

Present: Chairman Jeffrey D. Jones, Selectman Mark W. Lynch, Selectman A. Raymond Randall, Jr., Town Administrator Brendhan Zubricki, and Selectmen's Assistant Pamela J. Witham.

Also Present: Gloucester Daily Times Reporter John Phelps, Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman Ed Perkins, Open Space Committee Chairperson Julie Scofield, Long Term Planning Committee Chairman Michael Dyer, Long Term Planning Committee members Robert Coviello and Sue Lufkin, Town Building Committee Chairperson Lisa O'Donnell, North Shore Vocational representative George Harvey, Police Chief Peter Silva, Treasurer/Tax Collector Virginia Boutchie, Fire Chief Daniel Doucette, Deputy Fire Chief Paul Doucette, Deputy Fire Chief Ramie Reader, School Committee member Susan Coviello, Finance Committee member Karen Birch, Town Accountant Roxanne Tieri, and Planning Board Co-Chair Andrew St. John.

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Center on Pickering Street and announced that the Board would hear Public Comment. No one offered any comment.

Chairman Jones then turned the meeting over to George Harvey who presented a brief power point presentation about the proposed creation of a vocational school district combining North Shore Vocational School with Essex Agricultural School. The presentation included discussion of the proposed new buildings, the proposed curriculum, and the proposed necessary funding.

Following Mr. Harvey's presentation, Chairman Jones reviewed the articles that will be presented at the November 9th Special Town Meeting, along with the corresponding funding requests.

Chairman Jones reported that MassHighway is finishing up their work for this season on the Route 133 project. The work so far, has included drainage and moving the utility wires to the other side of the street. Currently, the Selectmen are discussing plans for next season with MassHighway as to whether the workday will be changed to begin and end an hour earlier, whether some of the work will be performed at night, and whether the temporary utility poles will remain in place after the project is completed.

Selectman Lynch presented an update on the progress of the Conomo Point Planning Committee. The Committee has been working with the planning consultant and the Planning Board regarding a proposed subdivision plan for the Conomo Point land south of Robbins Island Road. They hope to ask the Town to approve a zoning bylaw amendment at the Annual Town Meeting in May that will facilitate the proposed subdivision plan for the southern land at the Point. The Committee will be asking the Town to approve a proposal at the Special Town Meeting by one of the two planning consultants to help with forums and development ideas for the Conomo Point area north of Robbins Island Road.

Susan Coviello, from the School Committee, reported that everyone has been extremely pleased with the new Middle-High School. The open house that was recently held there was enjoyed by many. The football field, a booster building, and a parking lot are the

only items that still need to be completed. The School Committee is pleased that the project has been completed on time and within budget. The State has agreed to fund 40% of the project cost through reimbursements. To date the State has delivered \$10,000,000 and they have committed to an additional \$9,000,000.

The Town Clerk Search Committee, chaired by Ginny Boutchie, has recently completed a skills matrix to be used during the interview process. It is expected that the position will be advertised in January 2010 and that the interview process can be completed during the month of February.

Chairman Jones said that Centennial Grove is now open again, although the cottage is still closed to the public. The movie company is continuing with the restoration of some parts of the Grove and the pavilion has been refurbished as the result of an Eagle Scout project. The Open Space Committee is working with volunteers and the Department of Public Works to clean up the nature trails and add trail markers and signs. It is hoped that a special re-opening event can be planned for the Spring.

Town Accountant Tieri reported that all Departments have done very well to manage their budgets this year. As a result of good management, the proceeds from the movie company, and the timely collection of amounts due by the Tax Collector, the Town is in good financial shape.

Police Chief Silva described the amazing rescue of an elderly couple whose car plunged into the river two weeks ago. Chief Silva said that an honorary event is being planned to take place sometime in November for the four men who pulled the couple from their car as it was sinking. The car was later retrieved from 17 feet of water and removed. Due to cutbacks, the only grants available now to the police department are the Shannon Grant Funds which are also being reduced. One officer has just graduated from the Police Academy and rejoined the police force as a full-time officer. Another part-time officer has started his training at the academy.

Fire Chief Dan Doucette said that the Fire Department has been fortunate to receive some grants for equipment, such as scott packs and breathing apparatus. The Department is sending a few of their interested members to the Massachusetts Fire Academy on a part-time basis. After training for 200 hours, they will become one-two certified. Deputy Chiefs Paul Doucette and Ramie Reader said that they hope to send at least two or three people each year to the Academy to get certification and that the certification will probably become a State requirement in the future.

Chair person Lisa O'Donnell of the Town Building Committee reviewed the progress made by the Committee over the past year. The Committee has determined that the best solution would be to build a new public safety building on John Wise Avenue for the Police and Fire Department. Then the current Police and Fire building would be torn down or remodeled to house the Town offices and the Library. The old Town Hall would then be sold or given to a developer for renovation and adaptive reuse. The Committee is presently preparing an RFQ seeking a firm to perform a feasibility study and cost analysis of their proposed 10-year plan. They are hoping to place an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to fund the cost of the study. The Town Building Committee will make

a formal presentation of their findings at the next Selectmen's quarterly department head meeting.

Andrew St. John, the co-chair of the Planning Board, said that the Board has been working on ways to make the existing Town bylaws more improved. One of the suggestions by the planning consultant is simply reformatting the existing bylaws, without changing them. This is the formatting in use by most of the other towns in Massachusetts and would greatly improve the user-friendliness and understandability of the bylaws.

Chairman Jones thanked everyone for coming. Ed Perkins, George Harvey, Virginia Boutchie, Roxanne Tieri, Karen Birch, Dan Doucette, Paul Doucette, Ramie Reader, Pete Silva, and Susan Coviello left the meeting.

Michael Dyer, the Chairman of the Long Term Planning Committee, handed out copies of the Committee's Village Initiative. Mr. Dyer said that certain people on the Committee had contributed enormously over the past two years and he would like to sincerely thank Andrew St. John, Westley Burnham, Ed Howard, Pete Silva, Eamon McGilligan, Sue Lufkin, and Bob Coviello. Mr. Dyer used a power point presentation to review the Committee's vision for the future of the Town as detailed in the Village Initiative. The report identifies several projects. They will be pursuing at least one grant to help with planning for one of the projects. Many of the projects listed are easily within reach of accomplishing in the near future with minimal volunteer effort and funding, such as the pocket park network. Now that several projects have been identified, the services of a professional planner would be useful to help plan implementation for some of the larger projects. It was agreed that the Committee and Selectman Randall will work towards formulating an RFQ and an article for the Annual Town Meeting to fund a professional planner. The Committee will also meet with the Community Preservation Committee to discuss possible funding for a project to move the old B&M freight shed on Island Road to Main Street and refurbish it to showcase the Town's antique hand tub.

Mr. Zubricki asked if the LTPC's proposed Town Landing improvement project was sufficiently distinct from the Salem State proposed public access project. Chairman Dyer indicated that the projects were distinct.

Chairman Jones thanked everyone for their comments and Mr. Dyer for his presentation. Michael Dyer, Julie Scofield, Andrew St. John, Sue Lufkin, Bob Coviello, and John Phelps left the meeting.

In other business, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously Voted to approve and sign the weekly warrant in the amount of \$601,453.95.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously Voted to approve and sign the minutes for the October 19th, 2009, Selectmen's Open Meeting and the October 19th, 2009, Selectmen's Executive Session.

Mr. Zubricki reported that an invitation has been received to join in a four-community dispatch center. The Town is anticipating that it will be part of the new multi-town

regional dispatch center and the Selectmen agreed that they would like to give that process a chance before they decide to try another option. Mr. Zubricki will politely decline the invitation at this time.

Mr. Zubricki has spoken further with the person who suggested that the Town investigate the need for a community center. Based on that discussion Mr. Zubricki has prepared a list of possible uses and users of a community center. The Selectmen were in agreement that such a center would be useful and asked Mr. Zubricki to question the Town Building Committee about the possibility of including a community center in their research project on town buildings.

Mr. Zubricki presented a letter prepared by Covanta, supporting a change in the waste management laws, to be signed by the Town and sent to the Department of Environmental Protection. The Selectmen reviewed the letter and decided against endorsing it at this time.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously Voted to approve the following request for an Auction Permit:

- Michael March, d/b/a Blackwood March Antiques, for use on Wednesday, November 18th, 2009, between the hours of 4:00 and 11:00 p.m. within the confines of 125 Main Street.

The Selectmen were reminded that the next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held on Monday, November 9th, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Teachers' Lounge at the Essex Elementary School, followed by the Special Town Meeting in the cafetorium.

The Cape Ann Caucus will take place on Friday, November 20, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. at the Manchester-by-the-Sea American Legion, 14 Church Street.

There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously Voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Pamela J. Witham

Attested by: _____
A. Raymond Randall, Jr.