

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
May 16, 2007

MINUTES

Meeting convened @ 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: Mark Gilmore, Carolyn Shores Ness, John P. Paciorek, Chair

Public Comments – none

Selectmen's Comments –

Old Home Day Activities will be held on Saturday, May 19th

Congratulations to Deerfield's Nat Herold for having his bookstore – Amherst Books – named as the “Best Bookstore in New England” by Boston Magazine!

Board of Health Items –

Ms. Ness gave feedback on the April 12th Drill that occurred on the HAAN Alert Network. It was an infectious disease outbreak at UMass. 101 communities responded and participated. 22 of 26 towns in Franklin County responded within 30 minutes. Deerfield responded in 6 minutes, which was the second fastest response in Franklin County. There will be another drill in July. The July drill will not be announced but it will be in Springfield. ‘Thank You’ to the Police Department for participating and making this a success.

Discussion/Decision Items –

Purchase of land from Sugarloaf Property Development LLC

Executive Sessions of the Board of Selectmen were held on May 3 and May 9.

Call Special Town Meeting for June 25, 2007, 7:00 p.m. at Frontier Regional School

Mr. Gilmore made a motion to call a special town meeting on June 25 at 7:00 at the Frontier Regional School auditorium. Ms. Ness seconded the motion. Vote passed unanimously (3-0). The FRS auditorium is available as well as Atty. Bobrowski and Mr. James.

Scenic byway designation letter

Ms. Ness made a motion to designate Route 116 as a State scenic byway. Mr. Gilmore seconded the motion. Vote passed unanimously (3-0).

Appointment process

It will not be necessary to reappoint town employees unless there is a statutory requirement to do so. For example, the highway department, the town administrator and the Selectmen's administrative assistant as well as other folks that work for town hall will not have to be reappointed because we work under a contract or under the town's bylaws. The Town Clerk/Treasurer, the Town Accountant as well as the Deerfield Police all have a statutory requirement to be reappointed.

Secondly, the Board had previously discussed that no one person could be appointed to more than one permit granting board. Mr. Kubiak asked if this is still true. Town Counsel has advised us to avoid this. If someone is currently a member of more than one permit granting board, they will be given the opportunity to choose which board they would like to stay on. If they are unable to make a decision, the Board of Selectmen will make the decision for them.

Town Board Openings

Historical Commission – Town Meeting established this commission on a permanent basis.

Open Space and Recreation Committee --

Mr. Kubiak requested that the Board of Selectmen allow him to put out a press release that we have openings on these committees.

Audit Report (draft management letter)

No serious criticism was reported. This is about as good as it gets for audit reports. Mary Stokarski and Janet Swem deserve some congratulations. We do need to put into place some General Accounting Service Board recommendations. GASB45 / GASB16

Waive transient vendor permits for Historic Deerfield

On June 9 there will be a public program including vendors for sales of plants and related merchandise and local produce. Mr. Kubiak recommends to the Board that they waive the requirements for transient vendor licenses and fees for Historic Deerfield for this event.

Ms. Ness made a motion that we authorize the waiving of vendor licenses and fees for Historic Deerfield's Garden Day program on June 9. Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion. Vote passed unanimously (3-0).

Appearance before the Board / Hearings –

8:00 p.m. continuance of site assignment hearing for 97 Stillwater Road

The hearing opened with Mr. Paciorek going over the hearing process, followed by his reading of the 5-page site assignment. Representing the Board of Selectmen is Atty. Lisa Mead. Mr. Stanley Romanowski and his counsel, Atty. R. Dave Deherdt approached the Board to respond. Mr. Robert Keir, representative for the condos across the street was also invited to sit at the table.

The first issue with the proposed site assignment pertains to the 5th bullet under section D on page 2. Mr. Romanowski's counsel requested that the language change to add the pond that the pigs drink from.

The next issue pertained to the number of swine permitted on the piggery site. Atty. Deherdt stated that the number of pigs varies according to the breeding season. The primary herd contains 70 adult sows. Each sow is able to produce between 6 and 10 piglets roughly every 4.5 months. The piglets stay on the farm for a minimum of 3 months. A piglet becomes a sow at 5-5.5 months at more or less 200 pounds. A piglet of 3 months of age weighs roughly 100 pounds. The gestation period is 16 weeks. Mr. Romanowski staggers the sow pregnancies (10 or 15 at a time) so that the number of piglets is limited and so that there are piglets being born year round. Many of the piglets go to the market at 3 months and some are kept on the farm until they are 250 or 300 pounds. During the first 4 weeks of life when they are suckling, the piglets and their mom are kept in a "nursery" pen separated from the other pigs.

Thirty-seven pigs were sold live and taken from the farm last year at roughly 250-300-350 pounds.

On May 2, 2007, there were 80 sows and 25 piglets on the Romanowski farm.

A reasonable number of swine could not be agreed on at this time and the issue was put on hold until further information could be gathered.

With regards to transporting garbage for the pigs to eat, Mr. Romanowski was informed that while he is collecting food waste from an establishment that is the only thing he should be getting at that time. Nothing else unrelated to

the food should be transported. If he wants to pick up things other than food waste, he needs to go back a separate time. A permit is also needed in order to haul garbage.

This issue was not resolved and is on hold until a later date.

On page 3, the first sentence under the Table "Pigs must be fed from troughs..."

Atty. Deherdt would like the language of this item to change. Mr. Romanowski said that he feeds the pigs in a different dry, clean area every day. Ms. Ness said that during her visits, the pigs were being fed on the ground and the food was definitely coming into contact with feces. No food should be coming into contact with feces. Also, no packaging materials should be left in the pen. All food matter should be removed weekly.

Mr. Keir and other abutters are still complaining of an odor coming from the farm during some evenings. Mr. Romanowski said he cooks the pig food from 1:00 – 4:00 and is completely done by 5:00 p.m. He does not know where the odor is coming from.

On page 4 of the site assignment, the issue of transporting pigs was raised. Mr. Romanowski informed the board that some private sales do occur when the customer will come to pick up the pig.

Mr. Kubiak explains that if a pig is fed garbage, then it must be sold through a licensed auction house and butchered by a slaughterhouse that is licensed by the Federal Government. This is how the Board understands the policy, which was explained by the Town's Animal Control Officer, Michael Raffa.

Mr. Romanowski would like 3-business days notice before any inspection. The exception would be if there was a complaint.

Three issues have been put on hold that need to be resolved. The continuance of this hearing will take place on May 30, 2007 at 8:00 p.m.

Announcements – Mr. Gilmore's work schedule will be from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m.

Mr. Gilmore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Paciorek seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Kroll

☐ Approved

☐ Not approved

Date: _____

Corrections: _____
