

Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, January 23, 2012

Present: Chairman Walter F. Alterisio and Procurement Officer and Member Kenneth J. Leva; Daniel F. Devlin, Clerk absent

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with quorum present. Chairman Alterisio advised that he sent off memo via e-mail today in response to NMCOG's request to insure that town is covered and able to be included within eligibility for some of the grants. He reviewed the items in his memo to NMCOG (see attachment) and explained the approach as long range planning.

Conservation Commission member Alan Chaney stopped in to the meeting and Chairman Alterisio addressed his understanding that notice of intent must be filed with Conservation in order to resurrect MUD and plan National Heritage must certify there aren't endangered species within the area. Chairman Alterisio further indicated he's been told cost to do this study could cost up to \$60K; Alan advised he believed for study for that size parcel via which MESA is National Heritage branch of Fish & Game wouldn't be that costly. Conservation has nothing to do with that unless there are wetlands involved. He suggested that they let them know what's happening with timber harvest in turtle territory. Wherever endangered species are concerned MESA is the authority. Chairman Alterisio advised design is already done, CTI is willing to work with town but Chairman Alterisio understands we can't request on our own, must go thru Conservation via notice of intent.

Chairman Alterisio explained the intent of continuing on same lines but would like to research possibilities for septic for the site. He suggested re-looking at the Mixed Use District for time frame of somewhere around 3 years out and noted that CTI felt that MESA could be a real showstopper. Chairman Alterisio indicated he thought wetlands had been already flagged out - whether it needed to be done again is another question.

Alan referred to some recent discussions relative to previous land purchase possibilities indicating further discussions may be forthcoming. Discussion continued on possibilities for senior/affordable housing with Chairman Alterisio reporting on a new development of that type in Westford.

Bob Kennedy came in with drawing relative to an island Dick Henry would like to have constructed at Thorndike & High Street. He pointed out and noted a number of obstacles he felt could create a difficult situation if this island design was permitted. The board advised they had no direct knowledge of the plan and indicated it would most likely have been scheduled on the Road Commissioners agenda.

Chairman Alterisio noted that he'd listened to Chief Palma and Chief Downes relative to dispatch - uncertain whether they were trying to convince the board of what they were saying - that dispatcher is going to stand between relationships of the communities. He indicated he was a little surprised that they couldn't be a little more cooperative or understanding of the approach. Ken indicated they seemed to understand that regionalization is going to happen anyway. Chairman Alterisio felt that Groton has nothing to lose - but everything to gain - inevitable that state is going to fund a regional call center. Doesn't think it's going to come down to Groton's facility - it's going to be a separate entity, if Groton wants to go that route, fine but Chairman Alterisio is going to raise issue that whatever is put together, must be side plan put into the equation that if state money dries up, how does it work for Dunstable .. no more mandated programs, like the Quinn Bill, that's unfunded. Need to understand how it works first and then deal with the siting issues last. Only thing

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that Chairman Alterisio could get out of it, is that they don't care what it costs, town must.

Chairman Alterisio reported on update from Governance Committee who's moving forward – approaching report from broad base, willing to make recommendation of things that do make sense to the town. Will be bringing forth recommendations on what should be done 1st, put together presentation for elected officials and committees. Made sure that they understand that committee isn't being asked to take on the burden. He explained that whatever bylaw changes or structural changes that need to be done can be brought to annual town meeting. Has been suggested on a number of occasions that things like zoning issues, etc., should not be included in with the budget, a lot of those types of things which have long range implications to the nature of the town end up getting voted in just to move forward with the meeting and aren't given full and proper consideration.

Jon Crandall asked one quick question referencing plans for Fire Chief Selection Committee – his term is up the end of March. Chairman Alterisio indicated the fundamental question need to answer is whether need a full time chief. Chairman Alterisio thinks with experience over the year, and a number of things the Chief's been involved in, because of the man in the job, have been spoiled in two ways – couldn't ask for a better chief – being supplemented by his own pension. Amazing the amount of time he's putting in for the salary being paid. Question do we need a full time chief, in Chairman Alterisio's opinion he thinks we do. with that do we have a qualified internal candidate, not only on the fire side, but commitment. If there's a qualified internal candidate we can be comfortable with, that's simple. If not and need to move forward with external search, interview process as done last time. Chairman Alterisio referenced some of the morale issues and conflicts within the fire department in the past selection, felt it best to have someone who was familiar with what was going on and had ideas on how to fix. He reported that to some degree, Chief Rich had made it known that he would like to continue in some degree with the program. Chairman Alterisio thinks that would be part of the program, with Chief Rich providing a valuable resource; enough commitment to the town. Chief Rich has suggested a full time chief and Jon Crandall suggested bringing in other members of the department, are many who have commitment to the cause, and may have interest in the position. Suggested were Brian Rich, David Barker and a couple of other members who might have interest. Chairman Alterisio advised that he wouldn't have a problem of following up – Jon advised that Brian has made it known that he is clearly interested and is dedicated. Chairman Alterisio related on prior problems which seemed to have been corrected and cooperation has improved. Issue is – if can justify service have to justify funding...must research thoroughly. If our study came up with say \$100K a year that we were looking at, probably a little out of our reach, but the numbers being thrown around, need to find a way to do it.

Discussion continued on the importance of the position when there's an emergency – like the last fire. Jon advised he'd gotten a copy of the call sheet and indicated he was very impressed at how organized they are for a small volunteer group. He indicated he felt once they do the reach-out will know pretty much where we stand. Chairman Alterisio will put together a letter of intent to volunteer fire advising that BOS interested in going thru process of evaluating interest from within in lieu of moving outside, not necessarily meaning we would not.

Permit process for Pleasant Street special permit – has been issued and approved for MSR Utilities – with specific conditions which must be met in order for it to take

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effect – must be registered with Registry of Deeds. He further advised it's being reviewed by case counsel, and understands that Zoning Officer has received copy of the permit.

Schedule Dana and Rich there for backup questions or clarification for next week.

Selectman Leva noted reports in a couple of towns where individuals have fallen thru ice. Chairman Alterisio indicated that maybe with counsel present next week may want to float by counsel for his recommendation on how we might handle it.

Chairman Alterisio advised there's going to have to be some discussion relative to Circus Smirkus – and some of the funding for the deposit. Chairman Alterisio indicated question is being raised as to whether the town should be in the business of engaging circus – some separate entity. Chairman Alterisio addressed a number of the items within the contract which requires the town to pay them \$35K; Chairman Alterisio referenced his past experience with the carnivals. If everything goes the way it's supposed to, would be great for the town but if it doesn't, talking about another story.

Minutes from last meeting will be held for next week. Secretary reminded board that they'll need to work on their multiple budget items. The Board approved Sue Tully's date reservation request for the 2012 Summer Concert Series on the common – June 20th & 27th, July 11th, 18th and 25th, August 1st, 8th and 15th from 5-9PM. Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 8:20PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary



OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF DUNSTABLE
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
(978) 649-4514 X224
FAX (978) 649-4371
e-mail selectmen@dunstable-ma.gov



To; Jay Donovan, NMCOG Asst. Director

From; Walt Alterisio, B.O.S. Chairman

Date; January 23, 2012

The following are being submitted for consideration of DELTA V Project resources. It represents those the town has had most recent discussions and or interest, but does not restrict others that may be included.

Dunstable has completed planning and design for a Multi-use District on Pleasant Street, Route 113 corridor. Concept is to make available housing through 1 and 2 bedroom units in clusters of 8 and 4 housing units. Property is owned by the town and the plan includes 5000sq.ft. of retail space. Gating issues include certification of endangered species habitat by the Heritage Group and extending an existing water line last estimated at \$600k which may qualify for MassWorks funding program.

Potential for Solar Farm site. Alternative Energy Credits are being sought by utility delivery services. Among the major assets the town of Dunstable has is available land owned by the town. This could have benefits on a regional basis.

Water Commissioner have expressed interest in looking at making available existing water resources beyond the borders of the town. Creating a Water District and or commercial supply site are among the options.

There are currently a number of parcels owned by the town that could be interconnected with trails and or bike paths access appropriate for passive recreation applications on a year round basis.

There exist a number of large homes that could be converted to multi-family units. This would potentially make affordable housing and relieve the financial burden for an aging population.

There are a variety of regional based service delivery applications that Dunstable would be interested in. Dispatching, Animal Control, Engineering, Purchasing are but a few.

Thank you for your help. At a time where you would need additional information please don't hesitate to contact us directly.