with the Town Manager regarding the role of the Personnel Board. Mr. Flynn stated that the role of the Personnel Board was to provide checks and balances to the Town. Other towns Personnel Boards were looked into and they currently have Personnel Boards. Mr. Haddad presented his case to the Selectmen. Mr. Haddad stated that the checks and balances lie within the charter for by-law employees. Ms. Desisio stated that the Personnel Boards role was to handle grievances and the Town needed an independent Board. Mr. Degen saw several options and asked the Personnel board and Town Manager to meet to discuss concerns on both sides.

By-Law Review Committee Presentation

Mr. Bouchard, speaking for the committee stated that all of the by-laws were looked at and presented how the committee went through its process. The committee was looking to check inconsistencies that could have been created with the institution of the new charter. Mr. Bouchard shared the findings of the committee: 29 of the 50 by-laws needed no change; 6 of the 50 needed to be rescinded and 2 were inconsistent with the charter. Mr. Bouchard suggested a timeline in moving forward with the committees recommended changes in the By-law and Charter.

Mr. Degen stated that the committee has done excellent work and that articles would need to be placed on the warrant. Mr. Haddad stated that the public hearing for warrant articles would be on March 23rd. Mr. Haddad thanked the committee for their work and suggested the articles be condensed in the warrant and would work with the committee on the best way to present the changes to Town meeting.

ONE DAY ALL ALCOHOL LICENSE

Mr. Schulman moved to approve a One-Day all alcohol liquor license to Sacred Heart, St. James Parish at 271 Main Street, Groton on Saturday, March 7th from 7:00pm to 11:00pm. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Eliot commented on the continued meetings of the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Cunningham reported that the River Rail Trail meetings were scheduled for March 3rd to discuss funding. Mr. Degen reported on a bill to reform Chapter 40B from the Municipal Coalition on Affordable Housing.

MINUTES

The Board tabled the approval of the January 26th minutes due to the time

ADJOURN

Mr. Schulman moved to adjourn the Board of Selectmen’s meeting at 8:45 p.m. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned

Approved: _____
Anna Eliot, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted,
Patrice Garvin
Administrative Assistant

Date Approved: 3-23-09