

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING - November 8, 1993

Present for the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. were Selectmen Dodge and Johnston with Sandra Gendron taking minutes. Selectman Pimenta was unavailable for the meeting.

Road Agent Lee Murray was in for his regular weekly meeting with the Board. Discussion ensued as to the various road projects which were in progress. Lee reported that the bridge had been repaved and the process for state reimbursement for two-thirds of the construction costs will continue.

Lee stated that he had met with Bryan Horner, landowner on McCurdy Road with regard to the proposed reconstruction on the lower end. Mr. Horner supported Lee's proposals to widen the road along his frontage, stating that he (Lee) could help himself as long as the slope was taken into consideration. Mr. Horner stated that he realized that any work proposed by the town would likely benefit what he intended as future use of the lot. In relation to the progress of this project, Lee stated that he was ready to mark trees for cutting along McCurdy Road and would like the Selectmen to participate in the marking.

Before leaving, it was decided that the Road Committee would be scheduled next week for their annual meeting. \*It should be noted that this meeting could not be scheduled until Monday evening, November 22, 1993 based on the scheduling demands of members of the Road Committee.

Next in to meet with the Board of Selectmen were representatives of the Junior Athletic League including Margit Hooper, John Halvatzes, Drew Kappus, Jim Stapleton and Jay Bourque, who had requested a meeting with the Board to discuss the particulars; namely, issues of liability, with regard to the ball field on Old Coach Road now that its completion is eminent.

Drew began discussion by commenting that the meeting had been requested to address issues of insurance and liability, and to update the Board as to the progress of construction. Drew continued by stating that the J.A.L. was happy with the construction progress to date and proud of the work that had been accomplished by many individuals. The dug-outs still need to be built and electricity installed and there was still the need for gravel in the proposed parking lot. Drew stated that it would be intended that each year more fund raising would be done so that progress could be made annually towards completion and betterment of the area.

The issue of liability was raised and the question asked as to what would happen if someone were hurt other than when the field was being occupied by the J.A.L. Selectman Dodge responded that J.A.L. functions must have insurance and a certificate of such be provided, and if anything should happen as described above since this is town-owned land the town insurance would cover such an incident. It should be noted at this time that Linda Sizemore from the Selectmen's Office had spoken with a representative of the NHMA Insurance Trust, the town's insurance provider, to ascertain specific facts with regard to insurance coverage. It was confirmed, that since the J.A.L. is not part of our Recreation Department or any other town department it is not covered by the town's provider.

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MBD

It was also noted that any building on the town-owned land that is not owned by the town would require that insurance be provided by the owner. If such buildings were to be donated to the town, such donations would have to be in writing before coverage would be provided by the town's insurer. Drew commented that the J.A.L. would continue to provide coverage for their sports programs, i.e. soccer, basketball and baseball. Another issue raised was the liability of someone injuring themselves on the fencing which was installed under the auspices of the J.A.L.; however, it was pointed out that the fencing was paid for with funds from the sale of timber cut from the lot. The Selectmen had authorized the expenditure of said funds by the J.A.L. provided that they were expended in conjunction with the overall construction of the project. Also along the insurance coverage line discussion came up as to, whose insurance would be responsible for J.A.L. owned sports equipment that would be housed on site once the area was in use.

Although much of the discussion to this point was regarding insurance and issues of liability, other subjects were raised relative to the logistical operation of this field and the ramifications thereof once the project is complete. One such issue raised was the scheduling of events, what about the use and schedules of organizations other than the J.A.L. Discussion ensued as to the need to establish policies and procedures, with the Board of Selectmen emphasizing that the J.A.L. will be given first priority with regard to issues of scheduling based on their being solely instrumental in the construction of this project to date. This discussion led to the maintenance, and expense thereof, of the fields and surrounding area once they were completed. Selectman Johnston suggested that a committee be established comprised of representatives from other organizations as well as the J.A.L. to set policy relative to scheduling and maintenance. Drew inquired as to whether the area could be posted prohibiting unauthorized entrance and the J.A.L. designated responsible for the maintenance of the fields. Sandra Gendron questioned the long term feasibility of such an arrangement siting such issues as the practicality of a single organization being financially responsible for the upkeep of the area, and what would result should the J.A.L. disband. Selectman Dodge contended that somehow operation of this field as discussed above should be incorporated with the functions of the Recreation Department. He supported the formation of a committee suggesting that it might be comprised of J.A.L. members, Recreation Commission members and possibly a Selectman. He continued by stating the primary focus when the construction of these fields began was to benefit the kids of the community, and this focus must be maintained and remain the ultimate goal when addressing resulting issues of completion, scheduling and maintenance of the site.

Selectman Johnston suggested that with the installation of fencing completed locks be installed and keys be made available at the Town Office and to emergency personnel. Discussion of access both currently and ultimately once all the construction is completed ensued with Selectman Johnston contending that area should be made totally secure eliminating potential damage done by snowmobiles, dirt bikes and the like.

Margit inquired as to whether the J.A.L. could continue with their

development plans or should they, based on the discussion of this meeting, now seek permission before they enter different phases of construction. Selectman Johnston suggested that should they wish to do any more substantial cutting or expand the area beyond the current construction project then the Board of Selectmen should be apprised. Selectman Dodge agreed that the field currently under construction could be completed as planned by the J.A.L. This brought to light the potential of public utility bills both telephone and electric with Selectman Dodge contending that the town should be responsible for such expenses, and certainly they could be budgeted for in 1994.

Again, Selectman Dodge encouraged the formation of a committee so that these many issues could be considered for resolution. Selectman Johnston inquired as to the need for security lights, and Selectman Dodge asked about the potential of any winter use that might require maintenance such as plowing, etc. Selectman Dodge did suggest, after having viewed the site, that more cutting might have to be done so that the bank could be tapered into the woods easing the erosion that had taken place during recent rainstorms. John stated that he had plans along those lines and discussion ensued.

The meeting ended with Selectman Dodge suggesting that the committee be comprised of two members of the J.A.L., two members of the Recreation Commission and one Selectman. Drew commented that they had received no negative feedback from the community to date relative to the project, only positive comments and offers for help. Selectman Dodge stated that the Board of Selectmen would be looking for a full accounting with regard to the total of amount of money expended to include funds of the J.A.L. as well as the proceeds used from the sale of timber on the site.

Mail was reviewed, checks were signed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sandra Gerdron  
Administrative Assistant