

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

NOVEMBER 15, 1999

7:30 P.M. - MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING - HANOVER, NH

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Chairman, Brian Walsh. Present were: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Marilyn W. Black, Vice-Chairman (arrived late); Katherine S. Connolly; John Colligan; Julia Griffin, Town Manager; and members of the public.

Mr. Walsh announced that this meeting was being taped by CATV 6 and that hearing enhancement equipment was available for anyone who wished to use it.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Ms. Connolly commented on a recent Planning Board meeting which took place at Trumbull Hall in Etna. She explained that a committee had been formed in Etna that sent out 1,600 questionnaires. The committee received back approximately 550 replies, and from these replies produced a report which gave the Planning Board an incredible amount of guidance for future planning in zoning, subdivision and master planning. Ms. Connolly wished to propose a Tip of the Hat to those individuals who worked on the study and spent endless hours producing the report. Those individuals were Bill Baschnagel, Willa Barrett, Elaine and Tim Bent, Robin Carpenter, Anne Crow, Sally Kinlaw, Fern Meyer, Anne Morris, Joyce Knoll, Kim Perez, Lisa Richardson, and Jean and John Sibley.

Mr. Colligan MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen present a Tip of the Hat to the following individuals who worked on the recent study produced in Etna: Bill Baschnagel, Willa Barrett, Elaine and Tim Bent, Robin Carpenter, Anne Crow, Sally Kinlaw, Fern Meyer, Anne Morris, Joyce Knoll, Kim Perez, Lisa Richardson, and Jean and John Sibley. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO PRESENT A TIP OF THE HAT TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO WORKED ON THE RECENT STUDY PRODUCED IN ETNA: BILL BASCHNAGEL, WILLA BARRETT, ELAINE AND TIM BENT, ROBIN CARPENTER, ANNE CROW, SALLY KINLAW, FERN MEYER, ANNE MORRIS, JOYCE KNOLL, KIM PEREZ, LISA RICHARDSON, AND JEAN AND JOHN SIBLEY.

Winifred Stearns, a resident of Dorrance Place, asked what the focus was of the questionnaire. Ms. Connolly answered that the questionnaire dealt with every aspect of planning life in Etna and Hanover Center. She added that most of the questionnaires were mailed to people living east of Route 10.

Mr. Baschnagel commented that a written report is in process which will include the presentation as well as all of the data accumulated. The report is planned to be done by the end of November and will be presented to the Planning Office.

Mr. Walsh asked that copies of the information be provided to both the library in Etna and the Howe Library for the public's use.

Ms. Stearns addressed the Board defending her neighborhood of Dorrance Place and Currier Street. In addition to being under siege from the building of the parking garage, Ms. Stearns stated that the Garden Club has been granted permission to once again park down Currier Street. She indicated that she has copies of the minutes of meetings held last year when permission to park along Currier was granted to the Garden Club. Ms. Stearns noted that the signs clearly say no parking at any time; this restriction was very badly violated over the years until almost four years ago. She read from the minutes at which the Garden Club requested the right to park along Currier Street during their meetings: Nina Banwell said that because the parking garage was under construction, they had lost those parking spaces behind Rosey Jekes and were having difficulty and it was no longer convenient. Ms. Stearns pointed out that it is also not convenient for the neighbors to have the garage being built and to have to deal with all of the truck traffic it involves. Ms. Banwell had indicated that Garden Club members were utilizing the shuttle and carpooling, but it appears to Ms. Stearns that they are no longer doing that now that permission has been granted for them to park. She added that at a recent Garden Club meeting, there were approximately 15 cars with one woman getting out of each car, with one exception.

Ms. Stearns noted that the September minutes also indicate that the Garden Club would come back before the Selectmen to request that permission be extended through this year; to her knowledge, that was not done. In addition, the incorporators of the library parked along Currier Street for a recent meeting. Ms. Stearns informed the Board that there is a very sick neighbor living on the north corner of Currier and Dorrance, and that when that section of the road is reduced to one way traffic it is unacceptable. She requested that the Board of Selectmen rescind the permission for the Garden Club to park on Currier Street, although she noted that the Club does a wonderful service for the Town. Ms. Stearns also informed the Board that the minutes indicate that the neighbors would be alerted of this permission, but that was also not done.

Regarding the location of the newly laid sewer behind the Howe Library, Ms. Stearns requested that grass and trees be planted there. She indicated that it is a terrible eyesore for the community. She stated that she would like to see these plantings taken care of and the parking permission on Currier Street rescinded before January 1, 2000.

Mr. Walsh asked if there is parking along Currier Street when the Garden Club and the incorporators are not meeting at the Library. Ms. Stearns answered that parking by other than the Garden Club members and the incorporators of the library occurs very seldom.

Mr. Walsh thanked Ms. Stearns for her comments, adding that he understands and appreciates her frustration.

Ms. Connolly added that she also sympathizes with Ms. Stearns' problem, but is reluctant to rescind the permission for the Garden Club to park on Currier simply because she does not believe there are many more meetings that will occur. She noted that the Garden Club does such a magnificent job for the Town that she is not unwilling to repay them in some small

way. Ms. Connolly indicated that Ms. Stearns has been incredibly understanding regarding the parking facility construction, and added that it would be greatly appreciated if she could take one extra step in allowing the Garden Club to continue parking along Currier if there are a very few meetings left to occur.

Ms. Stearns referred to the minutes which indicate that there are seven afternoon meetings scheduled between September and the end of May. She pointed out that the winter months are the most critical as there is no place for the cars to park except on the road. She raised the possibility of the winter meetings being cancelled due to the safety issue.

Regarding the planting requested by Ms. Stearns behind the Howe Library, Mr. Walsh requested that the Board hear from Peter Kulbacki at its next meeting as to plans for landscaping the sewer easement at that location. He suggested that a conversation be had with the Garden Club regarding the parking problem; if there is not progress made as a result of this conversation, he would recommend that a public hearing be held.

John Montgomery, a resident of Wolfeboro Road, posed a policy question to the Board. He asked if Hanover has a policy, strategy or position regarding the upcoming Canaan Appeals Boards hearings that under law are going to consider if additional development on Sands of Time Road would have an impact on Hanover's official Town map and Master Plan. He explained that recently after more than 15 years of illegal development on Sands of Time Road the Town of Canaan has consented to comply with RSA 674:41. All new building permit applications on Sands of Time Road are now being denied by the Canaan Selectmen and are referred to an Appeals Board which was just recently formed. Pursuant to RSA 674:41, this Appeals Board must consider several criteria related to the potential use of the nonconforming roadway, including the potential distortion of official town maps and master plans.

Mr. Montgomery stated that while he was attending a recent Appeals Board hearing in Canaan, it occurred to him that no consideration was being given to the distortion of Hanover's Master Plan or official Town map, even though one mile of the nonconforming roadway which is the subject of the hearing exists within the Town of Hanover. If Hanover has a policy or strategy relative to this situation, Mr. Montgomery stated that he would be interested in learning about it. If Hanover does not have such a policy or strategy, he would encourage the Selectboard to consider if one may be needed to guard the integrity of Hanover's official Town map and Master Plan.

Ms. Connolly indicated that Sands of Time Road in Hanover is not a road, it is a driveway. She stated that the policy is that lots cannot be created without Town road frontage.

Mr. Montgomery encouraged the Board to use the public meetings in Canaan which will consider the distortion of official town maps and master plans. He added that there is a 45 lot subdivision in that location which is one-third built, as well as a 90 acre open parcel, all with deeded access to Sands of Time Road.

Ms. Connolly asked if these areas were accessible from Canaan. Mr. Montgomery answered that the Sands of Time driveway through Hanover for one mile is the only access. Ms. Connolly explained that the lots then have no legal frontage and are therefore against State law as well as local law. Mr. Montgomery agreed that the creation of the lots are against State law, and Canaan has been disregarding that State law for 15 years. This year Canaan has agreed to comply with State law, but State law has a provision in it whereby an appeals court can hold a public hearing to consider several State criteria; one of the criteria is whether granting a building permit distorts official town maps or master plans. He feels that there is a potential to distort the Hanover Master Plan and official Town map.

Mr. Montgomery informed the Board that there are two building permit applications which have just been denied by the Selectmen, with the building permit applicants referred to the Appeals Board. Appeals Board hearings will be held on these two cases in the near future, probably within the next month.

Mr. Walsh requested that Mr. Edwards draft a position in this matter for the Town to provide to the Planning Board for their next meeting, to be ultimately brought back before the Selectmen. He feels that a Selectmen communication to Canaan may be required.

Ms. Connolly stated that she feels this issue should be reviewed by the Town attorney. Mr. Montgomery commented that the Town attorney is also the Town attorney that represents Canaan, and added that Hanover's and Canaan's interest in this matter is not the same.

Mr. Walsh elected to change the order of the agenda.

4. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL BY UPPER VALLEY LAKE SUNAPEE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION TO PREPARE A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE UPPER VALLEY.

Jonathan Edwards indicated that there is a new grant program called the Sustainable Community Grant Program. Discussions between representatives of the Planning Office, colleagues in Lebanon, Town Managers of both towns and Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission have indicated that Hanover and Lebanon would be suitable subjects and have a need for comprehensive study in this area. Assuming there will be changes in growth, the study would address how the Towns might anticipate the pressures, demands, extent and nature of such changes and growth in order to accommodate them, and, if necessary, appropriately limit them as well as putting them in proper areas where they can be serviced at minimal cost. It would address the issue of being sure that growth can be managed in a way that is consistent with values such as safety, efficient transportation, and with more than proper respect for environmental circumstances. The discussion would be expanded somewhat to include the Towns of Hartford and Norwich in an attempt to try to bring the four towns together in such a study. The study would be directed under the auspices of the Regional Planning Commission, and paid for almost entirely by the Sustainable Community Development Grant plus

possible additional grants from the States of New Hampshire and Vermont.

Mr. Edwards explained that what is being requested of the Boards of Selectmen and Planning Boards in all towns is a conceptual permission and endorsement to proceed together along these lines. Lebanon has already agreed to proceed, and Norwich is considering the issue at its present meeting. Mr. Edwards added that Hartford has not taken a position as yet. The permission and endorsement would be simply to explore the possibilities and define the scope of the grant request and resulting study. In some sense, it is a strategic master plan to cover the Upper Valley and would go beyond traditional master plans which tend to stop at the Town borders.

Ms. Connolly pointed out that much of the work has already been done in Hanover. Mr. Colligan asked if Mr. Edwards could see benefits of the study for the Town of Hanover given that much of the work has already been done. Mr. Edwards answered that the virtues of the study would be that considerations would carry across town lines so that the towns could be sure their strategies on handling growth and change could become more compatible, mutually respecting and efficient.

Mr. Colligan indicated that he is in favor of the principle of the study, but wondered if such a master plan would flow into an ordinance and how that would be accomplished with multiple towns participating. Mr. Edwards explained that the master plan created would be from a broader based perspective so that each community could consider incorporating portions of it into their own master plan. It would also have the potential of identifying programs from which the towns could benefit by working together.

Mr. Colligan pointed out that there could be people in Hanover that would have resistance in terms of endorsing and implementing the master plan and questions about someone in Lebanon, for example, influencing an aspect of Hanover's Master Plan. Ms. Connolly explained that Hanover's Master Plan is only binding on Hanover; a regional study would not necessarily be binding upon anyone. She added that there is a regional concept chapter included in Hanover's Master Plan.

Mr. Baschnagel stated that while he feels the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission is uniquely well qualified to do studies, determine alternatives, gather data and make projections, they are poorly qualified to prepare master planning for four rather disparate communities in the Upper Valley. He feels that the study is worth doing for data gathering and projection purposes, but seriously questions whether the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission should prepare a master plan for the Upper Valley area.

Mr. Edwards apologized for any confusion, stating that he did not mean that the study would be turning over Hanover's rights and obligations for their own Master Plan or any significant part of it to some other entity. It is simply an effort to investigate conditions, desires, circumstances, growth challenges and environmental challenges on a broader context than just the limits of the Town of Hanover. He agreed that there will be

proposals coming out of the study that would most likely be controversial in Hanover, but added that the individuals conducting the study would not have decision making authority over Hanover in terms of how Hanover deals with such issues. He feels that the study would also lead to discovery of common problems and perhaps the identification of common solutions. Mr. Edwards stated that the Planning Board will deal with this issue at their next meeting.

Steve Crory asked if the grants were available only for planning or for construction to solve the joint venues as well. Mr. Edwards answered that the grants in question are for studies; it may, however, indirectly increase the changes of construction funding down the road.

Mr. Walsh stated that he feels the opportunity to have an informed discussion about how all of these communities fit together is potentially valuable. He added, however, that he feels some of the language regarding developing a cooperative plan for strategy to accommodate and plan future development is a little too strong and goes beyond what he feels are the responsibilities of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Walsh stated that he would be willing to go forward with the clear recognition that the Master Plan and zoning of Hanover is up to the Hanover voters and the Hanover Planning Board.

Mr. Edwards noted that the way to make regionally beneficial things happen is through accommodation and cooperation, and he feels this study is a good basis for those things. How this study will be implemented is by the four towns agreeing on things that make sense from their perspectives. It will be up to local decision making to decide whether to adopt those or not.

Ms. Connolly indicated that she would like to see what regional possibilities exist, with the understanding that it is in no way legally binding on the Town of Hanover.

Mr. Walsh stated that the Board of Selectmen would be willing to see the next step taken to look at a proposal that may reflect the Town's responsibilities a little more clearly.

5. DISCUSSION OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY PARKING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES PLAN.

Mr. Walsh indicated that a letter dated November 3, 1999 had been received from the Hanover Chamber of Commerce requesting approvals for the following activities: Free parking on the following Saturdays prior to Christmas - Dec. 4, 11 and 18th; laminated cards indicating that free parking will be available on the specified dates and attached to the parking meters beginning Friday, December 3. In addition to the traditional white lights on South Main Street trees, the Downtown Activity Committee wishes to decorate approximately 20 of the black light posts with wrap-around artificial garland. The dates for these decorations will be Tuesday, November 23rd, with the lights being turned on November 24th. In addition, the Chamber is proposing horse drawn buggy or wagon rides around the Green and within the central business district from 10 a.m. to

3 p.m. on Saturday, December 4th. The proposed staging area for departures and arrivals is the bus stop between the Hanover Inn and the Hopkins Center. Mr. Walsh explained that the format for the holiday kick-off during the weekend of December 3 and 4 will include Santa, sleigh rides, an entertainment group, a storefront decoration competition with public voting and registering for a raffle prize such as a shopping spree, special children's movies, and daycare services.

Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the Chamber of Commerce request for free parking on the following Saturdays prior to Christmas - Dec. 4, 11 and 18th.

Steve Crory suggested that the Chamber of Commerce put out a brief notice to Main Street merchants and employees as well as the College to stress that employee use of downtown meters will hurt their sales. Employee use of parking spaces hurts the stigma of Hanover parking and also hurts the businesses' and employee's percentages.

Winifred Stearns stated that she understood the free parking was no longer allowed during the holiday season. Mr. Walsh answered that the request for free parking during the holiday season is reviewed annually. He feels that the Chamber has worked hard and with some degree of success in persuading employees not to take advantage of the free parking. He also requested that the College work hard to persuade their employees not to take advantage of the free parking.

Mr. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mr. Walsh AMENDED THE MOTION to include the provision that the Chamber of Commerce and Dartmouth College will communicate to the employees of the downtown businesses and employees of the College not to take advantage of the free parking. Ms. Connolly ACCEPTED THE AMENDMENT and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST FOR FREE PARKING ON THE FOLLOWING SATURDAYS PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS - DEC. 4, 11 AND 18TH, AND THAT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND DARTMOUTH COLLEGE WILL COMMUNICATE

TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYEES OF THE COLLEGE NOT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE PARKING.

3. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN.

Jonathan Edwards stated that the proposal to develop a downtown master plan is a joint effort by the College, the Town of Hanover and the Chamber of Commerce to engage the consultants which the College has already hired to broaden their study to be of benefit to the Town and the Chamber by looking at issues concerning design, marketing, economic structure and potential for the entire downtown area. He added that the proposal would obviously be a useful tool to the College which has been motivated by the College's prospective acquisition of a number of downtown properties. However, the same issues that the College has and the decisions that they will need to make will be done with information that will be extremely valuable to the Town and the Chamber for their own decision making and

policy making. The discussion of a downtown master plan will involve questions as to what areas of the downtown could be made more attractive, and what market niches could be identified that would broaden the appeal of the downtown to a wider spectrum of the market. Mr. Edwards explained that objective information is needed regarding relevant circumstances in order to make decisions and scope out issues in ways that are realistic and practical while trying to avoid unintended consequences in decision making. He added that there are many interconnecting issues that exist in the downtown area and its adjacent neighborhoods. Mr. Edwards noted that the Planning Board will be receiving information regarding this proposal at its next meeting on November 16th.

Ms. Connolly asked if the scope of the work would include only the central business district or whether it would also include adjacent neighborhoods. Mr. Edwards answered that the College and Chamber have been told that the Town would prefer to see the scope of the work to include neighborhoods as well. Ms. Connolly suggested that the group include representatives from those adjacent neighborhoods.

Mr. Edwards explained that the scope of the study would not be to include the economic and physical characteristics of those neighborhoods, but would include information as to what would be the consequences of different types of decisions and options that might be available from the Town's point of view with the goal of protecting the integrity of the neighborhoods.

Mr. Colligan asked if Mr. Edwards was interested in an objective recommendation why the Town would want to use the same group of architects and planners that Dartmouth College has been working with. Mr. Edwards answered as a practical matter the Town cannot get information or have a study done on its own resources at this time. He added that he has talked with the consultants engaged by Dartmouth College and he has confidence in them. The College has stated that even though they will be paying for the study, they are willing to share its direction. The Town will be also charting the course of the study and participating equally in it.

Mr. Colligan acknowledged that there may be many overlapping concerns where there would be similar interests of the College and the Town, but he would absolute say that the Town's interest is not the same as the College's interest in every case. He indicated that there are a number of people in Town that would not be comfortable with the fact that the study is being done by someone paid for by the College and already working for the College. He stated that he is in favor of having the discussion and trying to identify where opportunities exist to do a better job with downtown, but would hesitate to endorse something that he feels is being driven by Dartmouth College which has, in at least a few cases, a very different best interest than the Town.

Winifred Stearns asked what would be considered the boundaries of downtown. Mr. Walsh explained that there is a portion of Hanover which is zoned for business, which is the downtown area, and there are neighborhoods which are very close to the downtown area and, in fact,

border it. What happens in the area zoned business needs to take into account those neighborhoods that are right next to it, and vice versa.

Mr. Edwards indicated that if he is on the group of people that is helping direct this study, if he sees that it is becoming a vehicle to pursue the interests of only one of the three parties to the exclusion or detriment of the others, he would be the first one to bail out and say that the study is not doing what the Town expected or needed it to do. However, he added that he would be willing to take advantage of a situation that could be very beneficial to the Town with little or no cost to the Town.

Mr. Colligan pointed out that one of the issues covered in the study would be zoning initiatives; he would expect that out of the study would be presentations that would include proposed zoning changes, and this is another reason why he would rather have an independent consultant do the work.

Winifred Stearns stated that there should be an attempt made to include the neighborhoods in the study from the very beginning.

Mr. Walsh explained that zoning changes could mean many things; they could be something as simple as changing the square feet of office space per car which is required as well as moving boundaries in or out. There are ways that zoning issues can be much more positive for everyone.

Steve Crory asked if the process would delay the completion of the Master Plan. Ms. Connolly answered that the study would not delay the completion of the Master Plan; if there were changes recommended, chapters of the Master Plan could simply be updated.

Mr. Crory noted that he feels the purchase of property by Dartmouth will actually open up a great capability to solve a lot of parking problems, and will also have the capability for some development of certain properties that would be much better than what exists currently.

Mr. Baschnagel stated that the participation of the Town in this study is of concern to him; the Town will be in a situation where it would be a participant in the study, but may in fact be taking exception to it, which is an unfortunate position to be in. Also, if the charter of the group is such that they are operating under some sort of an oversight committee and is to look at master planning in the downtown area, even though apparently the focus is on the economic and business community, he feels it is imperative that such an oversight group represent citizens from the Town. He feels that if the Town is to participate in the study, the study needs to be impartial. He asked how the proposed group would relate to the parking study working group which was recently formed. Ms. Griffin explained that she sees the two groups as nicely dovetailing because the parking working group might be looking at ways to manage parking in the downtown area from a different approach than how it is currently managed, while still controlling the kind of growth that is desired to maintain the character of downtown Hanover that would be enhanced by the addition of new amenities in the downtown area. She pointed out that there are two

very significant boundary lines between the neighborhoods and downtown Hanover, and what will be done there will very clearly impact the feel and look of the downtown area well into the future.

Mr. Edwards indicated that he has prevailed on the Chamber and the College to push the originally proposed dates back a month out of respect for what he felt would be a need by both the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board to take this issue under advisement. He noted that discussions by the parking group which are ostensibly limited to parking will very quickly get into other issues such as zoning, public policies, etc., and he is hesitant about such discussions occurring without factual grounding. He added that the bulk of the study will be factual economic, architectural and driven design types of facts.

Mr. Montgomery stated that he is a consultant, and as such the first thing a consultant does is to find out who is paying the bills and make sure that their interests are first and foremost. He added that it would always be possible to weed out which interests are Hanover's, the College's or the Chamber's.

David Clem addressed the Board indicating that he is a principal in Lyme Properties, a company that owns a building with Dartmouth College at 63 South Main Street. He added that he also serves on the Dartmouth Real Estate Advisory Committee. He suggested that the way for the Town to solve its problem of independence would be for Hanover to commission their own study and put money behind it. He feels it would be foolish to hire an outside consultant to talk about downtown planning without getting information or soliciting information from the College, as the College is an integral part of downtown. He urged the Town to embrace this study and participate in it openly to get its own agenda on the table. He feels that this is the way to make the planning process work, rather than to believe the study is suspect from the beginning. He noted that Dartmouth College makes its own master plan available for public consumption, and he wondered if the Board was aware how rare that is for a university community. He agreed that the College certainly has a different vision than the Board, but that does not mean that the Selectboard is not equipped to articulate its mission and to participate. He feels that the study represents an unbelievable opportunity for the Town, but suggested that if the Town wants the same status and control over the consultant as the College, that the Town match them dollar for dollar. He added that he would support this suggestion as a taxpayer. Mr. Clem stated that Hanover has a great downtown, but it can always be improved.

Mr. Walsh suggested that this issue be tabled until the Selectmen's meeting of December 6th; he stated that he would like the Planning Board's input on the matter.

Mr. Colligan indicated that he is in favor of the study, but is hesitant about the contract with the consultants doing the study. He feels that if the study is valuable for the Town and cannot be achieved with the other planning that the Town does, they should seriously think about paying as a group for the study that would be done. He added that he would like to know the cost of the study and have the input from the Planning Board.

He feels that it is not a question of wanting good planning, it is a question of making sure that the work that is being done is truly able to represent all interests.

Mr. Edwards noted that the Planning Board will meet on November 16th, and asked if the Selectmen might consider putting further discussion of this issue off until a meeting beyond December 6th to allow the Planning Board time to address the issue. Ms. Griffin indicated that the following Selectmen's meeting would be on December 20th. Mr. Walsh asked if it might be convenient for the Planning Board to be invited to the Selectmen's meeting on December 6th to talk about the issue.

Ms. Griffin suggested that Town staff attempt to work out the scheduling of such a discussion; included in the next presentation to the Selectmen would be the estimated cost of the study and what, if any, funds the Town thinks it can free up by deferring some budgets this year.

Ms. Connolly will bring the matter up before the Planning Board at its next meeting, and Ms. Griffin will be in touch with the Board as to scheduling a joint meeting with the Planning Board.

2. DISCUSSION OF TAX RATE TARGET FOR FY 2000/2001.

Mr. Walsh referred to a memo which indicates that Town staff will essentially prepare a zero tax rate increase budget with the following optional lists for the Board to consider: a wish list of items that the Board could choose to add should it so decide to allow a modest increase matching the rate of inflation; a 2 1/2% reduction list that would enable the Board to pass a 2 1/2% tax rate decrease budget; and a 5% reduction list that would enable the Board to pass a 5% tax rate decrease budget. Ms. Griffin's analysis is that doing the budget in this way would not be an onerous task for the staff. Mr. Walsh indicated that he has heard both Ms. Black's and Mr. Manchester's position on this matter. Ms. Black feels that the Town should not be overreacting to the State taking so much of the Town's money, and stated that the Board should be sure that it ends up with decent Town services, and that the budget does not severely damage the morale of the staff or the service level of the Town. Mr. Manchester's response is that the process looks good, but suggested that the Board wait to look at where things come out when the numbers and lists have been presented.

Ms. Connolly suggested that the Board hear from voters as to whether they wish to see any diminution of services as a result of the State tax. She stated that she would also hate to put that on the back of the Town employees who have sustained very, very small raises in recent years. She feels that the voters will request that the Town maintain the same level of services as in the past. She questioned how small the Town's portion of the tax bill was, noting that whatever cuts are taken will have even less of an effect on the final tax bill. Mr. Gilbar indicated that the Town's portion of the tax bill is 30% of the total tax bill.

Ms. Griffin informed the Board that she had received 42 calls over the weekend from residents who had received their tax bills and were trying

to understand how things had gotten to this point statewide. She added that in no way were the callers angry with the Town; rather, they appreciated very much what the Town was trying to do. They were simply energized as to what could be done to change the current situation.

Mr. Colligan stated that while he appreciates the importance of employee morale and giving quality services, he feels philosophically that there may be opportunities to reduce expenses that may not necessarily translate to lower morale, and that the Town should do its best to look for those opportunities to save taxpayers money.

Mr. Baschnagel stated that he feels the Town and the Selectboard have done a fantastic job over the past several years in managing the Town budget and restraining expenditures. He is much less interested in carving back further on the Town budget than he is encouraging the School Board to follow appropriately similar fiscal responsibilities. He is not sure why the Town should take a bigger hit on its budget when he is not seeing a comparable interest on the part of the School Board. He urged the Selectmen not to get too carried away, and suggested that an attempt be made to look at all of the taxes the Town must pay evenly across the board in terms of identifying opportunities to manage expenses.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Ms. Griffin indicated that she had spent most of last week trying to get the tax rate set by the Department of Revenue Administration and preparing a taxpayer letter to be able to get the tax bills out. She expects to be invited to participate in a meeting within the next couple of weeks of the coalition communities. The topics of this week's telephone calls from the coalition communities were whether tax payments should be sent to the state. Portsmouth is proposing that the towns petition the Supreme Court to allow the funds that will be collected from taxpayers to go into some sort of escrow account pending resolution of this issue on the legal side. She feels that in the next two to three weeks she should be able to get back to the Board with more information as to what people are looking for the Town to support or not support.

Ms. Griffin indicated that her response to the callers from the coalition communities regarding the issue of not sending money to Concord is that, in her opinion, it would not be a prudent thing to do. At this point in time she feels that the coalition communities and any other concerned community still needs to abide by the law.

Ms. Griffin reported that she had received from the Department of Revenue Administration an information sheet regarding the hardship exemption process which they will be administering. She suspects that the Board will field a lot of questions from residents as to their eligibility for a hardship exemption. She suggested that the really difficult questions be sent to the DRA as she feels they should be administering the abatement program rather than the cities and towns.

Mr. Walsh asked if there was an individual in Town that would be knowledgeable and able to counsel residents and answer their questions.

Ms. Griffin answered that Sally Johnson, the tax collector, would be the first point of contact for residents. Mr. Walsh asked if the relevant information could be funnelled to Ms. Johnson so that she has the knowledge that she needs. Ms. Griffin suggested that Dena Romero, the Community Counselor, also be furnished with information as she encounters people in her role who might be eligible.

Mr. Colligan thanked Ms. Griffin for fielding the residents' calls at her home over the weekend. He feels it is important that when talking with people it is emphasized that this is just step 1, and the scenario is that Hanover taxes will go higher and higher over the next several years with this law on the books.

Ms. Griffin also noted that some of the callers she spoke with over the weekend asked who they would see to get their assessment lowered. She explained to them that if the assessments are lowered, the tax rate would go up. She also indicated to the callers that as the tax rate goes up more communities will become donor communities. She stressed that the Board and staff is at a very important point to educate local residents. If there are residents who wish to have background information on this subject, the Manchester Union Leader published a full page article in the form of a historical summary which she is now having copied to send to interested residents.

7. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.

Ms. Black

Ms. Black reported that a turkey dinner will be held at the Senior Center on Thursday, November 18th at 12:00 noon. It will be a free dinner for senior citizens.

Ms. Connolly

Ms. Connolly reported that regarding the survey results in Etna, one thing that was made clear was that the people of Etna wish to be included more in all public works decisions. She also reported that a recent Planning Board meeting dealt with the lights at Ivy Pointe, recommending that one single entry light be approved. Dartmouth College requested that they be allowed to use their newly built turf field for practice; the Planning Board allowed this if the College could assume all liability for it. The Planning Board meeting of November 16th includes a full slate of cases, a couple of which deal with Dartmouth College.

Mr. Colligan

Mr. Colligan reported that the Conservation Commission will meet November 17th at 5:00 p.m. He also reported that he and Ms. Connolly had attended the first wetlands seminar held and found it to be excellent. He noted that Judy Davidson, Chair of the Conservation Commission, asked him to relay to the Selectboard that she anticipates that the Conservation Commission will have several questions and concerns regarding the upcoming proposal of the Dresden Rowing Club.

Mr. Walsh

Mr. Walsh reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the Rec Board. He indicated that the recreation programs are in good shape with lots of signups; there was conversation basically regarding the budget and how to maintain a good program.

He concurred with Ms. Connolly regarding the request of the Etna residents that there be a public hearing before public works planning on any roads.

Ms. Griffin asked if the residents wished to have a public hearing if the public works department was to do ditching, for instance. Mr. Baschnagel encouraged the Board to look at the specific wording in the survey results. There were two questions relative to maintenance and public involvement; one had to do with planning, maintenance, curbing, etc., and the other was to notify abutters before the work was done. He referred to a lot of ditching that was done this past spring which took out several planted wildflower expanses resulting in a number of people becoming very irate. Mr. Baschnagel also pointed out that there were two questions included in the survey relating to the residents' feelings about the adequacy of the highway maintenance and policing in rural Hanover. Both questions related to speed control, and the very strong statement came back that the residents think things are just about right.

Mr. Walsh pointed out that another result of the survey was very strong support for a one percent tax increase for open space acquisition. Regarding the residents' wish to be notified of public works planning and maintenance, Mr. Walsh asked Ms. Griffin and Mr. Kulbacki to determine what the issues really are relative to public works, and to review whether they think that the current process is the right one.

Ms. Griffin commented that if the Town chooses to do something different in terms of public input regarding public works issues, it will need to be done town-wide.

Referring to the Etna survey, Ms. Connolly pointed out that an incredibly small number of people, 15%, recommended narrowing Etna Road.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 18, 1999; November 1, 1999

Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of October 18, 1999, as corrected. Mr. Colligan SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 1999, AS CORRECTED.

Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of November 1, 1999. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 1999.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

There was no other business to come before the Board.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION to go to nonpublic session to discuss a matter which may affect the reputation of an individual. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO GO TO NONPUBLIC SESSION TO DISCUSS A MATTER WHICH MAY AFFECT THE REPUTATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL.

SUMMARY

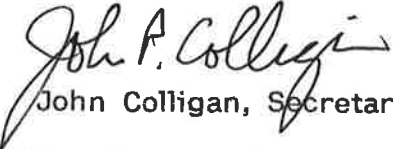
1. Mr. Colligan MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen present a Tip of the Hat to the following individuals who worked on the recent study produced in Etna: Bill Baschnagel, Willa Barrett, Elaine and Tim Bent, Robin Carpenter, Anne Crow, Sally Kinlaw, Fern Meyer, Anne Morris, Joyce Knoll, Kim Perez, Lisa Richardson, and Jean and John Sibley. Ms. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO PRESENT A TIP OF THE HAT TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO WORKED ON THE RECENT STUDY PRODUCED IN ETNA: BILL BASCHNAGEL, WILLA BARRETT, ELAINE AND TIM BENT, ROBIN CARPENTER, ANNE CROW, SALLY KINLAW, FERN MEYER, ANNE MORRIS, JOYCE KNOLL, KIM PEREZ, LISA RICHARDSON, AND JEAN AND JOHN SIBLEY.
2. Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the Chamber of Commerce request for free parking on the following Saturdays prior to Christmas - Dec. 4, 11 and 18th. Mr. Connolly SECONDED THE MOTION. Mr. Walsh AMENDED THE MOTION to include the provision that the Chamber of Commerce and Dartmouth College will communicate to the employees of the downtown businesses and employees of the College not to take advantage of the free parking. Ms. Connolly ACCEPTED THE AMENDMENT and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST FOR FREE PARKING ON THE FOLLOWING SATURDAYS PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS - DEC. 4, 11 AND 18TH, AND THAT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND DARTMOUTH COLLEGE WILL COMMUNICATE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYEES OF THE COLLEGE NOT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE PARKING.
3. Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of October 18, 1999, as corrected. Mr. Colligan SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 1999, AS CORRECTED.

Board of Selectmen
November 15, 1999
Page -16-

4. Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of November 1, 1999. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 1999.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


John Colligan, Secretary

These minutes were taken and transcribed by Nancy Richards.