

Town of Deerfield
Board of Selectmen Meeting
March 16, 2011

Present: Mark Gilmore, Chair; Carolyn Shore-Ness; John Paciorek
Absent; Bernie Kubiak, Administrator

Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM.

Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Paciorek to accept the minutes of the March 3, 2011 meeting, as corrected; it was seconded by Ms. Ness, and unanimously voted. A motion was made by Mr. Paciorek to accept the minutes of February 1, 2011; it was seconded by Ms. Ness, and voted 2 in favor and 1 abstention. (2-0-1)

Public Comments: none

Selectmen's announcements: The Board of Selectmen's meeting on March 30th will be at 6:30 PM because the Board will attend the East Deerfield Railyard clean-up discussion. Ms. Ness said the meeting was to review what is happening at the railyard. She said there have been a couple of violations, but in general progress is being made.

Board of Health announcements: Wash your hands.

Discussion/Decision Items: Cultural Council - A motion was made, seconded, and voted to appoint Carol MacBurnie to the local Cultural Council for a term ending June 30, 2011. During discussion Ms. Ness she wished to thank Ms. MacBurnie for her interest.

Tobacco Control Coalition - Hampshire and Franklin Council of Governments are in the process of preparing a grant application for participation in the Mt. Tom Tobacco Control Coalition for funding to conduct sting operations and outreach programs intended to reduce tobacco use by youth. Ms. Ness said she has specified that any sting operations in Deerfield be conducted with notice to the Deerfield Police Department. Mr. Gilmore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Paciorek, that Ms. Ness sign the documentation as she is the Board member who represents the Board of Health. The vote was unanimous. The Police Chief will be notified of this action.

Sewer Abatements – Three requests totaling \$1,332.97 were approved for abatement in a motion made by Mr. Paciorek, seconded by Ms. Ness, and unanimously voted. Reasons for abatements were: internal broken pipe – water did not enter sewer, leak from previous billing period, and new owner – house vacant for long period of time.

Appearance before Board/ hearings:

Afterworks – Continuation of hearing - present Mark Fabry

Mr. Gilmore said the reason for continuance of the hearing was to provide Mr. Fabry an opportunity to provide an explanation of intent for business. A letter was submitted. For the record Mr. Paciorek stated that he has viewed the tape of the hearing and has read all of the correspondence and is up to-date. Ms. Ness said she was satisfied with Mr. Fabry's letter. She then made a motion, seconded by Mr. Paciorek, that the Board approve Mr. Fabry's application for a license to serve liquor. During discussion Mr. Paciorek said at times there have been as many as 30 butts on the ground the result of people smoking outside. He would like to see butt containers outside and, at least daily, all the butts on the sidewalk be removed. The vote was unanimous in favor of approving the application.

Ducks Unlimited - A motion was made by Mr. Paciorek, and seconded by Mr. Gilmore to approve a one day liquor license for a Ducks Unlimited banquet at Deerfield Academy. The vote was unanimous. Since this was approval for an event that had already been held, someone in the audience asked what would happen, if the Board did not approve the request. Mr. Gilmore replied that a fine could be imposed, but probably they would be held in contempt for not following the rules and regulations.

“Taste of Deerfield” Present - Max Hartshorne At the end of the hearing a notice was read about a proposed “taste of Deerfield” event. At that time, there was no one present to discuss the proposal. Later in the meeting Max Hartshorne appeared to discuss his idea. He said Northampton and Amherst hold “taste.” And he would like to have one the Deerfield way. The plan is to hold the event on June 25th, between 11:00 AM and 9:00 PM. He wants to have kids games, about 12 booths for restaurants to sell foods, and beer with Berkshire Brewing (a beer garden). He envisioned people having a beer, eating food, and watching kids playing games.

Mr. Paciorek asked what the difference would be between this and Old Home Day. His response was that more people would come. This event would be in downtown Deerfield, not way off at the Rod and Gun Club. Mr. Paciorek said Old Home Days included activities at the elementary school, a bookfest at the library, senior center puts stuff out, there’s usually a plant sale, all of which are held in town during the day and a party at the Rod and Gun club later on. He wondered about combining Old Home Days with the “Taste.”

Mr. Hartshorne said he envisioned the event being set up assort of a midway with 10’x 10’booths set-up funneling into the back where there is grass. Parents could watch their kids playing games. He has a number of companies interested in participating: Yankee Candle, Greenfield Savings Bank, Berkshire Brewing. He would like the Recreation Department to be involved.

Mr. Gilmore raised the point that the two events are really quite different and perhaps should not be combined. Timing of the proposed “taste” was also on his mind. There is a mortgage burning for the school planned for sometime in June. He wasn’t interested in an event that would compete with Old Home Days. He said he personally is in favor of the proposed activities, if some issues could be worked out. Mr. Gilmore and Mr. Paciorek spoke to the reasons that the Old Home Day venue is the way it is. They said there were problems with having alcohol on Town property. In addition certain activities could not be held on school property.

Mr. Paciorek requested a verbal vote of confidence from the Board before continuing the discussion. Board members felt a Selectman should involved in the planning of this event. Mr. Gilmore agreed to be the Board’s designated representative.

Budget – Mr. Paciorek, who is not a candidate for re-election, said he thought it was time for the Selectmen to get a raise. He made a motion that the line item for Selectmen’s salaries be raised by \$1,000. It was seconded by Ms. Ness, and voted unanimously.

Hampshire Power – Mr. Paciorek made a motion, which Ms. Ness seconded, that the Town support the Hampshire Council of Governments competitive electricity initiative program for homeowners and small businesses. The vote was unanimous. The Board will invite Hampshire Power to attend a meeting to explain the program.

Emergency Meeting for Veterans – Leo Parent, the director, is retiring effective June 30, 2011. There is a meeting next Thursday, March 24, at 6:00 PM. Mr. Paciorek thinks it's important that someone from this Board attend. Mr. Gilmore suggested that both he and Mr. Paciorek try to attend.

Ms. Ness took the opportunity to introduce Elizabeth Clark, who has taken out nomination papers for Selectmen.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Phelps