

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of May 26, 2009

Chairman Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:37PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Morrison were Richard Gandt, Martha Morrison, Nancy Luther, Karen Dow and Laura Powers. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder and Board Secretary Donna Rich were in attendance. Other persons present were Evelyn Hammond of the Topsfield Cable, Brendan Lewis of the Tri-Town Transcript, Faye Raynard of the Village Reporter, Joel Larson, Animal Inspector, Norm Isler, President Historical Society and Benjamin Dewey, location manager for Furry Vengeance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Morrison announced that the Board would go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss the Call Fire Fighter's union contract proposal and union contract negotiation strategies and would not return to open session.

Selectmen Minutes: Selectman Luther made a motion to accept the amended minutes of April 27, 2009; seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted 4-0-1. Selectman Powers abstained.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:45 – Furry Vengeance - Benjamin Dewey, Location Manager for the fictional narrative film Furry Vengeance, addressed the Board to discuss the plans to film in Topsfield. Mr. Dewey explained that the film is a "green comedy" live-action feature film. Mr. Dewey explained that while researching locations for the film Topsfield was rated number one out of ninety-three other possibilities. The plot of the film involves a land developer who encounters rebellion from the animals that inhabit the land. There will be live animals on the set. Mr. Dewey has contacted Massachusetts Wildlife and Joel Larson, Topsfield Animal Inspector, to ensure that the animals will be treated well. Selectman Gandt asked about potential traffic concerns, signage on the roads and noise disturbances. Mr. Dewey addressed his concerns, explaining that he will be meeting with the Police Chief to review those items and he does not foresee any problems. Mr. Dewey explained that there will be an Arbor Day scene for which local townspeople will be able to audition as extras. They're also looking for a school to shoot some scenes, and considering both Proctor and Steward, as well as many others. Mr. Dewey closed by saying that he will work closely with Ms. Wilder and/or Mrs. Rich regarding anything that should arise.

8:15PM – Railroad Markers -Norm Isler, President of the Historical Society, began by saying that last week the society approved financing the placement of markers on the rail trail commemorating the railroad that ran through Topsfield for over 100 years. Mr. Isler gave a historical overview of the railroad, including pictures, and stated that the last train to travel through Topsfield was in 1969. The marker chosen by the society is similar to that placed along the trail in Salisbury and Amesbury. The marker will be placed next to the trail at the corner of Grove Street and Main Street by Cargill Insurance. The Historical Commission has approved the concept.

Chairman Morrison then reviewed with Mr. Isler the correspondence received from the Massachusetts Historical Commission denying the application submitted by the Topsfield Historical Society nominating the Old Section of the Pine Grove Cemetery as a historical site.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Morrison reminded citizens to fill out the downtown survey that is posted on the Town website and at the Town Library. The survey is sponsored by the Planning Board.

Selectman Dow reminded citizens to complete the Open Space survey that was received via mail and can be returned to the Selectmen's Office up until June 1st.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Under the Town's Rules and Regulations relative to Alcoholic Beverage Licenses Section R, Selectman Luther made a motion to grant the owners of New Meadows Market permission to extend the closure of the New Meadows Market to on or before December 15, 2009., seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted: 5-0. If the business is not open in Topsfield by that date the Board will not renew New Meadows Market license for 2010.

New Business

Historical Commission Opening: Chairman Morrison stated that Parsons Clark has tendered her resignation from the Historical Commission effective May 12, 2009.

Liaison Assignments: Selectman Powers made a motion to accept the liaison assignments as presented, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Grant Agreements: Selectman Luther made a motion to approve a grant agreement prepared by Town Counsel for the grant funds awarded to HAWC and Tri-Town Council by vote of the 2009 Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Selectman Dow; so voted: 5-0.

Letter of Authorization: Selectman Powers made a motion to approve, and for the Board to sign, the Town Accountant's request that the Board authorize certain individuals and/or boards to sign payrolls and bill schedules for their respective departments for FY2010, seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted: 5-0.

Trash Stickers: Ms. Wilder presented a recommendation to increase the price of trash stickers from one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) to two dollars and zero cents (\$2.00) effective as of July 1, 2009. Chairman Morrison stated that the price has not been increased since the program began in 1998. Selectman Gandt noted that a 3% per year increase (i.e. a 33% increase since the price was set at \$1.50 10 years ago is about 3% per year) is reasonable but asked that the Board hold the vote for two weeks to allow citizens to express their concerns and/or questions. The sticker program yields approximately \$50,000 annually.

CROP Walk: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve Trinity Church's request to host The North Shore CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk to be held on October 25, 2009 beginning at 1PM for a 3 mile loop, as specified, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0. Police, Fire and Highway have approved the event.

Post Closure Landfill Monitoring Services Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the contract for Post Closure Landfill Monitoring Services at Pye Brook Park with Weston & Sampson Engineers Inc. of Peabody MA in the amount of \$36,760 for fiscal 2010, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Sign Regulations: A recommendation to make changes to the Sign Permit Rules and Regulations was reviewed. Chairman Morrison explained that this amendment would shift the cost of advertising for a sign permit hearing on the applicant. In addition, the amount of copies required would be increased to seven (7) and an electronic version would also be requested to be filed. Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve under Section 4.3 of 4.0 Application Procedure-Special Permit Granting Authority (Board of Selectmen) the amendment made at this meeting to

the Permitting Authority's Rules & Regulations dated December 13, 2004, seconded by Selectman Dow; so voted: 5-0.

Topsfield Linear Common Phase 1: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve Amendment No.1 to the contract for the construction of the Topsfield Linear Common Phase 1 construction, with K&R Construction Inc. of Boxford, MA to extend the term of the contract to October 1, 2009, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Design of Phase II of the Topsfield Linear Common: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve and award a contract to Beals Associates, Inc. of Charlestown, MA for the design of Phase II of the Topsfield Linear Common in the amount of \$6,170, contingent upon the Town Accountant verifying sufficient funds are available, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Town Administrator's Report:

- New Fees for Building Inspectional Services
- Rail Trail Easement Update
- State Budget Update
- Retrofit Meeting Update
- Letter to the Legislature

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

Elaine Stieritz sent a letter of thanks for recognizing her volunteerism with the Council on Aging at the Town Meeting.

Massachusetts Historical Commission has sent a denial letter regarding the application submitted by the Topsfield Historical Society to the National Registry nominating the Old Section of Pine Grove Cemetery. Anonymous donor has funded enclosure of Capen headstones to protect them from the weather.

Reports

Police Department submitted a monthly report for May 2009.

Open Space submitted meeting notes from March 9, 2009.

Selectmen Minutes:

Selectman Dow made a motion to approve the minutes of May 5, 2009 as written, seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted 4-0. Selectman Powers abstained.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **1,522,576.38**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY09:	
095T	\$ 76,712.44
096	\$ 1,445,863.94

At 9:31PM, Chairman Morrison motioned to go into executive session to discuss the Call Fire Fighters' contract proposal and negotiation strategies for union contracts; seconded by Selectman Dow. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Chairman Morrison, Selectman Dow, Selectman Luther, Selectman Gandt and Selectman Powers. The Board would not return to open session. Virginia Wilder and Donna Rich were also present.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the June 22, 2009 Board of Selectmen's meeting.