

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES NOVEMBER 8, 2010
UAPPROVED**

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

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

Mr. Schulman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda for the public. Mr. Schulman also announced many local activities and local businesses in town.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad requested that an Executive Session was needed at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss real-estate.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST-AMEND TRUST DECLARATION

Mr. Haddad noted that the Affordable Housing Trust was requesting that the declaration be changed. Colleen Neff, Chairman of the trust addressed the board and requested that the following language be changed:

“The Trustees shall have the following powers, which shall be carried out in accordance with and in furtherance of the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 55C (Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund) as outlined below except that they shall have no ability to borrow money, or mortgage or pledge Trust assets, purchase, sell, lease, exchange, transfer or convey any interest in real property without prior approval of the Groton Board of Selectmen.”

The Trustees believe this provision limits their ability to act quickly and makes them no more than an advisory committee to the Selectmen, which the statute clearly states they are not. Ms. Neff requested the following language be adopted:

“The Trustees shall have the following powers, which shall be carried out in accordance with and in furtherance of the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 55C (Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund).”

Mr. Haddad noted that he has spoken to counsel and supports the request. Mr. Schulman thought it was a good idea. Ms. Eliot asked if Town Counsel had reviewed the changes. Mr. Haddad noted that Town Counsel informed him the changes were fine. Mr. Cunningham asked who's name property would be in, once acquired. Mr. Haddad stated that property would be in the trusts name. Mr. Dillon stated that he had no problem with the change but would like to be informed and indicated that the change would also reduce any perceived liability of the Town. Mr. Dillon asked how this trust compared with the Groton Housing Authority. Mr. Haddad stated that there was no relationship between the trust and authority and asked if there was any potential set up with the GHA or the Habitat for Humanity that would eliminate or minimize any conflict such as competing for funds, competing for the same facilities etc. Mr. Haddad stated that Carolyn Fischer will continue to have a relationship with the Housing Authority. Mr. Dillon noted one more change and that was to have the audited annual update submitted to the Board and Town Manager under Article 8.

Mr. Cunningham moved to amend the Declaration of Trust, Article 5: Powers of Trustees to read as follows:

“The Trustees shall have the following powers, which shall be carried out in accordance with and in furtherance of the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 55C (Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund).” Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-yes, 1 abstention Mr. Degen.

Mr. Cunningham moved amend Article 8 to add the Word Town Manager after the words results of audits to include. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-yes, 1 abstention Mr. Degen.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT CONTINUED

2. Mr. Haddad informed the Board that one more appointment needed to be approved for the Groton Country Club. Jean Hommel, of Townsend, MA has served as the Administrative Assistant for the Country Club since 2009. Pursuant to Section 4-2(c) of the Charter Mr. Haddad requested the Board ratify his appointment. Ms. Hommel would be paid at Grade 2, Step 1 (\$10.96 per hour) of the Town Hall/Library Union Agreement. Mr. Dillon asked how many hours a week Ms. Hommel worked. Ms. Hommel stated that she worked an average of 5 hours per week.

Mr. Dillon moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Jean Hommel to the position of Administrative Assistant at Grade 2, Step 1 (\$10.96 per hour). Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-yes, 1 abstention Mr. Degen.

3. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board ratify Carol Coutrier of 498 Boston Road to be appointed to the Greenway Committee. Ms. Marion Stoddard, Chairman of the Greenway Committee send a letter to the Board recommending Ms. Coutrier's appointment. [Document I: Ltr from M. Stoddard RE Coutrier's Appoint] Ms. Eliot moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Carol Coutrier to the Greenway Committee term to expire June 30, 2011. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

4. Mr. Haddad noted that there was one vacancy on the Sustainability Commission and asked the Board to appoint Maria Hars of Long Hill Road has submitted a Committee Interest Form to serve on this committee. Mr. Mike Roberts, Chairman of this committee approved this appointment. Ms. Eliot moved to appoint Maria Hars to the Sustainability Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2011. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Degen stated that the Think Tank Committee is looking into the possibility to place a cell tower at the High School. A cell tower could improve service and generate revenue to the School Department. Mr. Cunningham encouraged residents to attend the Affordable Housing Forum on November 16th. Mr. Dillon attended the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce dinner where Berta Erickson received an award. Mr. Dillon also attended the Fort Devens Museum open house. Ms. Eliot also attended the Fort Devens Museum opening as well as attended recent meetings of the Prescott Reuse Committee and the Economic Development Committee. Ms. Eliot reminded residents of the Groton Board of Trade Meeting on November 17th. Mr. Schulman thanked all of those who participated in the elections on November 2nd and congratulated them on a job well done.

Mr. Haddad noted that department head meeting regarding budgets will begin on December 2nd.

MINUTES

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes prior to Town Meeting on October 18, 2010. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried [Document #10-18-10 Draft Minutes]

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes prior to Town Meeting on October 26, 2010. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried [Document #10-26-10 Draft Minutes]

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:21 p.m. not to convene into open session in accordance to MGL c.30A, Sec 21 (6): to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, for the Sacred Heart Church. Dillon-yes; Eliot-yes; Cunningham-yes; Degen-yes; Schulman-yes.

Approved: _____
George F. Dillon, Clerk

respectfully submitted,
Patrice Garvin
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 12-6-10