

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 4 2011**

**PRESENT:** RICHARD H. HARTUNG, CHAIRMAN; PRISCILLA R. LINDQUIST, SELECTMAN; SEAN P. MURPHY, SELECTMAN; SALLY THERIAULT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Chairman Hartung called the work session to order at 7:00 pm

Present: Planning Board- Randy Clark, Bill Kelley, Proc Wentworth, Derrick Moyer, Bill Weber, and Dean Howard.

Conservation Commission- Tim Lovell, Paul Carideo, Bill Guest

Recreation- Kim Colbert, Brian Goode

Employees- Steve Harms, John Worthen, Kris Emerson

Others: Nick Crecenti (Town Engineer) and Chip Hastings

Purpose: To discuss the Depot Road ballfields and potential issues.

Chairman Hartung announced that the purpose of the meeting was to get all the interested parties together to discuss the recent cutting of trees at the Depot Road ballfields, intent of changes and potential impact. He then deferred to Selectman Murphy, who is liaison to the Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission.

Mr. Goode began the discussion explaining that they were approached a while ago regarding a skate park. In reviewing the fields and various locations there, it was decided that the best place is closest to the road. They were advised back then to get the Conservation Commission involved and they walked the site with Tim Lovell, Chairman of Conservation. They discussed locations and looked at the map. It was suggested to get a soil scientist and engineer to look at the site as well. The intent with the cut was to stay away from the buffer along the road so that the barrier stays in place and to not disturb adjacent homes. They hired a firm out of Portsmouth, MSC Engineering and a wetland scientist, Gove Environmental. Gove Environmental was the original soil scientist when the fields were built. They did testing near the softball field (#3) at the gravel drive. This was notated as a poorly drained soil area, not wetlands. They were looking at this spot for the potential skate park. The first step was to remove the trees and the second was to remove the stumps. They have only gone through the first step. He noted that Paul Carideo has recently walked the area with them and told them there are permits they may need to apply for. Mrs. Colbert noted that Mr. Carideo had a discrepancy.

Mr. Lovell stated that he was going to defer to Mr. Carideo to speak on the technical issues. Mr. Carideo stated that the original plan for Depot Road was done by SFC Engineering and Gove Environmental. According to the soil map the area in question along the noted green line, is a poorly drained soil, but not a jurisdictional area so it doesn't need a wetland permit. He explained that the town has zoning of poorly drained soils and there is no moving of soil allowed in the flood zone. The area in question abuts the white cedar swamp, which is rapid failure, he stated, and there is a concern with it dying off. The ballfields act as a buffer or sponge and it helps absorb the sand and salts before it gets to the wetland. He stated that he knows the town can bypass its own process (as it did in 1987 when it filled in wetlands, he stated) of poorly drained soils.

Chairman Hartung asked if there are permits needed? Both Mr. Goode and Mrs. Colbert stated that there were none needed. Mr. Carideo explained that there is a rule in place regarding alteration of terrain. Depending on the size of the current work, could require work done in the past 10 years to be included into determining if a permit is required. If the stumping and

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regarding of the parking area are done, that could put them over the 100,000 square feet. Mrs. Colbert asked if she could have someone go down to the parking area and clean it up. Mr. Carideo stated no, the logging activity there moved the dirt and the EPA needs to determine the next step.

There was discussion as to whether or not they could look at a map amendment, whereas the ballfields are in the flood zone. Mr. Crecenti stated that it wouldn't just happen. Mr. Clark explained that it takes a specific survey of a specific lot. Mr. Carideo and Mr. Lovell suggested that they retain the services of a civil engineer and have the whole project mapped out, including what they are envisioning in the near future and the engineer will see what permits may be required. They stated that it would definitely be worth it. Mr. Carideo asked about a drainage study. Mr. Goode stated that one had been done about 6 months ago. Mr. Carideo also stated that any project should go through the planning board process, even town projects. He also noted that the abutters should have been notified. Mrs. Colbert responded that it had been in the papers. Mrs. Colbert asked why it is a state issue and not just the town. Mr. Kelly was concerned that this is the first the Planning Board is hearing of a site plan change and that they have seen no revisions. Mr. Clark explained that all committees want to do what is best for the town and at the least cost. Once there is moving of dirt on land with drainage through it, you touch toes. When you cut trees in the same area, you touch more toes etc. He suggested that the Town Engineer also be involved to get a couple of people looking at it.

Mrs. Colbert repeated what she sees as the process, find the funds for a civil engineer and maybe Conservation or Mr. Emerson could help them. Chairman Hartung stated that they would know the avenue to follow. Mr. Carideo reminded them to be up front with the Civil Engineer and tell him all the plans for the site because it is all cumulative.

Selectman Murphy asked what would happen if the Recreation Commission abandons the project now, i.e. for lack of funds. Mr. Carideo stated that the disturbed area would need to be stabilized and seeded. The seeding would produce roots that will hold the dirt together. Most of the disturbed area is in the area of the drainage near the wetlands.

Chairman Hartung thanked everyone for coming tonight and working together. The Selectmen will be kept updated.

Tina Harrington  
Selectmen's Clerk