

Selectmen's Meeting  
23 March 1998  
7:00pm

The regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting was called to order by the Chair, Allen Hines, at 7:00pm. Those present included George Lagassa, Jack Steiner (Selectmen), and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator).

The Selectmen next reviewed the previous meeting minutes and Mr. Lagassa voted to accept the minutes as published. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- Payroll
- Manifest
- Driveway Permit - Joseph Valle
- Current Use - Phillip & Lisa Wilson
- Master Plan Contract w/RPC
- Town Seal - Work estimate for conversion to Vector Art
- Beverly Hollingworth - Response to DOT Letter Concerning Winnicut Road
- Legal Handouts – Request for ZBA Rehearing by Dorskicil
- HWW - Handouts listing Properties on the Aquifer Lineaments
- 1. Street Light Petition - (is on agenda for next meeting)

### **Topics of Discussion**

The Board began the evening's business with a discussion of the update to the Town's master plan. Mr. Lagassa commented on an article that he had read in the Portsmouth Herald highlighting the process that the Town of York was using to update their master plan. He explained that York was holding a series of informational meetings in the different neighborhood homes within York in an effort to garner greater participation and citizen input during the master plan process. Some discussion ensued between Board members on how the Town might get more citizen participation. Mr. Lagassa wondered if North Hampton could do the same. Mr. Steiner commented that the Planning Board would be holding a series of 10 or so meetings including the survey work, as part of the master plan update process.

The TA provided handouts, one of which was "10 Habits of Highly Effective Councils", and the other handout was a syllabus from NHCF highlighting elements of a Goal Setting course for elected officials. The TA agreed to research available dates for the training and help schedule attendance by the Board members.

The next issue addressed by the Board concerned a citizen petition from David Chevalier and 21 other citizens living on Atlantic Avenue concerning replacement of 4 streetlights between Hobbs Road and Route 1. The TA indicated that Mr. Chevalier was on the agenda for the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board members discussed the street light issue emphasizing the need to develop a cohesive policy to effectively address the issue. Mr. Hines suggested that there be a second phase to the project wherein criteria could be developed for the placement of additional streetlights. George Beaman and the Highway Safety Committee were mentioned as a forum to help develop the criteria for placement of additional streetlights. In this way the Board could plan expenditures based on lighting studies. Mr. Steiner commented that the streetlight issue was an emotional one. Mr. Steiner suggested that the idea of petition was a sound one for the present and that they might be used in a warrant article form on the next budget. Mr. Lagassa emphasized the need for a policy to establish a priority of needs to effectively respond to the issue. All Board members supported the need for citizen input on the streetlight issue. The TA was directed to contact George Beaman.

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A brief discussion regarding some sort of welcome aboard party for newly elected officials and department heads ensued. A tentative date May 8<sup>th</sup> was established.

Allen Sisson presented the Town with a wonderful drawing of the Town Office. He explained that North Hampton was his hometown and that he wanted to give something back to the Town where he had spent his younger years. Mr. Sisson received a round of applause from those present. His pencil drawing was described as real as a picture. The Board members and Mr. Sisson with the drawing posed for a commemorative photograph.

Tom O'Rourke from Media One's government affairs office next addressed the Board regarding the January cable rate increase. Mr. Lagassa commented that public utility rates are based on cost of service and questioned Mr. O'Rourke whether this was the case for cable companies, too? Mr. O'Rourke replied that it was not because it the FCC (federal) and local government (franchisee) provided oversight and not the State through its public utilities commission. Mr. O'Rourke explained that the rate increase was attributable to three components; partial recovery of capital investments, inflation and increases in programming costs. Discussion ensued regarding public access. Mr. O'Rourke explained that public access costs such as studio equipment and the like would be passed on to consumers. Mr. Lagassa inquired whether or not there was a provision for local regulation of the cable service. It was explained that such provisions were available. Provisions for local regulation, however, were applicable to the basic service tier of programming and excluded the second and third tier program offerings. The Town would need to draft rules and procedures prior to becoming certified to regulate the basic broadcast tier. The TA passed a folder containing ratepayer complaint forms to Mr. O'Rourke for later review.

Thomas Lambert, NHH Fire Chief, briefed the Board concerning the status of Fire Department training. Mr. Lambert explained that all front line officers had attended Company Officers School. The FD was currently offering a Community CPR course. The Deputy Chief, Chris LeClaire, was also scheduled to attend Issues for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century that would deal with Long-range Strategic Planning as well as Resource Management. Upcoming training for the FD included terrorism classes at the Fire Academy. Mr. Lambert went on to explain that NHH was a designated Champion Community and as such was chosen to participate in a pilot training program called Risk Watch. The program was designed to foster community coalitions for preventing injuries to children. The program was characterized as providing an ongoing curriculum inside the schools. Mr. Hines asked whether Mr. Lambert had notified the School Board about the program. Mr. Lambert responded that he had met with the school principal who had agreed to support the idea. Ms. Kisner, a member of the school board, was asked whether she was aware of the program. She responded that she had not, but that the elementary school principal may not have yet met with the School Board to brief them of the program. Mr. Steiner mentioned that communication between the Boards was necessary in cases like this so that everyone was on the same page.

The Board next took up the issue of the Boston Post Cane. Past practices of awarding the cane to the oldest living person in Town was discussed. Mr. Lagassa suggested that the former practice be modified in such a way that the bestowal of the Boston Post Cane would encompass an elder citizen who had been an active participant in the community. Such a bestowal would provide official acknowledgement of the individual's contribution to their community over the years. Some discussion ensued over the changing of the original intention of the Boston Post Cane. The TA was directed to research practices followed by other town's and report back to the Board. The TA agreed to do so.

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**Questions & Answers**

Ms. Kisner remarked that utilizing public participation for the streetlight issue was a very good idea. She also wondered whether it was necessary for a School Board member to attend every Board of Selectmen meeting and vice versa. Ms. Kisner suggested that School Board members could be contacted in advance where issues directly impacting the school were to be discussed at a Selectmen's meeting. All agreed that it was a more efficient and less time consuming method.

Mr. Grant commented that the cost of raising enough money to replace all the streetlights would mean only a five-cent increase per taxpayer on the tax rate.

Mr. Strout explained that the Town had a 4-wheel drive backhoe on loan for the next couple of days if the Selectmen were interested in giving it the once over.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister  
Town Administrator