

**Town Council Special Meeting  
Minutes  
March 14, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

**Roll Call**

Councilors Chase, Breen, Pierce, Payne, Varney and Rodden were present and answering roll call.

Councilor Armitage arrived late.

**Item 1                    Resolution to recognize the 2011 Falmouth High School Skiing Team.**

Councilor Varney read the resolution.

Councilor Varney moved to adopt the resolution; Councilor Breen seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

**Item 2                    Resolution to recognize the 2011 Falmouth High School Track Team.**

Councilor Varney read the resolution.

Councilor Varney moved to adopt the resolution; Councilor Pierce seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

**Item 3                    Presentation and introduction of amendments to net residential area requirements, Section 5.31 of the Zoning and Site Plan Review Ordinance.**

Community Development Director Amanda Stearns presented the need for this amendment, to correct an oversight in the recently adopted amendment to this same ordinance.

A public hearing will be held on April 11.

**Item 4                    Order regarding amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding digital submission of plans.**

Councilor Breen moved to adopt the order; Councilor Rodden seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

**Item 5                    Order to authorize the following open space property and easement acquisitions:**

- Purchase of a conservation easement on  $\pm 5.5$  acres of land shown on tax map R03 as lot 074-C.
- Purchase of a conservation easement on  $\pm 38$  acres of land shown on tax map R03 as lot 080.
- Purchase of a conservation easement on  $\pm 7$  acres of land shown on tax map R03 as lot 022.
- Purchase in fee of 51 acres of land shown on tax map R03 as lot 020.

Councilor Breen moved to adopt the order; Councilor Varney seconded.

Councilor Rodden asked about the project area.

Town Manager Nathan Poore said the area is between Field Road and Woods Road.

Councilor Breen mentioned that a part of this order is the payment of \$10,000 to the Falmouth Land Trust for future maintenance of these properties.

Motion carried 7-0.

**Item 6                      Discussion of a proposed June 2011 referendum question and project schedule regarding the renovation of the Plummer-Motz and Lunt School complex into a community recreation center, rental space and town library.**

Mr. Poore said the Council should address the revised order; this is different than the actual referendum question, which is also attached. There is no action scheduled for tonight; this is just a reading of and discussion about the question. He discussed the process leading up to finalizing the language for the ballot, including public hearings.

The Council discussed changing some of the wording in the draft referendum language as well as breaking it into two questions, one question for the library and another for the community center.

Councilor Chase felt he couldn't support this question because he felt it would be more cost effective to build a new library building rather than try to renovate Lunt.

Councilor Armitage advocated for a building committee to be formed, if the referendum passes, rather than have the Council oversee the construction phase. The committee could be filled with people with knowledge and experience in those types of matters; the Council in its current configuration doesn't have that kind of expertise.

Councilor Breen pointed out that, if they split the question, Council doesn't need to have a referendum to spend \$900,000 on a Community/Recreation Center; they need a referendum to spend more than \$1 million. She felt it was good policy to have a referendum on the issue however, since it is so close to the cut off amount.

Councilors Varney, Chase and Armitage supported splitting it into two questions.

Councilor Rodden, Breen, Pierce and Payne supported keeping it as a single question.

Mr. Poore mentioned that the Council will need to vote on whether or not they recommend passage of the referendum. This is mandated by the state statute.

The Council will hold two votes: one to pass the order and place the referendum on the ballot, and another on whether a majority of the Council recommends passage of the referendum.

The Council discussed the financial aspect, and whether to hold the project until the funding was "received" or "committed".

**Item 7                      Order to appoint two delegates to the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) General Assembly Annual Meeting.**

Councilor Breen explained that GPCOG has an annual business meeting in May every year. Typically the Council sends the Council representative and the Town Manager to this meeting.

Councilor Armitage moved to nominate Councilor Breen and Town Manager Nathan Poore as the delegates; Councilor Pierce seconded.

Chair Payne opened a public hearing; no public comment.

Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Holtwijk announced that the GPCOG meeting will be held May 25 at Ocean Gateway.

**Item 8                      Discussion about future Council agendas.**

The Council discussed upcoming items for the Council agendas.

**Adjourn**

Councilor Armitage moved to adjourn; Councilor Breen seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Tryon  
Recording Secretary