

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Memorial Town Hall
Third Floor Meeting Room
4/13/09
7:00 PM

Selectmen Present: Matthew Vincent, Chairman; Philip Trapani, Clerk; Evan O'Reilly

Others Present: Stephen Delaney, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant

Absent:

Call to Order

Mr. Vincent called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Warrant & Minutes

Mr. Vincent stated there is a warrant to be signed.

Minutes

Mr. O'Reilly moved to approve the minutes of March 23, 30, 2009 Executive Session & Regular Session and the minutes of March 16, 2009. Mr. Trapani seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Correspondence

Mr. Vincent reminded the residents that the 2nd Earth Day Clean Up will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 8AM to Noon.

Mr. Vincent stated that they have received a letter from the Town Clerk regarding a study done on record storage at Town Hall. Mr. Delaney explained the Historic Preservation designation put on this building and that he has gone to CPC for funds to have AC installed in town hall and how this will help to control humidity in the building.

Mr. Vincent explained that they have received two letters from the Traffic Committee on changes to the Winter Parking Ban and parking regulations in the downtown area. He stated that he felt this issue should be held over until the new BoS are elected. Mr. Trapani and Mr. O'Reilly agreed to hold the letters until new board.

Old Business

Mr. Vincent stated that they have received an ABCC Decision regarding the Georgetown Club's Alter License request. Mr. Cammarata was present. Mr. Vincent stated he was surprised to not have been notified by the ABCC of the hearing. Mr. Cammarata stated ABCC came out to the Club to look at the course and where alcohol would be served. He stated that this is how he was aware of the hearing and attended. He stated that when he

was there the ABCC asked him questions on the Club and he answered these to the best of his ability. Mr. Cammarata stated that as their license hours are from 11:00AM to 1:00AM Sunday-Friday and 11:00AM to Midnight Saturday that it is when they can serve Alcohol at the club and golf course. He stated that an establishment has either an All Alcohol or Beer & Wine license and that all they were looking to do was add a location. He stated that the ABCC interpret that the license can be only one and can not be different at different locations. Mr. Vincent stated that as the town was not invited to participate in the hearing that he should stick with what the Town granted as he would feel they would be outside their license if they served additional hours. Mr. Cammarata stated that if a golfer came to the bar he could put his drink in a cup and take out on the course. He stated that he would like to have the license clarified as they do want to be at a disadvantage to other clubs. He stated that they would not have the beverage cart out for another month. Mr. Vincent stated in fairness to neighbors who came they would want to get a ruling from ABCC. Mr. Vincent stated hours would be as stated on license. Mr. Cammarata stated that they would like to expand the hours to include the earlier time approved by the Board.

Mr. Delaney stated that they should preserve there appeal right. Mr. Vincent stated that he would like to review the decision. Mr. Cammarata stated that he would like to alter the time on license and will have to return to the board.

Georgetown Athletic Association Land Purchase/Stone Row Lane

Jon Pingree, President of GAA was present

Mr. Pingree gave information to the Selectman on the current athletic fields in Georgetown. He stated that the fields they are looking to buy are for sports, for Georgetown residents and for athletic use only. He stated that they would purchase this land and donate to the Town. Mr. Vincent asked if the land is acquired would it be accessed from Stone Row Lane. Mr. Pingree stated that wherever fields go in they are going to go through someone's neighborhood. He stated that it would impact this neighborhood. Mr. Vincent stated that this is a 30 acre parcel and is he looking for funds from the Town. Mr. Pingree stated that it would not cost the town any funds the GAA would purchase the land and donate to the Town. He stated that this could get tied up in Court if they go before the ZBA as the neighbors could appeal a decision. He stated that if the Town accepts the donation then they may not be subject to the same permitting procedures. Mr. Vincent asked if the GAA would be putting the fields in. Mr. Pingree stated that the GAA would put in the fields and that the owner would be helping with the financing. He stated that TJ Conte and George Agganis are the owners.

Mr. Pingree stated that he went before the Park & Rec and they approved the purchase. He explained the use of these fields and overuse of the current fields. He stated the Park & Rec land off of Martel Way will only have one field with a wetland crossing. He stated that there are not enough fields in town for what they want to do. He stated that on the Stone Row lot they would put in 5 or 6 fields and there would be traffic only 6 months of the year.

Mr. Vincent asked if they have done a traffic study. Mr. Pingree stated that they will have a traffic study done. He discussed some funds from CPC that they may be able to use for this property.

Mr. Vincent asked what would be the usage of the fields. Mr. Pingree stated that they plan to use them for soccer, lacrosse, football, and softball. Mr. Vincent asked about lights. Mr. Pingree stated that they do not have plans for any now. Mr. Vincent asked if there are any deed restrictions on the lot. Mr. Pingree stated that he is not aware of any. Mr. Trapani asked if they know of other Towns that have fields in a neighborhood. Mr. Pingree stated that in Methuen there are fields in a neighborhood and the neighbor was happy to get services down his street with the fields. Mr. Trapani asked about any other egress to the site. Mr. Pingree stated that there would have to be a wetland crossing and that would be difficult and they would have to purchase additional land. Mr. Trapani asked when the fields would be put in. Mr. Pingree stated that they may have to pay the land off before they donate the land and put the fields in. He stated that the GAA need the BoS to agree to accept the donation first. Mr. O'Reilly asked who would maintain the fields. Mr. Pingree stated that the GAA would and asked him to look at other fields in Town and see the condition of the fields. Mr. Pingree stated that CPC tried to purchase this land before these owners purchased the property. Mr. Trapani asked about the vote of the Park & Rec on Wednesday. Mr. Pingree stated that the vote was 2-0 in favor with one abstention. Mr. Vincent opened the discussion up to the audience.

Tim Ruh, 8 Stone Row Lane, he stated that the GAA are trying to circumvent the Zoning Laws. He stated that he has lived on this street for 11 years and that the land to be purchased is zoned as RC. He stated that he researched before he purchased his property. He stated that to build what they want they need a Special Permit and under the Special Permit the project can not be a deterrent to the neighborhood. He stated he did his own traffic study on Saturday and there were 7 cars in one hour. He stated that this land has been before the Planning Board for the last few years and they have not seen any input from Planning Board, etc on this project.

Chris Rich, 292 Andover Street, Planning Board member stated that they have worked with the current owners on this property and there are covenants. He stated that before anything is done the owners would have to go back before the Planning Board to allow this change. He stated that when the Planning Board looks at a project they look at the road, infrastructure, etc and this plan is against what was approved. He suggested they talk with Nick Cracknell, Town Planner on land adjacent to the Golf Course as a better piece of property for a project like this. Mr. Pingree stated he has talked with Mr. Cracknell.

Resident, Stone Row Lane, asked how many kids have been turned away because not enough fields. Mr. Pingree stated none. Resident asked how many kids hurt because of condition of fields. Mr. Pingree stated none.

Anthony DaMato, 11 Stone Row Lane, stated that he bought in this neighborhood and paid a premium and that is why he built there. He stated that there are covenants and he

is concerned for the safety of his children with the traffic this would bring to the neighborhood.

Tracy Zadina, 2 Stone Row Lane, stated that they would be putting in the fields on this street with only one access. She stated that fields in other neighborhoods have more than one access.

Anthony DaMato stated that other Parks in town have been in for years. He stated that he does not care about Methuen, he lives and pays taxes in Georgetown.

Mr. Vincent stated that Mr. Pingree works hard for the Town and GAA. He stated that this board needs to loop to other boards on this issue. He stated that GAA may not always be around and then the Town would be responsible for the fields. Mr. Pingree stated that the impact to wetlands will not be an issue. He asked where he should go now and what information the Board needs to make a decision. Mr. Trapani stated that they would have the Mr. Delaney talk with Planning, Building Inspector, Public Safety, etc. Mr. Pingree stated that he is trying to move forward. Mr. Vincent stated that he would want to see a traffic study. He stated that as the ZBA would look at this project they must look at the same issues. He stated that there has to be a balance. Mr. Pingree stated that the CPC wants to take land for Open Space under eminent domain and they want to give this land to the Town.

Mr. DaMato stated that the neighbors would help find an alternative location.

Mr. O'Reilly stated that no one is trying to do an end around and that all need to respect the rules of the boards and that this is not something to be voted on right away. He stated that he does not like to see the animosity in the room as Mr. Pingree has done a lot for the Town.

Mr. Vincent asked Mr. O'Reilly if he would work with Mr. Pingree. He asked if Mr. O'Reilly could set up a meeting with the Town Planner, a neighbor and the Town Administrator. Neighbor stated that to put in the fields they will be cutting trees and this will increase noise to the neighborhood from Rt95. Mr. Pingree stated that the neighbors could buy land on Noyes Road and build and access from there.

Jeff Moore stated Gale & Associates could do a traffic study and help with planning using the funds from CPC that the GAA already has. Mr. Vincent stated that this board needs more information before they can vote. Mr. Vincent stated that Mr. O'Reilly, Mr. Delaney, and Mr. Pingree can meet and see what relevant information they would need. Mr. Pingree stated that there are no deed restrictions that he is aware of. He stated that if the Town agrees this is in the best interest of the Town then they can move forward. Mr. Trapani stated that he needs detailed information before they vote.

Mr. Ruh stated that this requires a Special Permit. He asked how can they ruin a neighborhood. He stated 6 fields is a lot for one area and why not spread fields around town. He stated that there are fields going in behind the church on East Main Street.

Jim Ingraham, 68 Baldpate Road, stated that when they start work on the Pennbrook School they will be losing fields.

Mr. Vincent stated that there has not been any funding approved to make any changes at Pennbrook School. He stated that a lot more information is needed before this board goes forward with a decision. Mr. Pingree asked to be on the next agenda as he does not want to hold up the owners. Mr. Vincent stated that he does not see the board as being ready to make a decision in two weeks.

Spring Meeting Dates

Board was okay with meeting dates of May 4 (ATM), 18; June 1, 15, 29, 2009.

Poll Workers for the Annual Town Election

Mr. O'Reilly moved to approve the list of poll workers for the Annual Town Election on Monday, May 11, 2009 as submitted by the Town Clerk. Mr. Trapani seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Selectmen's Report

Town Administrator's Review

Mr. Vincent stated that Mr. Trapani and Mr. O'Reilly have both given him their reviews and he will have a report for the next meeting.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Delaney stated that he plans to have the Budget and Warrant to the board and to the printer tomorrow. He stated that they have all pulled together to balance the budget. He stated that with the difficult times they have not had to devastate any departments. He stated that they have minimized jobs lost. He stated that they have been lead to believe the School will receive the one million dollars and this has minimized cuts to the budget. He stated that there is one unfilled Police position that will stay unfilled. He stated that there have been a few other cuts but that all union wage increases will be honored. He stated that there are no increases for non union positions and that they can wait until fall and see if there are funds available for non union positions. He stated that this minimizes the impact on free cash and that some will used for Snow & Ice and they will hold off on the rest until fall and there maybe some additional cash in the recap. Mr. Vincent thanked Mr. Delaney for all his work on the budget. Discussion on Free Cash numbers and waiting until the fall to see what the State will do.

Report on Insurance

Mr. Delaney stated that he had two meetings with the Insurance Advisory Committee and our Insurance Reps from MIIA and BC/BS. He stated that this summer they should meet to discuss the GIC program as they would have until October to sign up for next year. He stated that they should meet in August. Mr. O'Reilly asked why only BC/BS was present. Mr. Delaney stated that last year the insurance was bid out and that our consultant recommended that with only a 1% increase last year that it was not worth it to go out to bid again this year. He stated that they only had a 4.6% increase this year. Mr.

O'Reilly stated that he would have like to have seen another vendor. Mr. Trapani stated that Mr. Delaney did a great job last year with only a 1% increase and also this year with a 4.6% increase.

Mr. Trapani moved to renew the *Health Insurance Plan with MIA* for the *Fiscal Year 2010*. Mr. O'Reilly seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Personnel Board Update

Mr. Rich, Chair of the Personnel Board stated that the Personnel Board has been a great board to work with and that they have and updated copy of the Personnel Policies going to all departments. He stated the updated copy will show all changes. He stated that the document has been to Town Council. He stated that the Public Hearing for comments will be Tuesday, May 12, at 4PM at Town Hall. Mr. Delaney stated that after the hearing the book would then be submitted to the BoS for approval.

Regionalization

Mr. Trapani stated that the new board may want to review 911 regionalization.

Appointments

Mr. Trapani moved to appoint *Police Chief James Mulligan* as the *Emergency Response Coordinator* for the Town of Georgetown. Mr. O'Reilly seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. O'Reilly stated that there are board members and appointees that still need to be sworn in. He asked if there was a ruling on the ConCom agent being sworn in. Mr. Delaney stated that there was a ruling and he would check into this. Mr. O'Reilly stated that the ConCom Agent has not been sworn and should be.

Mr. O'Reilly moved to adjourn. Mr. Trapani seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved April 27, 2009.