

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES JUNE 1, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. A proclamation was read in honor of Helen Sawyer who was turning 100 years old this month.
2. Rick Commons, Head Master Groton School, read a brief letter and gave a check to the town for \$100,000.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Chair- Mr. Cunningham nominated Stuart Schulman as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Schulman declined the nomination.

Mr. Schulman nominated Peter Cunningham as Chairman of the Board. Ms. Eliot seconded the nomination. Mr. Dillon moved to close the nominations for Chairman of the Board. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion to close the nominations. Mr. Degen moved Mr. Cunningham as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vice Chair- Mr. Degen nominated George F. Dillon as Vice Chair. Mr. Schulman seconded the nomination. Mr. Cunningham moved to close the nominations. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion to close the nominations. Mr. Cunningham called for a vote to appoint George F. Dillon as Vice Chairman of the Board. Motion carried.

Clerk- Mr. Cunningham nominated Anna Eliot as Clerk. Mr. Dillon seconded the nomination. Mr. Degen moved to close the nominations for Clerk of the Selectmen. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Mr. Cunningham asked for a vote to appoint Anna Eliot as Clerk to the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER REPORTS

1. Mr. Haddad explained the state aide cuts to the Board and that the Town will need to take action. Mr. Haddad had to notify the one of the Town unions of potential cuts due to the wording in the contract. Mr. Haddad listed the positions that may be cut: IT Director; Transfer Station Foreman; Patrolman (New Position); Board of Health Office Assistant; Highway Temporary Seasonal Employees; Library Temporary Seasonal Employees; Library Temporary Sunday Hours. Mr. Cunningham asked if unemployment costs were factored into the budget. Mr. Haddad replied that unemployment was included. Mr. Haddad stated that workloads will increase in other departments if layoffs occur. Mr. Degen was concerned that the Town needed an IT Director and now relies heavily on volunteers. Mr. Haddad stated that when the final numbers are the Town will have to prioritize.

PUBLIC HEARING, GROTON COUNTRY CLUB LIQUOR LICENSE

Mr. Degen moved to open the Public Hearing at 7:30pm. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Cunningham read the legal notice.

Mr. Degen moved to postpone the Public Hearing and return when done with Board discussion. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TOWN MANGER REPORTS

Mr. Dillon asked about the requests that were made by the Board and FinCom regarding the Town Hall operations. Mr. Haddad stated that he would defer the rest of his report until later in the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Whalen explained the use of the proposed cart on the golf course. One abutter thought the beverage cart sent the wrong message to minors on the course. Mr. Whalen stated that all servers were TIPS certified. Mr. Whalen added that the Country Club was in a competitive situation. Mr. Degen was concerned that a beverage cart on the course would increase liability. Mr. Whalen stated that he met with the insurance representative and that the Town is covered. Ms. Garvin suggested having the cart for a limited number of hours.

Mr. Schulman moved to close the public Hearing. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Hearing closed.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Change of Manager of the Groton Country Club Authority's Club License for the Function Hall and Snack Bar/Lounge from Rod Van Guilder to Robert M. Whalen, contingent on GCC Authority Signatures. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Altering of Premises for the Function Hall and Snack Bar/Lounge from the patio, front porch and beverage cart. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Schulman moved to approve the beverage cart restriction. The cart will be used only on weekends and for tournaments. Motion carried 3-1-1 (Eliot abstain and Degen opposing).

TOWN MANAGER REPORTS Continued

1. BOH- Susan Horowitz of the Board of Health read a prepared statement to the Board. Ms. Horowitz was concerned with there being no coverage in the Board of Health Office if the position is cut. Ms. Horowitz expressed concern that the Board of Health did not receive the respect it deserved. Mr. Cunningham stated that the Board of Selectmen respected and recognized the Board of Health. Mr. Haddad stated that the Town was looking to make things more efficient. Mr. Haddad mentioned that he was meeting with Nashoba to make the transition seamless.

NEW PERSONNEL POLICIES

Mr. Haddad proposed new Personnel Policies and asked the Board to adopt the policies. The Board wanted more editing done on the Conflict of Interest policy. Mr. Haddad stated that he would review the Conflict of Interest Policy and bring it back to the Board.

Mr. Degen moved to adopt the following policies: Code of Conduct; Family Medical Leave Act; Massachusetts Maternity Leave Act (include definition of Full-time status). Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER REPORTS Continued

1. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to sign the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. The adopting of the plan would make Groton eligible to apply for pre-disaster mitigation funding from MEMA.

Mr. Cunningham moved to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Mr. Haddad noted that a Work Session has been scheduled for June 22nd to discuss goals and objectives.
3. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board hold off on appointing the Groton Country Club Authority and recommended having a subcommittee.
4. Mr. Haddad stated that he would bring the Town Counsel contract to the next BOS meeting.
5. Mr. Haddad stated that the Verizon public Hearing will be on June 29th.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Dillon suggested that a letter be sent to Mr. Johnson for all of his efforts in organizing the Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Schulman commented on the recent symposium on Lyme Disease. Mr. Schulman also updated that Board on the MatBob project and that there was some progress being made.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Degen stated that he had reappointment concerns regarding the ZBA . Mr. Degen outlined problems he has found with the conducting of business by the ZBA including rules and regulations, policies, open meeting law violations, and quorum requirement violations. Mr. Degen said that something needed to be done and suggested not reappointment members to the committee. Mr. Cunningham suggested having a joint meeting with the ZBA to discuss the issues presented. Mr. Schulman expressed disappointment that he was not informed of the concerns prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Schulman also stated that members of the ZBA were not there to defend the accusations. Mr. Schulman explained his actions when he was the Chairman of the ZBA and why he opened a hearing that was questioned by Mr. Degen. Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Degen to compile a list in writing of the issues he saw in the ZBA so the ZBA could respond.

MINUTES

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the May 12, 2009 Executive Session Minutes and to not release. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the May 11, 2009 Regular Session Minutes. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the May 11, 2009 Executive Session Minutes and not to release. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the May 4, 2009 Regular Session Minutes. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the May 4, 2009 Executive Session Minutes, not to release. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion.

Mr. Dillon to approve the April 6, 2009 Regular Session Minutes, as amended. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Dillon moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:13pm. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
Anna Eliot, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted,
Patrice Garvin
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 8/10/09