

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833
Ph. (978) 352-5755 □ Fax (978) 352-5727
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Memorial Town Hall
4/28/14
7:00 PM – General Meeting, 3rd floor meeting room

Selectmen Present: Stuart M. Egenberg, Clerk; Philip Trapani; Gary Fowler

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano,
Administrative Assistant

Absent: Stephen Smith, Chairman; C. David Surface

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Egenberg was acting Chairman for the meeting.

Mr. Egenberg stated that the board would like to recognize Pratt's Hobby Shop for 40 years in business.

Mr. Egenberg stated that he would like thank Mr. Durkee, Highway Surveyor, Mike Anderson, School Facilities Manager, and Police Chief Cudmore for working to repair the steps at the Middle/High School and saving the town \$40K.

Warrant & Minutes

Warrant to be signed

Executive Session Minutes April 14, 2014; General Session December 16, 2013; February 10, April 14, 2014

Mr. Trapani moved to approve the *Executive Session Minutes of April 14, 2014*. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Trapani moved to approve the *Minutes of December 16, 2013 as amended*. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Trapani moved to approve the *Minutes of February 10, 2014*. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Trapani moved to approve the *Minutes of April 14, 2014*. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Board Business

17-19 West Main St (The Spot)-Façade discussion-Building Inspector to be present

Richard Griffin, Architect and Jon Metivier, Building Inspector were present

Mr. Egenberg asked Mr. Metivier that to update a pre-existing non-conforming property the applicant would have to go to the ZBA for a finding. Mr. Metivier stated that the applicant will need a finding that the change will not be more detrimental and façade change will not be more detrimental. He stated a second portion is the sign and are bylaw only allows one sign and their

plan has three which requires a variance. He stated he is struggling with the awning across the front and as it extends over the property line on the plan and the existing awning already does. Mr. Griffin stated that they are thoroughly renovating the front of the building. The awning will be higher and break up the façade nicely. Mr. Metivier stated that he cannot issue a Building permit for another's property would need an easement for the awning. Mr. Fowler stated years ago the buildings had crank out awnings. He asked if that type would work. Mr. Metivier stated a temporary roof would not be an issue. Mr. Griffin stated that the steel awning would be more in style with the plan. He stated businesses on either side have overhanging roofs. He stated that theirs will be 3 feet higher than the current overhang.

Mr. Trapani stated that what they are proposing would be wonderful for the downtown. Mr. Trapani asked if the other properties are in compliance. Mr. Metivier stated not sure when they went up. Mr. Trapani asked if a variance went with property or owner. Mr. Farrell stated with the property and permanent. Mr. Fowler asked the procedure and are we the right place to be. He stated he feels the crank out awning would be a good alternative. Mr. Egenberg stated that an easement would have to be on the Fall Town Meeting warrant. He stated that he loves the design and the look for downtown and the awning would not be detrimental to opening and asked the target date to open he heard June. Mr. Griffin stated June 3rd they go before ZBA so they plan to open in July to build out the front later if needed. Mr. Egenberg asked if they could open earlier. Mr. Griffin stated that they would like to open sooner. Mr. Farrell asked if they have filed with the ZBA. Mr. Griffin stated that he would be filing tomorrow. Mr. Fowler stated the benches were there before and the town should be looking at an ordinance for the fall STM. Mr. Metivier stated larger towns allow projection signs for businesses. Mr. Fowler asked where they should start to make the changes. Mr. Metivier stated that the Planning Board would make changes to the bylaws. Mr. Egenberg stated as a bylaw change what would the BI look for to make a change. Mr. Metivier stated that he would look at bylaws in other towns and see what would work for Georgetown.

Mr. Greenberg stated that he credits Mr. Fowler for remembering the awnings and that they have to be canvas and the proposed plan would look like crap downtown. Mr. Egenberg stated that he thinks the saloon looks good. Mr. Greenberg stated that he knows you cannot have permanent awnings. Mr. Fowler stated that he does not feel that this plan fits in with the downtown. Mr. Trapani stated he disagrees and feels it is aesthetically pleasing.

Jeff Moore ZBA member stated that they need a variance for the signage. He stated that there is no provision in the bylaw for signage and there are several thresholds to conform to. He stated there can be no construction on the facade until approved by the ZBA. He stated that they can approve changes to owner's property not to someone else's.

Mr. Greenberg stated that cannot change signs must all be the same.

Mr. Egenberg stated that they have to go to ZBA and they can have the sign in the middle for business to start and the others are for the bar and restaurant. He stated that the ZBA may want to look at the bylaw and see if there are changes that could be made for businesses. He stated he feels a bylaw change would be the way to go not an easement. He stated that the bylaw change would clean up other issues and make what is there better. He stated he is in full support of what

Mr. Griffin has here. Mr. Fowler stated that he would not hold up the process but would like them to look at the crank out awning.

Agenda request-Arthur Greenberg

Mr. Greenberg was present

He stated that he wanted to talk about an article by Lonnie Brennan wrote in the Valley Patriot talking about Mr. Trapani and Mr. Smith missing meetings and would like to ask some questions. He read from article regarding the absences of members and stated that they can be asked to resign. He stated that he is an original member of the Personnel Board and sees that the Town Manager can have oversee. He stated that he would toss off these members if he was on a committee. Mr. Egenberg stated that we are not here to insult members. Mr. Trapani stated that that he was out on medical leave for 3 months and had a near death experience. He stated he was laid off and it was a tough time for him and his family. He stated that his family comes first. He explained his time and hours with the town and that he has 12 hours of meetings this week. Mr. Greenberg stated that this information was not in the article. Mr. Egenberg asked for the article to read as he had not seen it. Mr. Greenberg stated why was it written and apologized. Mr. Trapani stated Mr. Smith had similar work issues and they have Global jobs. Mr. Egenberg thanked him for coming out and stated that Mr. Trapani and Mr. Smith put in a lot of time. Mr. Fowler stated that he is aware of the difficulties of the board members. He stated that there have been quorum issues and members have to work harder to adjust meetings. He stated that he has seen improvement by members to make meetings.

Understanding warrant process for Invoices

Mr. Egenberg stated that we will pass over this item until we have a full board.

Understanding warrant process for Payroll

Mr. Egenberg stated that we will pass over this item until we have a full board.

CORRESPONDENCE

Request from the Mike Donohoe Committee to hold the annual race on Sunday, October 19, 2014 at noon at the Perley School

Mr. Trapani moved to approve the *Mike Donohoe Annual Race on Sunday, October 19, 2014 at Noon at the Perley School with approval from the School Department, and Police Chief.* Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Correspondence Policy – Discussion/Adoption

Mr. Egenberg asked if members have looked over the policy and if they are ready to vote.

Mr. Fowler moved to accept the *Correspondence Policy* as presented. Mr. Trapani seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Approve the layout/street acceptance plan for Harmony Lane

Mr. Trapani moved to approve the Layout/Street Acceptance plan for Harmony Lane as presented. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Spring/Summer Meetings-June 9, 23; July 7; August 4, 18; September 8, 22, 2014

Mr. Egenberg stated this is the list of meetings for spring and summer. Mr. Farrell stated that there is only one meeting in July scheduled but we can add a meeting if needed.

Financial Management Review from DoR for discussion

Mr. Egenberg asked for the punch list that Mr. Smith and Mr. Farrell had put together and if he could resend the list to the board. He asked about having town boards reviewing the bylaws. Mr. Farrell stated that he would like to see Town Counsel review the bylaws first and then send out to departments and boards. Mr. Egenberg stated that he would like to get some bylaw changes done this year. He stated that tonight's building issue is giving him the push to go forward. Mr. Farrell stated that there should be a staff person or a consultant to guide the effort as this is a tough job and they should have a meeting once a week to move the process. Mr. Egenberg asked him to give this some thought. Mr. Trapani asked him to lay out a long term plan.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

FY15 Budget Update

Mr. Farrell stated FinCom is meeting one last time Wednesday night and the Budget has come further unbalanced since the last meeting. He explained the increases for gas, and electric. He stated that to balance the budget we may have to have a hiring freeze and that would eat up most of the deficit. He stated that \$20K in benefits to add a full time position. He stated that the big unknown is the State. He stated that we have a large amount of State land and the State is cutting the payment in lieu of taxes. He stated if things improve then they can make adjustment at the fall STM.

Mr. Fowler stated that he usually makes the FinCom meetings when departments present their budgets but should he attend this week. Mr. Farrell stated that departments should be there to answer questions on their budgets.

APPOINTMENTS & APPROVALS

Economic Development reduce members from 7 to 5

Discussion on the make-up of the board. Mr. Trapani stated in 2008 the board wanted 3 members from town hall and 3 members from the community. He stated if they go to 5 members to make the committee work they could reduce to 2 town hall and 3 business leaders.

Mr. Trapani moved to reduce the number of members on the Economic Development Committee from 7 members to 5 members with 2 from town hall and 3 business leaders. Mr. Egenberg seconded the motion and the motion was approved by 2-0 vote. Mr. Fowler abstained.

Mr. Egenberg reminded the residents that the Annual Town Meeting is Monday, May 5 at 7:00PM at the Middle/High School and we need a quorum of 100 people.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-Union Negotiations discussion-Second Floor Selectman's Office

- To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body **and the Chair so declares ...;**

Mr. Egenberg moved to adjourn the general session meeting and go into Executive Session for Union Negotiations and not to return to open session. Mr. Trapani seconded the motion.

Mr. Egenberg-yes

Mr. Trapani-yes

Mr. Fowler-yes

The motion was approved by roll call vote.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 5, 2014 at 6:00PM, 1st floor class room, Middle/High School

Monday, May 19, 2014 at 7:00PM, 3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

General Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.