

**APPROVED**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 3, 1997**

**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, Marilyn W. Black. Present were: Marilyn W. Black, Chairman; Brian Walsh, Vice Chairman; Katherine S. Connolly; John Manchester; Julia Griffin, Town Manager; and members of the public.

Ms. Black announced that this meeting was being taped by CATV 6 and that assistive listening devices were available for anyone who wished to use them.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**2. PRESENTATION BY VICKI SMITH, UVLSRPC ON SCENIC BYWAY PROGRAM AND DISCUSSION REGARDING HANOVER'S PARTICIPATION.**

Vicki Smith distributed an information packet to the Selectmen and displayed a map depicting the proposed scenic byways. She explained that Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and nine regional planning commissions have been working on a scenic byways study. Ms. Smith noted that the Planning Board has recommended designating Routes 10 and 120, and Wheelock Street as part of the scenic byway system, and she would like a recommendation from the Board of Selectmen regarding final designations.

Ms. Smith indicated that the scenic byway program exists to recognize scenic routes, and to provide a process for planning for those routes whereby communities recognize and maintain their resources.

Mr. Walsh asked what constraints and responsibilities would be put on the Town of Hanover and bordering landowners if routes were to be designated. Ms. Smith answered that the Town would be asked by the State whether or not it would like scenic byway logo signs to be erected along the designated routes. She added that the scenic byway designation makes the Town eligible for implementation monies, with a 20% local match, to do projects such as creating a pull-off at a scenic area, buying scenic easements, developing rest areas, and producing literature. Ms. Smith noted that the State would provide roadway markers free of charge.

Mr. Walsh asked if any towns have flatly rejected the project. Ms. Smith answered that most communities have responded positively, and that one rejection letter was received from the Thetford Historical Society expressing concerns with the amount of signage in East Thetford Village on Route 5, and the compromising of open spaces if a scenic byway were located in that area.

Ms. Smith stated that she has made it clear that the frequency of signs is an issue, and hopes to work with the State to modify the current color scheme and design.

Winifred Stearns stated that she sees no advantage for the Town in designating areas as scenic byways, and noted that the streets are already clogged with traffic. She urged the Board to bring the matter to the public before making a decision.

Bob Norman asked whether the State is trying to encourage or discourage bicycles on scenic byways, and wondered how the State's plans to put bicycle routes on state highways works with this project. Ms. Smith answered that there is a bikeway component to the study which is in the early stages of development, but that the byway program would provide 80% funding for the creation of separate lanes or signage for bicycling.

Tom Linell asked if it is possible to enroll in the bikeway portion of the plan without enrolling in the car portion. Ms. Smith answered that she believes that would be possible.

The Board discussed the possibilities of erecting small signs beneath the existing route signs or changing the color of the existing route signs to designate the road as a scenic byway.

Ms. Griffin suggested that she write a conditional letter of participation based on the fact that the Town is concerned about the current color scheme of the signs, as well as their size and frequency, and that until the Town is made comfortable about these issues it is reserving the right to not participate in the program.

Clint Bean, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber is supportive of the scenic byway concept, but urged the Board to be sensitive as to the color and extent of sign usage.

Ms. Black stated that no decision will be made on the scenic byway designations until answers are received from the State and a public hearing can be held on the issue.

**3. DISCUSSION REGARDING ALTERNATIVE BICYCLE/RECREATION PATH OPTIONS WITH COMMITTEE.**

Mary Anne Rankin, Chair of the Bike/Recreational Path Committee, indicated that the group meets on a regular basis and has set short and long terms goals. The group's short term goals are to propose alternative bicycle routes to the route proposed, presented and voted on at the last Town Meeting. She added that there are two routes currently being worked on, and requested input from the Board of Selectmen and the public. The group's long-term goals are to develop bicycle routes and walking paths throughout Town over the next three years.

Ms. Rankin noted that the group is looking at developing liaisons with the Parking and Transportation Committee, Dartmouth College, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and the Trails Committee. A survey has been planned for the Hospital to determine the number of employees who commute by bicycle to the Hospital. She stated that there will be a public forum on November 24, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building to receive more public input.

Regarding the alternatives to the original plan which have been prepared by Rist Frost, the committee felt that these two alternatives required a large amount of cut and fill, provided an unsafe access, and were not in keeping with the public's wishes.

The alternative routes which the committee has come up with were arrived at using performance criteria such as accessibility, directness, ease of implementation, continuity, attractiveness and cost.

Bob Norman discussed the on-road alternative which was displayed on a map. This alternative would link downtown Hanover to the Hospital, and would run basically parallel to Route 120.

Mr. Walsh noted that Route 120 is a very viable bike route, and suggested spending funds on making Route 120 more bicycle friendly rather than putting a substantial investment into a parallel route.

Ms. Rankin discussed the off-road path which was displayed on a map, and indicated that there are advantages and disadvantages to both plans. The off-road path contains steepness of grade at 6.5% to 7% for short stretches. She stated that informal discussions with the Hospital indicated that they had donated an amount of land to put a pedestrian path around the Medical Center, and they might be inclined to help with a bicycle route as well.

Ms. Griffin discussed the alternatives as proposed by Rist Frost, and noted that they involve a substantial amount of cut and fill. She feels these plans would be cost prohibitive to both the State and the Town. Ms. Griffin added that the Town will not be awarded any additional ISTEPA funds than have been already allocated by the State.

Ms. Griffin indicated that the committee is working with a deadline of the end of December to come up with an alternative plan to recommend to the Board, so that the Board can make a decision and send the plan to the Department of Transportation. She added that the State is not willing to spend time engineering three separate plans; they would like a preferred alternative plan from the Town on which to do budgetary estimates. Ms. Griffin stated that the funds are available for this fiscal year which started October 1st. The Town needs to make a decision regarding how the community feels about one of the alternatives, present the plan to the Department of Transportation to be preliminarily designed with cost estimates so that the Board can decide whether or not to put the matter on the warrant for May Town Meeting, with construction to begin before the fiscal year is complete, September 30, 1998.

Mr. Norman indicated that the committee is attempting to narrow down the number of choices, and hopes to have crude cost estimates within a couple of weeks.

Ms. Rankin stated that another possibility is to put a bicycle route on Route 120, and also put a pedestrian walkway through the off-road area.

Mr. Norman stated that in addition to the Hospital survey, advertisements may be placed in the paper inviting public input. Ms. Black suggested discussions with the Outing Club as well as Dartmouth College Athletics regarding their interest in the path.

Mr. Walsh suggested contacting the Valley News to see if they would be interested in writing a story regarding alternatives to the bicycle path which arose out of last year's Town Meeting.

Ms. Black thanked Ms. Rankin, Mr. Norman and members of the committee for a job well done.

**4. DISCUSSION OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST TO ALLOW FREE HOLIDAY PARKING.**

Clint Bean, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, spoke on efforts being made to minimize the problems encountered with free parking during the holidays last year. He asked that the parking meters be bagged for the four Saturdays leading up to Christmas - November 29, December 6, December 13 and December 20 - as well as the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday prior to Christmas.

Mr. Bean stated that problems last year were abuse of the free parking spaces by downtown employees and Dartmouth College employees, and selecting Saturdays as free parking days will eliminate the College employees' use of the parking spaces. He added that incentives for bus ridership including prizes, and shuttle bus service to Thompson Arena will be implemented. Efforts will also be undertaken to work with employers suggesting that it is in their best interest to take steps to minimize employee parking downtown.

Ms. Black stated that she has no objection to trying free parking holiday one more time.

Mr. Bean indicated that Cary Clark and Bill Barr will be informing College departments and employees that do work on Saturdays not to park in the business district.

**Mr. Walsh MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the Chamber of Commerce's proposal to allow free holiday parking in the business district on November 29, December 6, December 13, December 20, and December 22 through December 24. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S PROPOSAL TO ALLOW FREE HOLIDAY PARKING IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT ON NOVEMBER 29, DECEMBER 6, DECEMBER 13, DECEMBER 20, AND DECEMBER 22 THROUGH DECEMBER 24.**

**5. DISCUSSION REGARDING AFFILIATION WITH REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

Ms. Griffin stated that this is an administrative requirement which the State of New Hampshire has placed on communities in the service area of two newly created regional economic development corporations. The Town needs to affiliate with one or the other of the corporations so that businesses in Hanover that may be interested in applying for funding can be screened by one of the organizations. She noted that the funding is all from State and Federal money, along with banks that have donated money to help start the loan pool.

**Mr. Manchester MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen vote to have the Town affiliate with the Economic Development Corporation of the Upper Valley. Ms. Black SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO HAVE THE TOWN AFFILIATE WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF THE UPPER VALLEY.**

**6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS: CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND SCENIC LOCALES COMMITTEE.**

**Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen appoint Jim Kennedy as an alternate to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Walsh SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT JIM KENNEDY AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.**

**Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen appoint Sean Donovan to the Scenic Locales Committee. Mr. Manchester SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT SEAN DONOVAN TO THE SCENIC LOCALES COMMITTEE.**

**7. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE 1997 TOWN PERAMBULATION COMMITTEE.**

Ms. Griffin noted that RSA requires that in order to delegate this responsibility the Board needs to designate a perambulation committee.

**Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen designate Fred Crory, Ron Bailey, Richard Hauger and John Manchester as members of the perambulation committee. Mr. Walsh SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO DESIGNATE FRED CRORY, RON BAILEY, RICHARD HAUGER AND JOHN MANCHESTER AS MEMBERS OF THE PERAMBULATION COMMITTEE.**

## **8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### **Mr. Gilbar**

Mr. Gilbar presented an overview of a report on the Town's financial reports on a monthly basis. He noted that the report is an abbreviated version of the final product, which will consist of three components. The other two components to the report will be a report by activity, and the allocation of benefits across all departments. Mr. Gilbar noted that the second piece of the report should be available at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

### **Ms. Griffin**

Ms. Griffin presented the Board with an update on the Ledyard Bridge Project. She stated that the new bridge is now open for traffic. During a recent storm, Ms. Griffin noted that a portion of Wheelock Street was washed away, which appears to be related to compaction issues. It is the intention to have the transitional roadway from the new bridge to West Wheelock Street completed within the next ten days, and she has indicated that it needs to be as smooth as possible for winter maintenance. Ms. Griffin also indicated that a transition ramp will have to be built from the new bridge to Tuck Drive within the next two weeks.

Relative to compaction issues, it is Ms. Griffin's intention to send a letter to the State indicating that the only way the Town will accept the road as a future roadway for maintenance purposes is on a conditional basis. She noted that she will ask for a 15 year guarantee on that basis if they are not willing to redo the work that has been done. Ms. Griffin stated that the compaction work that has been completed since they received her letter has been significantly improved.

Regarding Ms. Griffin's draft letter to the Dresden School Board, Ms. Black requested that the letter be sent and that it be followed up with a phone call.

Ms. Griffin reminded the Board that the Connecticut River Joint Commission's briefing will be Thursday, November 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building. She has invited the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, and the Conservation Council to this briefing.

**9. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS**

**Mr. Manchester**

Mr. Manchester reported that there will be a Recreation Committee meeting on November 12th.

**Ms. Connolly**

Ms. Connolly reported that the Planning Board had met recently to discuss two small cases. The Dickinson case was continued to November 4th, as well as a revisit of the Paull subdivision on King Road for possible modifications of the site plan for unplanned cutting.

Regarding the Etna Post Office, Ms. Black suggested the possibility of utilizing some land at Shed 2 as an alternative location.

Ms. Connolly stated that the Planning Board has to act on the Dickinson proposal, but if the Board of Selectmen wishes to generate activity on the Shed 2 location, that it do so before November 4th or at the meeting at that time.

Ms. Griffin noted that the Post Office will either lease a building, or build to their specifications and sell the property to a private owner as they prefer to be in the lease business rather than property ownership and management.

Ms. Griffin noted that the site at Shed 2 would require Town Meeting approval, and although the Town can lease property on a year-to-year basis without Town Meeting approval, the post office would require a long-term lease.

Ms. Griffin will draft a letter expressing the Board's willingness to pursue an alternate location with the Post Office if the Planning Board turns down the Schoolhouse Lane location.

**Mr. Walsh**

Mr. Walsh reported that the Parking Facilities Task Force is writing a scope of work for Peter Dane, a consultant who has substantial experience in this area. The task force is looking at two plans and discussing financial options for both. Mr. Walsh stated there is a possibility that the package may not be ready to bring before the voters at the May Town Meeting.

Mr. Walsh stated that the Valley News had done a good job in an article detailing capital issues that the Selectmen, School Board and voters will be facing over the next three to four years.



Mr. Walsh also reported that the Community Substance Abuse Advisory Committee met and discussed the fact that Halloween and the bonfire were safe events, with no ambulance calls or major injuries.

**Ms. Black**

Ms. Black reported that the Community Center Task Force met recently with two teams of consultants, and that focus groups will be meeting on November 17th and 24th so that their ideas can be included in the questionnaires which will be distributed in January.

**10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - OCTOBER 20, 1997.**

**Ms. Black MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of the Selectmen's meeting of October 20, 1997. Mr. Walsh SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF OCTOBER 20, 1997.**

**11. OTHER BUSINESS.**

There was no other business to come before the Selectmen's meeting.

**12. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Ms. Connolly MADE THE MOTION that the Board of Selectmen vote to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Walsh SECONDED THE MOTION and the Board of Selectmen VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

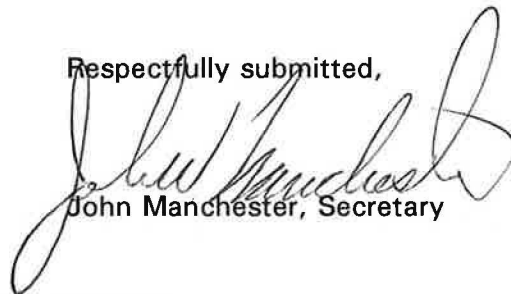
**SUMMARY**

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Manchester".

John Manchester, Secretary

These minutes were taken and transcribed by Nancy A. Richards.