

**Enfield Board of Selectmen
Enfield, New Hampshire**

MINUTES of January 6, 2003

Board of Selectmen: Ilene P. Reed; Keith Oppenneer
Donald J. Crate, Sr., Chairman – absent due to business

Administrative Staff: April Whittaker, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Secretary

Others: Mary Murray, Connecticut Valley Spectator; Peter Giese, Chief of Police; Dominic Albanese; Nancy Smith; Janice Bradley; Meredith Smith; Dwight Marchetti; Marjorie Carr, Librarian/Town Historian

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Reed called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of December 16, 2002. A typographical error on page 3 will be corrected. On page 6, a comment, regarding plastic on the Whitney Hall Auditorium windows, which was attributed to Keith Oppenneer will be corrected.

Mr. Oppenneer moved to accept the minutes of December 16, 2002, as corrected; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Janice Bradley, Administrator: Anne's Place Introduction:

Mrs. Bradley informed the Board that she is the new Supportive Services Coordinator for Anne's place and other local housing projects. The projected date for people to move into Anne's Place is March 1, depending upon possible weather delays.

Mr. Oppenneer asked when the 8-unit building would be available for him to view. Mrs. Bradley replied that she was unsure.

Mrs. Bradley's has accepted this full-time position as Supportive Services Coordinate that encompasses Anne's Place in Enfield, Overlook Place in White River Jct., a 4-unit building on Mt. Support Road and a building on Spencer Street in Lebanon. She will work with all of the tenants. Each tenant will have a service plan/goals. Mrs. Bradley will work with the various agencies that have done referrals. She will make sure tenants have what they need. She has experience as a case manager for West Central Services for 10 years prior to this position.

Discussion ensued regarding the excellent location of Anne's Place, near downtown services, recreation and the Advance Transit bus route.

Mrs. Reed understood that single women that want to expand their knowledge could go to Lebanon College.

Mrs. Bradley said that was definitely a possibility. They would not be able to attend full-time as a requirement of housing is to be employed. She will have to talk to the college about scholarships.

Mrs. Bradley asked about an advisory board that she believed was mentioned at a town board meeting. Mrs. Reed thought she had heard about such a board. Mrs. Bradley will look into it.

Meredith Smith: Craig Property, High Street, Enfield:

Mrs. Smith came before the Board to provide an update regarding the old Craig property on High Street. She would like the Selectmen to hold off demolishing the building for at least 6 months. Mrs. Smith explained some of the history of the building. The building is a late 18th century schoolhouse and Mrs. Smith would like to restore it. Mrs. Smith has experience in building restoration. She would like time to determine what needs to be done and to find funding sources. Mrs. Smith is prepared to do it herself if funding is not forthcoming.

Mrs. Whittaker explained there is funding in the 2003 budget for demolition in case it needs to be done.

Marjorie Carr would like to support the 6-month window of opportunity. She feels it is premature to tear it down; before we know if we have something there. She fully supports whatever Mrs. Smith has in mind for the building.

Walter Backhoffen recommended to Mrs. Smith that the building not be moved to another site. Schoolhouses were typically put in the worst location in town.

Mr. Marchetti asked if the building is going to be restored, is it going to be restored on site? Has it ever been offered for sale? Are we going to get into a situation where we're going to give another property away? Mr. Marchetti has lived in Enfield a long time and has seen historic value disappear. Any refurbishing on that site is a terrible hazard. Ingress and egress is right on the road.

Instead of the Board of Selectmen being anxious to give things away, if Mrs. Smith wants it, give it to her and get it out of there. Mr. Marchetti suggested providing 3 months rather than 6 months. He does not think the building has and structural value and the location is hazardous. He suggested giving it to Mrs. Smith.

Mrs. Smith asked for 6 months because we're in the winter months and any outside work has to wait. Mrs. Smith has considered the parking issue and feels it's premature to share her thoughts.

Mrs. Reed feels Mrs. Smith should have 6 months.

Mr. Oppeneer stated that Mr. Marchetti has some valid points, but that the town should let Mrs. Smith look into it.

Mr. Marchetti stated the Selectmen should hold a public hearing.

Mrs. Smith stated that she would look to buying the building from the Town; she'd be putting private funding into the project. As soon as she has more information she will get back to the Board.

Mrs. Smith will have 6 months to do her exploratory work.

Heritage Commission:

Mr. Oppeneer stated that the town has twice published an ad for volunteers on the Heritage Commission. Maybe it's time to do this again.

Dominic Albanese stated that if it's that important, maybe put something in the town report.

Mr. Oppeneer stated that if the town has property of legitimate historic value it bears looking at. He remembered the building that used to stand at the corner of Route 4 opposite High Street. Things change over time.

Planning Board Appointment:

The Planning Board recommended the appointment of Kelly Wescott as an alternate member. Mrs. Reed moved to appoint Kelly Wescott as a Planning Board Alternate; Mr. Oppeneer seconded, vote unanimous.

Warrants, Etc.:

The Board reviewed and approved the following documents: Yield Tax Warrant, Property Tax Refunds.

Mr. Oppeneer moved to approve a veterans tax credit for Harold Hemmerling; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

CITIZENS FORUM

Nancy Smith, President, Enfield Village Association:

The Enfield Village Association (EVA) is actively pursuing a Farmers Market for the summer months. They would like to use Huse Park. Using town owned property would help the group with insurance coverage; they would be covered under the town's policy. They will need to coordinate with the recreation schedule. They hope to run the Farmers Market from 3-7PM, 1 day a week in June or July. There are organizing meetings going on.

Mr. Oppeneer asked about trucks on the field. He was informed that this has happened in the past. The fair is held on the field.

Mr. Marchetti feels it's a fantastic idea and wishes someone had thought of it sooner. He suggested using the Shaker Recreation Park.

Mrs. Smith explained that it is a Main Street project and needs to remain downtown.

Mr. Oppeneer moved to grant provisional approval; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

Mrs. Smith will try to keep the Selectmen updated on what's going on.

Mrs. Smith stated that the Enfield Village Association had originally asked for a 3-year financial commitment from the town. When the three years is up, they will ask for a warrant article for continued support of EVA.

Dwight Marchetti:

Mr. Marchetti had come to a previous meeting asking about a procedure should someone have a complaint against an appointed board or committee member.

Mr. Oppeneer received a copy of the 1983 Rules and Procedures of the Conservation Commission (Revised July 1994) and proceeded to quote from it.

Mrs. Whittaker pointed out that there is a Private Property Access Policy before the Board at this meeting.

Mr. Marchetti explained that the Private Property Access Policy is not what he's looking for, but for a procedure for a member of the public to bring allegations to the Selectmen. A mechanism needs to be in place. He explained that there is a provision in the law to have someone removed from an appointed board of commission for cause. The Selectmen have the authority to remove an appointed member.

Mrs. Whittaker explained that the town has a complaint form.

Mr. Marchetti asked what then happens to it?

Mrs. Whittaker replied that it depends upon the nature of the complaint. Her feeling is that she'd come to the Board of Selectmen, that we have to put the person on notice. The individual then has the right to a public hearing.

Mr. Marchetti stated the need for a detailed mechanism for how the complaint will be handled.

Mr. Oppeneer stated the need to draft a procedure, "This is how we implement..." This is Mr. Oppeneer's seventh year on the Board of Selectmen and they've had four or five complaints.

Mr. Marchetti stated that a case in point is the August meeting at which Mr. Lozeau presented a complaint to the Board of Selectmen and nothing has been done. The Selectmen had voted to have the entire Conservation Commission come in to see the Board.

Mrs. Whittaker explained the need to bring in not just the Conservation Commission, but all of the boards.

Mr. Albanese asked if this policy applied to everyone, employees & boards? Mr. Oppeneer explained that the policy applies specifically to land use boards.

Mr. Marchetti has another issue he'd like addressed by the Board, but first he wants to know what the procedure is. Mrs. Reed suggested he bring in his recommendations.

Mr. Marchetti discussed his views on the need for guidelines to follow and that the Selectmen should meet with the land use boards to review their mission and authority.

Mrs. Reed closed the Citizens Forum.

OLD BUSINESS

Goals 2003:

Tabled until the next meeting.

Sale of Surplus Equipment – Fire Trucks:

Fire Chief David Crate approved an ad for sale of two surplus fire vehicles, a tanker and a pumper. The bid due date is February 14, 2003. The ad will be run in Town & City magazine.

Private Property Access Policy:

Mr. Oppeneer stated that this is a good broad statement that address all land use boards and committees. Mr. Oppeneer moved to adopt the Access of Private Property Policy; Mrs. Reed seconded.

Mr. Albanese understood that the whole incident started with someone taking pictures. He stated that he would be unhappy with something taking pictures of his property without his permission.

Discussion followed regarding the need for town access to property for police, assessing and health issues. The Assessing Department had door hangers to try to set up an appointment and an administrative warrant for building & health issues. The importance of documenting visits to properties was also discussed.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed Access of Private Property Policy with one minor typographical correction.

Veterans Exemption:

Mr. Oppeneer moved to accept a veterans exemption as presented; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

Ambulance Agreement:

Town Attorney has reviewed the proposed agreement. The Board unanimously approved the Ambulance Agreement with the City of Lebanon.

Habitat for Humanity:

Mr. Oppenneer received a phone call from a citizen, not against the donation of property to Habitat for Humanity, but maybe an alternative location with a lower commercial value.

Mr. Albanese stated he had called Keith. His point was that it might be a difficult location to pass as a donation. Ethically, when the town approved the highway garage the sale of the May Street property was to be used an offset to the construction expense.

Public Hearing:

Mr. Oppenneer moved to recess the Selectmen's meeting at 6:47pm; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

The Board proceeded to the Whitney Hall Auditorium to hold the Public Hearing on the proposed sewer rate and hook-up fee increases.

Mrs. Reed reconvened the Selectmen's meeting at 8:25pm.

Sewer Rate & Hookup Fees:

Mr. Oppenneer reluctantly made a motion to increase the sewer rate from \$4.14/1,000 gallons to \$11.53/1000 gallons, effective January 1, 2003.

Mr. Oppenneer moved to increase the sewer and water hookup fees per the schedule presented at the public hearing, effective January 1, 2003; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

The Board discussed the status of work by Dufresne-Henry. A comparison of costs has been received. Mr. Oppenneer would like to contest any charges in excess of \$500. Mr. Oppenneer's intent was to get a full engineering study.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Town & School Elections Filing Period ~ January 22 through 31, 2003

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Oppenneer moved to adjourn at 8:30pm; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.