



**Board of Selectmen  
Minutes  
Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 7:00pm  
Town Hall Meeting Room**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chair, Ken Swanton in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Selectmen Lucy Wallace, Ron Ricci, and Alice von Loesecke were in attendance as well as Town Administrator Tim Bragan and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet. Stu Sklar was not present.

### **Minutes**

On a Ricci/von Loesecke motion, the board approved the minutes of 5/27 and 6/7, as presented.

### **Elderly & Disabled Taxation Aid Committee appointment**

Committee member Laura Andrews introduced Barbara Kemp for appointment. As a longtime resident Kemp is happy to make a contribution volunteering on this committee. On a Ricci/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to approve Kemp for appointment.

### **Cultural Collaborative update**

Mark Mikitarian gave a brief history starting from when the collaborative first came to the Selectmen back in January with their vision to create a center for the arts in the old library building. Now with the Town Hall newly renovated and the Hildreth House renovations underway they are anxious to begin negotiations to lease the old library. They have provided a business plan and are ready to take the next steps. They are requesting the BoS commit to engaging in negotiations of a five year lease and choose two representatives to serve in the lease negotiation process by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Mikitarian said the collaborative has received overwhelming support from residents, other organizations in town and potential renters. Wallace is supportive of their request noting one of the BoS goals for the coming year is to determine a best use for the building. She suggested the BoS form a committee to work with the collaborative. Swanton and Wallace have begun work on accessibility to the building which is a key element to be resolved. Ricci reminded everyone a Request for Proposals (RFP) is required therefore predisposing an entity to use the building is presumptuous. He suggested those interested in the building submit proposals for consideration. Von Loesecke agreed. She supports a comprehensive process. Collaborative member Willie Wickman understood other interested parties such as the school administration and CASE Collaborative had decided the building would not work satisfy their needs. Although Selectmen Stu Sklar was not present he sent in a written statement of support for moving forward with the collaborative. Swanton said that one of the Selectmen's goals for the year is to define and attain a productive use for the old library. Everyone agreed the building will not be left empty and a transparent process must be established to determine the best use. The collaborative appreciates any efforts the board can take to expedite the process which they feel will allow them to secure financial pledges and volunteer commitments to move this project forward.

### **Annual appointments**

On a Wallace/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint those employees on the 2017 employee appointment document. Wallace expressed her gratefulness to those who continue to serve. She suggested the Selectmen become more involved in the annual appointment process next year in an effort to take a more proactive approach.

On a Ricci/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to approve annual appointments of those listed who responded yes adding Paul Green and Greg Schmidt.

On a Wallace/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the Ambulance roster which was submitted.

On a Ricci/Wallace motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee per handout.

### **Public communication**

David Hawitt, 304 Old Littleton Road, is fairly new to Harvard and expressed his enthusiasm and support for the collaborative. He is hopeful acceptable lease terms can be negotiated for use of the building.

Pat Jennings, 11 Fairbank Street, is a member on several committees in town and an employee of Fruitlands. Jennings was also involved when the pilot project was established. She knows there is a real need in town for a place where the community can meet and bring their ideas to reality. She described the pilot's mission as an idea box an incubator program of sorts. Jennings believes the collaborative can regenerate what the pilot project had started and create a place of activity in the town center. She urged the BoS to help in any way they can to expedite the process.

Stephanie Gant, 6 Babbitt Lane, has two children in the community who were involved in arts and other creative projects at the old library. She observed the space available at the old library to be perfect for concerts, gallery space as well as for meetings. She commented on how beautiful the spaces throughout the building are. She would be saddened to see the building used only for offices. Gant commented on this being a familiar location for families to bring their children. She said the collaborative understands the importance of financial success.

### **Town Administrator Report**

Bragan reported the state budget process is on hold which could affect local aid initiatives. He will inform the board of any issues that may arise.

Bragan reported MassHousing has approved the Craftsman Village Project on Ayer Road.

Bragan said punch list items are still being completed on the Town Hall project. A construction meeting will be held once all issues have been resolved.

### **General Contractor for the Hildreth House project**

THCC Committee Chair Rick Maiore requested the BoS authorize execution of contract with Classis Construction. A pre-construction meeting will be held next week.

On a Wallace/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to approve Classic Construction for the Hildreth House project.

Maiore again announced the Town Hall open house will be held on Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **School Committee resignation**

On a Wallace/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to recognize the resignation of Jennifer Bedford.

### **Snow & ice deficit spending**

Bragan told the BoS a full report was given to the Finance Committee detailing all the costs. He reported they approved the spending. On a Wallace/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the request for \$81,347.30 to cover the snow and ice deficit.

### **Conservation Commission letter**

Commission members Paul Willard, Jim Breslaurer, Don Ritchie and Joanne Ward attended the meeting to discuss a letter they sent to the BoS in May asking for a public apology. The commission members questioned why an apology letter was sent to the Capital Planning & Investment Committee for actions taken by some BoS members at the recent Annual Town Meeting with respect to votes taken against transferring free cash to CPIC stabilization fund. The Conservation Commission felt it should receive an apology letter about a vote taken by a member of the BOS against their erosion control bylaw. Willard admitted he had second thoughts about the letter and asked the commission to reconsider but members had differing reasons why they supported the letter. Von Loesecke explained the apology to CPIC was regarding the process leading up to the ATM not what occurred at the ATM. She agrees what happens at the ATM needs to be respected. Ricci had discussed his concerns with the conservaiton agent a couple of months prior to the ATM. Wallace told the commission she was not in favor of the letter to CPIC. She also felt the process leading up to ATM (to attend public hearings) did not occur. As one of their goals for the upcoming year the BoS have committed to establishing a policy for taking a position(s) on warrant articles. Ricci recommended committees/boards/commissions meet with the the BoS before spending a lot of time and effort on an initiative that may not have enough support. Similarly, Wallace suggested the BOS members (or at least the liaison) should attend public hearings on proposed articles to become familiar with the issues. Wallace asked if this discussion satisfied the commission's need for an apology. The commission will discuss this at their next meeting.

### **FY17 Goal review**

Swanton utilized the same model from last year. The board reviewed the items and made a few revisions.

When they got to the goals related to Devens they invited resident Victor Norman who served as Chair on the Devens Economic Analysis Team (DEAT) to join the discussion.

Ricci drafted a proposed Devens ballot question for discussion. The question basically asks if the BoS should begin planning and discussion with appropriate parties with the goal of presenting a plan to resume jurisdiction by 2033 over land on Devens formally under the jurisdiction of

Harvard. He noted the question may need to be expanded or modified by Town Counsel to include additional items. Normand felt there are two elements at play: when will MassDevelopment have completed its assignment (redevelopment of Devens); and when will be it appropriate or necessary to provide permanent local government. He noted that residents living on Devens currently are disenfranchised with respect to decisions pertaining to the local level. Normand said there are three elements to consider going forward: 1) a comprehensive plan setting a time for a final vote on jurisdiction; 2) investigate potential options for local jurisdiction; and 3) obtain state funding to assist in this process. Bragan did confirm it is unlikely we will be able to add this as a question on the presidential election ballot. Ricci will make revisions for further discussion at their July meeting.

On a Ricci/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to approve goals as discussed and amended.

### **Liaison assignments**

The liaison assignments were distributed and the only change was moving the cable committee from Sklar to Swanton.

### **Selectmen reports**

Ricci said they continue to work on a roundabout on Ayer Road. The traffic engineer has indicated in front of the post office as a good location. Planner Bill Scanlan is working on this and further feedback from the Conservation Commission will be necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32pm.

### Documents referenced:

Kemp volunteer form – dated 6.9.2016  
Cultural Collaborative handout – dated 6.21.2016  
Annual appointment lists – FY2017  
Bedford resignation letter – dated 6.2.2016  
Snow & Ice reserve fund transfer request – dated 6.15.2016  
Con Com letter – dated 5.31.2016  
FY17 goals & action items  
FY17 liaison list