



Board of Selectmen
Minutes
Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at 7:00PM
Town Hall Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chair, Lucy Wallace in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Selectmen Marie Sobalvarro, Ron Ricci, Stu Sklar and Leo Blair were all in attendance as well as the Town Administrator Tim Bragan and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet.

MINUTES

On a Ricci/Sobalvarro motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 4/16, as presented. (Sklar & Blair abstained)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Bragan announced the Community Preservation Committee will have Kathy Roth from the Community Preservation Coalition at their meeting on Wednesday, May 15th at 7:30pm. Her presentation will focus on all of the recent changes to CPA, including some of the more interesting and lesser known amendments. She will also discuss the status of the CPA statewide trust fund, future CPA legislation on Beacon Hill, CPA project trends statewide, helpful CPA best practices and other CPA news. He said this is a public meeting and they are encouraging town officials to attend.

Bragan said the special legislation approved at the Annual Town Meeting was submitted last week. He has asked Senator Eldridge and Representative Benson to assist in expediting the approval process.

Bragan said Dave Favreau will be handling the septic connections for the Bromfield House and the old library. He expects the connections to be done in June.

Bragan reported the town hall staff has been meeting weekly to discuss the upcoming move scheduled for the first week in August. He said the town hall will remain open on August 1st to accommodate tax payments which will be due that day. He will schedule the movers for Friday, August 2nd. Bragan expects to reopen town hall in the temporary location the following week on Wednesday or Thursday (August 7 or 8). He said adequate notification will be provided to town residents so they can plan accordingly.

Bragan said the Historical Commission is meeting Friday morning and will review the town hall application. He also added Pete Jackson and he met with National Grid and determined the location of the electrical pad will be located behind the building. He noted the tree out back will need to come down.

Bragan reported the regional dispatch center is on schedule to open with the first community joining in June, second in July and Harvard in August.

Bragan said the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area is embarking on a management planning process and has invited the stakeholders to participate in a workshop. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 22nd from 1-2:15pm at the Hilton Garden Inn, Devens Common.

Bragan asked if the Board had any concerns or comments regarding the recent article about a potential casino in Boxborough where the Holiday Inn is located. He offered to contact Boxborough's Town Administrator for more information.

GREAT ELMS UPDATE

Ron Ricci reminded the board he had sent out two proposed plans developed by the Chelmsford Housing Opportunities for Intergenerational and Community Endeavors (CHOICE). He explained the transfer of the property to CHOICE will become official by the end of August and all tenants will be moved prior to that. He said there is one resident who has a child in the school system so CHOICE is trying to work something out. Ricci explained the barn on the property will have to be torn down due to safety issues. He said the rehab is expected to take two years. Lucy Wallace asked about outreach to the neighbors. Ricci will suggest CHOICE invite interested parties to view and discuss options sometime in September. He confirmed the number of units will be nine. Marie Sobalvarro asked about the matching contribution from the Harvard Trust Non-Profit Properties (HTNP). Ricci said negotiations are ongoing.

BANNER REQUEST

On Sobalvarro/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the lions club hosting two banners to advertise the Bare Hill Triathlon.
(Hazel property & Bromfield banner sites)

EAGLE SCOUT PROCLAMATION

On a Ricci/Blair motion, the board voted unanimously to endorse proclamation acknowledging Patrick Ware's achievement as an Eagle Scout.

POSITIVE SPIN FOR ALS

On a Sobalvarro/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the positive spin for ALS ride for September 29th and signage.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

The board agreed to hold the strategic planning session on Tuesday, June 4th from 3-7pm at Fruitland's Museum. They will meet at 7 only to hold a necessary hearing for the General Store.

GINNY THURSTON SCHOLARSHIP

One submission was received. Lucy Wallace volunteered to review submissions for consideration and Stu Sklar said he would attend the award ceremony on June 5th.

DPW PROMOTION

DPW Director Rich Nota sent notification to the board requesting Robert Szocik be promoted from Truck Driver/Laborer to Equipment Operator. He noted the open position was duly posted and he only received one application. He has determined Szocik to be qualified for the position. On a Ricci/Sobalvarro motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint Robert Szocik to Equipment Operator.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Lucy Wallace opened the nominations for Chair by nominating Marie Sobalvarro. The motion was seconded by Leo Blair and the board voted unanimously in favor.

Marie Sobalvarro opened the nominations for Vice Chair. Leo Blair nominated Stu Sklar seconded by Sobalvarro and the board voted unanimously in favor.

Lucy Wallace nominated Leo Blair for Clerk which was seconded by Ricci and the board voted unanimously in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Documents referenced:

BANNER REQUEST – email request dated 4.19.2013

EAGLE SCOUT PROCLAMATION – letter from Harvard Boy Scouts dated 4.22.2013

DPW PROMOTION – email from DPW Director Rich Nota dated 4.2.2013