

## **Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting: Tuesday, May 21, 2013**

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with all members present. Selectman Alterisio presented motion to re-organize, stepping up to the fact that he's the senior member and wishing to express his thanks to the Chairman this year and offering an observation, Selectmen are not born, extending a lot of admiration for how he handled the job, brought principals to the table and listened to all the issues that were brought before him - Town was served well by his initiatives - Selectman Leva thanked Walter and Dan for all their help during his tenure as Chairman as well.

Selectman Devlin then seconded motion to open nominations with Selectman Alterisio offering motion for Selectman Devlin as Chairman and Selectman Leva as clerk; motion to close nominations offered by Selectman Devlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Selectman Leva and vote taken for Chairman Dan Devlin, Clerk Selectman Leva and Selectman Alterisio taking on the position of procurement officer.

Chairman Devlin thanked all the new elected officials for their interest and initiative. Selectman Alterisio noted with the waiting for Historical to come in - comment on town vote yesterday and more specifically to the questions which both failed - his response and comments to the board is welcome to the ballot box, not to be discouraged, it happens, to him it reflects two things one being better understanding which means we need to do a better job, or did understand and are not comfortable with handing over the responsibility to other elected officials. Sometimes very discouraging to do all the homework - moving forward now fact is we cannot move forward with the initiative and feel it would probably be inappropriate to take the route to the legislature as if they were to see the vote, they wouldn't appreciate being put in that position. The issue is, the Town is at risk, long term not short term. Chairman Devlin noted unfortunately with no discussion and questions at Town Meeting and many may have not understood the importance or the reasoning behind the initiative. Moving forward this is a demonstration that it's not going to be an easy task to put changes in place, even when they're the best direction for the town.

Bill Ahern, being present, indicated he thinks it's our inability or negligence in presenting the position - he suggested as Chairman of the Governance Committee he should take the bull by the horn and

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made sure people understood the background and the reasoning for moving forward in that direction.

Selectman Leva noted that the vote had been approved by Town Meeting in the past for presentation thru the legislature and discussion continued on how the process had changed upon recommendation of town counsel – if it had been processed thru the legislature as it was supposed to have been, we wouldn't be in this position. Bill indicated it's on the Chairman to make it happen – next act is on the Chairman.

Selectman Alterisio provided motion to accept minutes of May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and voted with all in favor.

Selectman Alterisio addressed another item that he's aware of, being the Board of Appeals decision that is not in the 20 day appeal period – and he would recommend that there may be some comments from residents in the area and would recommend the board go thru comments and contact and explain the course.

He also noted we currently have a policy review submitted by our special labor counsel, developed for a separate acknowledgement by the employees, although referred to in the personnel policy. Board will take under advisement and look over for further acceptance. Selectman Alterisio indicated being uncomfortable with any policy where reference is made to an individual by name instead of the position; also noted changes in Quinn provisions indicating Board also needs to look at how it weighs into the union contract.

Anne Davis and Carol Bacon representing the Historical Commission, advised the commission met last Tuesday and discussed the Memorial plaza design and noted that the Building and its grounds are listed on the National Register cautioning that changes in the area could actually disqualify the Town Hall from the National Register – she read text (attached). Their committee is concerned with impact of large brick and paved monument area –concerned if this is built, could lose their valuable historical position. They have no concern with the monuments themselves, it's not an issue – Chairman Devlin asked if there was any dialogue with the Historical Commission when the plan was put forward – no they were not and would hope in the future there could be inclusion.

They have no real concern about the monuments themselves, but the proposed changes to the area around it – the structure would have quite an impact on the historical integrity of the grounds. Chairman

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Devlin advised the good part was no commitment had yet been made toward the plaza project, noting nothing was mentioned in the Neighbor to Neighbor about changing the grounds around the monuments. Ted Gaudette explained the project, advising it's a 32' circle - area they're talking about is no larger than area covered now; it's basically from the center point - held to the area being currently being used by the current monuments. Intention was to match the brick of the town hall, the outer would be cobblestone and the inner would be brick - so the mower could just buzz around - would be a permanent edging. He explained what happens is they have to re-edge all the time because it gets damaged by the mowers - if could just do a cobble stone all around, then if a veteran comes up it's a nice flat surface. The other part of it is, John Cover does the cutting now and as he does so he whacks the light for the flag, which they have to continually repair, not a large area of brick - propose 2 steps one at same level - 5" rise and then another 5" rise just before the flagpole. Ted explained the dimensions on the drawing and the particulars of the design. They could do away with the steps, were trying to make it even less with the two steps.

Chairman Devlin indicated the Board was glad that people got together - Bill Ahern noted he felt discussion is a good discussion and the Historical Commission expressed some pertinent concerns. Bob Kennedy asked if the Korean & Vietnam Monument committee was an appointed committee and noted that the Historical Commission was and should have been included. Bob Kennedy further suggested it might be appropriate to look at another location that would be better for people to visit - give the monuments the justice they deserve - noting chances are you'll need more monuments - already have two more wars that will need monuments. Joe Dean advised that about 65 people have donated to the new monuments - while it might be nice to have a veterans memorial park, it would require a significant amount of capital, well over \$100,000 - maybe possibly with CPA funds further down the road, might be appropriate and possible to have enough funds. Historical Commission's concern is that the grounds were documented a certain way, and has changed, but Dana Metzler pointed out in 2003 during the Town Hall restoration project, monuments were put there not by happenstance but laid out that way. It was noted that this has all come down because many people don't want the patio. Bob Kennedy advised that, in addition, a number of people have approached him about whether the Board gave approval for the group to use the Town Seal. Selectman Alterisio advised the Town Seal doesn't belong to the Town, the authorization for its use comes from the Secretary of State, but Bob noted he's concerned

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about the willy-nilly use of the Town Seal – no objections to the monuments.

Selectman Alterisio advised that the board was also approached about suggestions for placement of items such as a memorial plaza, benches at the bandstand and suggestions that the Board appoint a memorials committee to look at strategy, appropriate placement and historic impact – not to discourage the enthusiasm of groups that are trying to do the right thing.

Alan Chaney asked if Selectman Alterisio was saying that the recommendation is for the patio to not be put in until have findings from the new committee. Selectman Alterisio indicated the Board feels best to maintain status quo – noting understanding that there's funding issues that need to be addressed anyway. Going forward will work together on it and at the same time maybe can raise more funding for it. Dedication of the two (2) new memorials is scheduled for Saturday, May 25th. Ted referred to Dunstable's background, noting how far back Dunstable's history goes, expressing concern that monuments are important. Ted noted that it's very important to maintain our history. Judy Larter advised she totally agrees monuments belong here but it's important where we put them and feels it needs to be looked at further. Selectman Alterisio called the Chairman's attention to candidates for the new committee – all left with agreement to work together moving forward. Candidates include Carol Bacon, Alan Chaney, Bob Kennedy, Anne Davis, Dana Metzler & Joe Dean. Selectman Alterisio further advised the intent of the issue wasn't to address only the monuments, but to encompass all types of memorials, including the benches around the gazebo, etc.

The board approved Massapoag Rod & Gun Club's use of the Grange Hall on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of their annual meeting – motion by Selectman Leva, 2<sup>nd</sup> and voted with all in favor.

Selectman Alterisio referred to employment agreements for the Police Chief and Fire Chief – would like to have some input or discussion from the Advisory group – when put it on agenda – make sure they're advised so representation can be present.

Selectman Alterisio agreed to represent the Board at the Memorial Day parade and present proclamation to Ted Gaudette for the board.

Potential for executive session involving negotiations – suggested inviting representation from Advisory Board and Chief Downes – so

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there's an understanding moving forward. Selectman Alterisio advised he needs to get a handle on where this stands – Quinn Bill issue. Need to understand the position. Need to get something going for that.

Chairman Devlin referred to the NMCOC Stormwater Collaborative, noting it's more of a problem in other towns, but something that Dunstable needs to look at and have something in place. The Board discussed briefly and agreed memo of understanding will be signed by Chairman Devlin.

Selectman Alterisio advised he'd noticed that the Highway Superintendent has a new vehicle, wasn't aware that one of the replacements was going to be the Chief's new car – some question on what the mileage was – somewhat sensitive since reference to the car was brought up in the negotiations. Selectman Alterisio will represent the Board on Saturday @10AM for dedication of the new memorials and on Sunday at the Parade, presenting a proclamation to Ted Gaudette for his multiple years of service to the Town.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed, and meeting adjourned at 8:00PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,  
Board Secretary