

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES MAY 10, 2010
APPROVED**

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

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

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

WEED HARVEST REQUEST-LAKE MASSAPOAG ROD AND GUN CLUB

Karen Corey, on behalf of the Lake Massapoag Rod and Gun Club asked if the Board would be the applicant on a Notice of Intent to harvest the weeds in Groton's portion of Lake Massapoag, the smallest portion of the pond. Ms. Corey stated that the Club has hired Aquatic Control Technology (ACT) to develop a plan for control of invasive weeds, which was provided to the Board. Chemicals to treat the weeds were not an option for the pond therefore only harvesting can be done and the pros and cons of harvesting were discussed.

Mr. Dillon moved that the Board be an applicant for a Notice of Intent for the Lake Massapoag Rod and Gun Club to authorize the weed harvesting and to further authorize the Town Manager to sign the application on behalf of the Board. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad distributed the plan from Veterans Agent Robert Johnson on the town's Memorial Day activities. Mr. Dillon thanked Mr. Johnson for all of his work with the American Legion.
2. Mr. Haddad reported that tree pruning work was conducted in the Old Burying Ground through donations from Sierra Tree Service and Mead Tree Service. Fifteen large trees had been removed which threatened gravestones in the graveyard. Mr. Cunningham requested that thank you letters be sent.
3. Mr. Haddad announced that there was a vacancy on the Conservation Commission and urged interested residents to apply.
4. A request for a new street light was submitted from a resident on Martins Pond Road at Hollis Street. Mr. Haddad requested that a new light be installed based on the recommendation from the Police Chief.
Ms. Eliot moved to install a new street light at matins Pond Road at Hollis Street. Ms. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.
5. Mr. Haddad noted that an Open Meeting Law seminar has been scheduled for May 27th at 7:00pm at the Middle School Performing Arts Center. Mr. Degen requested that attendance be mandatory for all Boards and Committees.
6. Mr. Haddad reported that a Political Activity by Employees Policy had been drafted and asked the Board to approve the new policy. There were some minor edits but the Board felt that the approval of the policy should be held off until after the local election. Mr. Degen wanted it noted that the policy had no connection to the current race. Mr. Cunningham asked that this policy be brought back to the Board for discussion. Mr. Dillon requested a definition of Town Employee.
7. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to approve the following revised policies:
 - Posting of Employment Vacancies Policy
 - Employee Service Recognition Policy
 - Grant Preparation Policy
 - Inclement Weather and Other Emergencies Policy
 - Wage & Classification Policy
 - Town Boards Committees Policy
 - Liaison Policy
 - Town Owned Vehicle Use & Safety Policy

Mr. Schulman moved to approve the Posting of Employment Vacancies Policy, as amended. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Schulman moved to approve the Employee Service Recognition Policy. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the Grant Preparation Policy. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Schulman moved to approve the Inclement Weather and Other Emergencies Policy. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried with Mr. Degen abstaining.

Mr. Schulman moved to approve the Wage & Classification Policy, as amended. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Cunningham asked to have the Town Board & Committee Policy and the Town Owned Vehicle Use policy brought back to the Board for discussion.

8. Mr. Haddad reported that there would be no meeting on Monday, May 17th and he would be on vacation from May 24- May 28. Mr. Haddad has appointed Michael Bouchard as the acting Town Manager until his return.

TOWN MEETING DISCUSSION

Mr. Cunningham opened up the meeting to discuss the best time for Town Meeting to be held. Mr. Cunningham read from the Charter regarding Spring Town Meeting. Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. McKenzie, Nashoba School Committee Representative for his opinion on the timing of Town Meeting.

Mr. McKenzie commented on how Westford changed their Town meeting date to March and it caused the School to give assumptions with the assessment. Mr. McKenzie stated that Town meeting being held on a Saturday or an evening does not make much difference in attendance.

Mr. Schulman thought that weather would be a big factor if Town Meeting was on a Saturday rather than on a Monday evening. Mr. Cunningham stated that Town Meeting was on Saturdays for a short period of time but it switched back to Mondays. Mr. Degen liked Town Meeting in April but asked about the need to have Town Meeting on consecutive Mondays. Mr. Degen stated that the Town could test having Town Meeting on a Saturday. Mr. Cunningham stated that the Moderator was supported of trying Saturday Town Meetings. Ms. Erickson, School Committee member stated that it is the issues that get people to Town Meeting and not the timing of it. Mr. Crowley, Finance Committee member agreed that it was the issues that got higher attendance at Town Meeting.

Mr. Dillon also thought the Town meeting was issue driven and suggested that the public be more educated on the Town meeting process. Mr. Dillon suggested having flyers available for people on the process of Town Meeting. Mr. Dillon referred to an information flyer that was created by the Town for the 2009 Spring Town Meeting.

Mr. Cunningham stated that to change the timing of Town meeting the Town By-Law would need to be changed.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Dillon commented on the Veterans Breakfast and how well it was run. Ms. Eliot commented on the Prescott ReUse Committee and the volunteer appreciation that was held at the Senior Center. Mr. Schulman also attended the Volunteer Event at the Senior Center, Veterans Breakfast and noted that he attended the Sign By-law committee and complimented its process. Mr. Degen commented on the volunteer work being done at the Country Club.

MINUTES

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 5, 2010. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Degen moved to enter Executive Session at 8:45 P.M. in accordance with M.G.L Chapter 39 S. 23B (3) to discuss contract negotiations, and not to return to open session. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Roll Call- Dillon-yes, Cunningham-yes, Schulman –yes, Eliot-yes, Degen-yes.

Approved: _____
Anna Eliot, Clerk

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

Date Approved: 6-7-10