

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## DEEP RIVER TOWN HALL

### Regular Meeting – August 9, 2011

**Attendance:** Selectmen Dick Smith, Art Thompson, Dave Oliveria. Also: Margo Hilfinger, Rich Strukus (*videography*), Jack White, Jonathan Kastner, Lori Guerette, Marianne Sullivan (*Valley Courier*).

This regular meeting was called to order at 6:43 pm by Dick Smith.

**Minutes:** Regular Meeting – July 26, 2011

A motion was made by Oliveria, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thompson, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 26, 2011.

APPROVED 3 – 0

### **Use of Town Seal / Logo:**

Smith advised the Board of Selectmen that he had spoken with Town Attorney Jane Marsh concerning a request by Sage Novak, owner of Anchors & Compass men's wear shop to use the Town Seal on clothing and other merchandise for sale in her store. Concerns are:

- 1] How would the Board decide who would be allowed to use the Town Seal;
- 2] Since such use would be for the purpose of making money by private individuals, should there be a licensing fee if the use were allowed;
- 3] Since the Seal / logo is really the property of the residents of Deep River, any private use would have to be approved at a Town Meeting.

Because of the unanswered questions the Board of Selectmen tabled action until the Selectmen could have a chance to consider the ramifications.

## **Appointments:**

The Board approved the following:

- 1] Cindy Scionti            Community Health Committee, regular member  
Motion by Thompson, Oliveria 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the appointment.  
APPROVED 3 – 0
  
- 2] Kate Bender            Representative to the Board of the Visiting Nurses of the  
Lower Valley.  
Motion by Oliveria, Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the appointment.  
APPROVED 3 – 0
  
- 3] Tanner Steeves        Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commission, Alternate Member  
Motion by Thompson, Oliveria 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the appointment.  
APPROVED 3 – 0

## **Planning & Zoning Request:**

Planning and Zoning Commission (P & Z) Chairman Kastner updated the Board on the Plan of Conservation and Development (PoCD), and noted its preparation had involved former Zoning Enforcement Officer Amy Petrone, current ZEO Cathie Jefferson, the Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency (CRERPA) as well as by members of the Commission. Kastner noted that a grant of \$12,000 had recently been awarded to P & Z by the Office of Policy and Management, for the purpose of offsetting costs relating to the update of the PoCD. He asked that the proceeds of the grant be allocated to the Commission to cover additional costs for continuing work related to both the PoCD and recent updates of P & Z regulations. Many of the amendments to the regulations were as a result of the PoCD update. Smith advised the Board that the Town had already absorbed salary and other costs associated with the PoCD, and requested that P & Z prepare an estimate for the August 23, 2011 meeting of the time and funding required for implementing the updates.

Thompson asked whether the Board of Selectmen has the authority to make such allocations without approval by a Town Meeting. Smith explained that allocations of less than \$20,000 need only approval by the Board of Selectmen & Board of Finance.

## **Recess to Special Town Meeting**

At 7:05 pm the Board of Selectmen recessed their meeting to conduct the Special Town Meeting scheduled for 7:00 pm. This meeting reconvened at 7:13 pm.

## Any Other Business to Come Before the Board - Audience of Citizens:

Thompson raised the following for discussion:

- 1] The possibility that the Board of Selectmen revisit the structure of the Community Health Committee (CHC), which requires that the three Deep River representatives to the Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley (VNLV) also be members of the CHC. Thompson noted that the number of meetings and the combined responsibilities of the two groups might result in “burn out” due to the dual membership requirement. He did not offer specific alternatives, but feels that discussion of the issue is important.

Thompson also noted that the nine-member CHC currently has eight members—five Democrats and three Unaffiliated. Although it meets the statutory minority representation requirement, he feels that the final appointment should be a Republican. Oliveria, speaking on behalf of the Republican Town Committee, stated that they are actively seeking qualified candidates for this position and other board and Commission vacancies.

- 2] Thompson asked if Smith had information regarding the Fire Department Study Committee (FDSC). He is concerned that some time has passed since the committee’s last appearance at a Board of Selectmen meeting. When the committee was established it was agreed that the Board would be updated regularly. Oliveria said that he had spoken with John Kollmer, Chairman, and that he was told that they would report at an upcoming Board meeting.
- 3] Thompson asked whether there had been further developments concerning 34 River Street (“Old Ambulance Barn”). Smith replied that there had been no action since the informational meeting of July 28<sup>th</sup>, and that the key factor among residents is finding replacement space for the Fire Department’s antique apparatus and other memorabilia. We will await the final report from the FDSC, which might include space for display and equipment.
- 4] Thompson requested an update on concerns raised at the previous meeting by Jack White. Smith advised that Doug DeCerbo, Director of the facility, would attend the Board of Selectmen meeting of August 23, 2011 to give an update and answer questions from the Board and residents.

White handed out copies of a July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 editorial from the *Hartford Courant* regarding the state’s placement of troubled juveniles.

Rich Strukus asked whether removal of the asbestos tiles and installation of new floor at the Deep River Elementary School cafeteria would be completed before the start of school. Smith assured him that, barring some unforeseen circumstance, the project will be complete prior to opening day.

Strukus also inquired about plans to replace broken guard rails on Westbrook Road. Smith reported that 219 new posts had been delivered to the Town Garage on Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Daniel Boone from Atlas Fence will begin installing them in the near future.

**Adjournment:**

Thompson moved, Oliveria 2<sup>nd</sup>, to adjourn at 7:47 pm.

APPROVED 3 -- 0

Respectfully submitted,

*Richard H. Smith,*

First Selectman