

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of June 7, 2010

Chairman Dick Gandt called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Gandt were Martha Morrison, Nancy Luther, Eldon Goodhue and Laura Powers. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder and Board Secretary Donna Rich were in attendance. Other persons present during all or part of the meeting were Cable TV Operator Evelyn Hammond and Walter Harmer, Tri-Town Transcript reporter Brendan Lewis, Playground Committee members Claudine Lefevre and Dawn Seymour, Library Director Jackie White, Rail Trail Chairman Joe Geller and resident Kim Sherwood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Gandt announced that the Board would go into Executive Session at the end of Open Session to discuss the Police Union Contract and Fire Chief Contract and would not return to Open Session.

Selectman Powers announced that the Strawberry Festival is to be held on June 12 on the Common from 10AM to 4PM and is sponsored by the Historical Society.

Chairman Gandt thanked Peter Sacco for running the Town Clean-Up Day and congratulated Peter for leading a successful event in which all the streets in Town were cleaned of litter and debris.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30 – Update of Tot-Lot Playground Area - President Claudine Lefevre and member Dawn Seymour came forward. Claudine explained that the plan for the installation of the new equipment at the Tot-Lot area is to occur in October 2010. However, they are \$20-25 thousand short at this time. Ms. Lefevre stated they would continue to fundraise with the selling of bricks and would like to hold an event at the site. Selectman Morrison spoke of notifying neighbors in a letter format. Ms. Lefevre had obtained the list of abutters from the Assessors Office and would notify those individuals via a letter. Chairman Gandt felt that an informational meeting might be a good idea. There was discussion on the structures proposed, fencing, and future maintenance of the area.

7:55 - Library's Community Read - Library Director Jackie White came forward to explain that Becky Rowland and Amanda Fauver have taken the lead in spearheading the Community Read Program entitled A Book Grows in Topsfield, Community Read Program. The book chosen is Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* and a copy was given to each of the Selectmen. The idea is for as many residents as possible to read the book and participate in discussions and other activities beginning on August 21st through October 22nd. The Library began the program by the planting of a community garden in which 60 residents participated. The final event planned is to have a feast of the last harvest of the crops at the Gould Barn on October 27th. The program is funded by a \$7,500 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the federal government.

8:07 Continued Pole Hearing Continuation: Joe Gleason, Verizon Representative, was present to explain that Verizon would like to replace one tree guide pole on Hill Street. Abutters were notified and proof of notification was received in the Selectmen's office. Selectman Luther made a motion to approve one pole to be erected as indicated on Plan #28 dated April 5, 2010 on Hill Street, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

GENERAL BUSINESS

New Business

Website Committee Volunteer: Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint Robert Ogden to the Website Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2010, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Phase II Rail Trail Construction Supplies: Joe Geller, Chairman Rail Trail came forward and explained that the trail from Summer Street to Route 1 requires additional material due to the wet nature of the area. Selectman Luther made a motion to approve the purchase of construction materials to be used in the preparation of that section of the Rail Trail from Summer Street to Route 1 as follows:

- 1) The purchase of geotextile fabric from US Construction Fabrics of Windham, NH in the amount of \$1,970;
- 2) The purchase of process gravel from Bentley Warren of Ipswich, MA at unit price of \$11.00 per ton delivered in the amount of \$3,784;
- 3) The purchase of stone dust from Torromeo Industries Inc. of Methuen, MA at unit price of \$12.00 per ton delivered in the amount of \$3,480.

Total of all purchases for this work under Phase II of the Topsfield Linear Common project not to exceed \$9,234, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

St. Rose Request for a Park Street Temporary Road Closure: Selectman Luther made a motion to approve the closure of a section of Park Street to be determined by the Police Chief for the Saint Vincent de Paul Barbecue picnic on Saturday, June 26th from 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Police Department Temporary Appointments: Due to the recent injury of Sgt. Harrison the Police Chief is seeking approval to appoint personnel to cover the shifts.

- 1) Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint Auxiliary Officer Michael Balsley as a Reserve Officer until June 30, 2010; seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.
- 2) Selectman Luther made a motion to appoint Detective Gary Hayward as acting Sergeant for as long as the Police Chief deems necessary, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

Liaison Reports

Selectman Powers congratulated the Masconomet Class of 2010 that graduated on Friday. There were 353 graduates.

Selectman Morrison announced that the Open Space Committee has asked that the Open Space Plan be posted on the website. In addition there will be an open forum on June 21st at the Library to seek citizen comments on the Plan before submission to the State.

Chairman Gandt reported that he attended the regional Selectmen's meeting. Topics discussed were the Regional Emergency Call Center and trash removal options other towns are investigating.

Chairman Gandt reminded the Board that members for the Facilities Committee are needed for appointment. Applications of interested citizens can be forwarded to the Selectmen's Office.

Chairman Gandt reminded all committee/commission/board members of the Open Meeting Law presentation on June 16 beginning at 3PM at the Library.

Selectman Morrison reported that the Commonwealth Capital Program is getting close to being submitted.

Town Administrator's Report:

- RECC document was distributed for the Board to review before signing.
- Update on the FEMA kick-off meeting.

- Assistant for the Town Clerk update.
- Attended an unemployment hearing on May 28th in which we won the appeal.
- Attended a Beverly Hospital study review.
- Reported assistance with the Police Department staffing issues.
- Reported that the Town Accountant fell and badly hurt her wrist.
- Attended the Council on Aging Annual Silvertree breakfast as a wait staff.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

English Commons: Notice has been received for interested buyers of English Commons Condominium at 12 Boston Street

Letter of Resignation: Paula Burke has submitted a letter of resignation from the Council on Aging Board.

Reports

Board of Assessors has submitted minutes of April 30 and May 14, 2010.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ **346,191.05**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY10:	
099T	\$ 88,555.18
0100	\$ 257,635.87

At 8:43 PM, Selectmen Luther made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Fire Chief contract and the police union contract; seconded by Selectman Powers. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Chairman Gandt, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Luther, Selectman Goodhue and Selectman Powers. The Board would not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the July 19, 2010 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law,' G.L. 39, § 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Board constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Board as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.
