

Board of Selectmen
Minutes of 11/22/04
Approved 12/6/04

I. Call to Order.

Chairman Don Gould called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were present, Emily Creighton, Selectwoman, Jon Rineman, Selectman and Michael Pardue, Town Administrator. Mr. Pardue served as the Recording Secretary for this session.

II. Selectmen Items

A. Atlantic Ave. – Sidewalk Discussion

Four students presented the Sidewalk for Kids Project to the Board from the North Hampton School. Mr. Robert Southworth and Mr. Stanley Knowles assisted those students, Louise Breen, Meghan Durant, Holly McCay and Alex Seaton in their presentation.

The Sidewalk for Kids project envisions a sidewalk traversing along Atlantic Avenue from the North Hampton School to the railroad bridge located to the east side of the municipal office complex.

Louise Breen presented project information related to the need for the sidewalk with a focus on safety. Miss Breen commented that children desiring to walk from the School to the town library currently must do so along the road edge of Atlantic Ave. (Rt. 111). She further commented the North Hampton School evacuation plan calls for students to report to the municipal office complex and that the presence of a sidewalk would allow for safer plan compliance.

Alex Seaton provided details related to the envisioned construction of the sidewalk, explaining the proposed width of the sidewalk (4 feet) and the desire to use granite curbing to avoid winter damage by snowplows etc.

Louise Breen further cited that the students leading this effort had distributed handouts and letters to homeowners explaining the project concept. She further presented several petitions to the Board that indicated signed support for the project. The signatures on the petitions total 147.

The petitions read: **“We the below named petitioners, ask the Town to initiate and support the building of a sidewalk from the North Hampton School to the Railroad overpass to enhance the safety of the children who must walk in Atlantic Ave., Route 111, when they are sent to the Town Library or for other reasons. We suggest said sidewalk to be 4’ wide, reinforced, with granite curb”**. The petitions are dated October 28, 2004.

Mr. Gould summarized the student's portion of the presentation and commended the amount and quality of the work performed by each of the students. Mr. Rineman and Ms. Creighton echoed Mr. Gould's compliments.

Mr. Robert Southworth continued with the presentation, providing the Board with a sketch that served as a "visual" of the proposed sidewalk. During his portion of the presentation, Mr. Southworth also referenced and summarized conversations he and Mr. Knowles have had with the New Hampshire DOT, as the roadway along which the sidewalk is proposed is a State road (Rt. 111). He further referenced a letter of support received from the North Hampton School Board following the Committee's recent meeting with said Board.

In addition to the many positives associated with the project, Mr. Southworth pointed out a few possible obstacles associated with this effort. Those obstacles include, but may not be limited to, location of residential mailboxes, the possibility of needing to remove some trees, and possible issues related to the removal of snow.

Mr. Southworth concluded citing that it is the desire of the Committee that if possible, the sidewalk be constructed of reinforced concrete with granite curbing. He further offered that the State has pledged some design assistance and related consultation for this effort and that a local contractor had cited his ability to construct the project for approximately \$30,000.

Mr. Knowles addressed the Board, explaining that the NH DOT District Engineer had viewed the concept drawings and had promised to offer a professional "sketch" to the Committee on or about December 1st.

Mr. Gould asked if the Committee envisioned the sidewalk being constructed entirely on State property so as to avoid possible "taking" of property.

Mr. Rineman cited that since the State owns the roadway adjacent to the proposed sidewalk, that perhaps they would be willing to fund this project. Mr. Southworth responded that this approach is being discussed with the State.

Mr. Knowles offered that he is in discussions with the Regional Planning Commission in hopes of gaining some financial support for the effort.

Ms. Creighton voiced concerns for the safety of the children traveling from the end of the proposed sidewalk past the police and fire operations, her concerns focused on the likelihood that there would be occasions when emergency vehicles would be exiting the municipal complex at "response speeds".

Louise Breen presented the Board a letter from Ms. Judy Day, Chair of the Municipal Facilities Advisory Subcommittee that served to acknowledge and applaud the group's activities.

Mr. Knowles stated that it is the hope of the Committee that the Board of Selectmen will assist in the development of a warrant article supporting this project.

Mr. Gould again thanked the Sidewalk for Kids Committee, suggesting that the Board will take some time to review the proposal and consider the project further.

B. Public Safety Concern – Lee Kierstead

Ms. Kierstead spoke of parking concerns she has related to the Tuesday and Thursday children's story hour held weekly at the Town library. Ms. Kierstead stated that she has observed children, usually 2-4 year olds, "running around the library parking lot when cars are entering and exiting the lot".

Ms. Kierstead suggested the library be permitted to use the area adjacent to the library (239 Atlantic Ave.) for additional parking. Ms. Kierstead stated she felt this would alleviate the potential risk to the young children as they move to and from story hour.

Ms. Kierstead stated that she envisions some earth grading of the 239 Atlantic property to allow for the additional parking. Road Agent Robert Strout was present and estimated that should earth grading be needed on the 239 Atlantic Ave. property, the cost would likely be in the vicinity of \$5,000.00 or less.

Mr. Rineman asked if the creation of additional parking would really reduce the risk to children "running around" or if this was more a need for additional supervision of the children.

Ms. Creighton suggested that the building inspector and road agent review this concern and Ms. Kierstead's proposed solution and report back their findings to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Rineman and Mr. Gould agreed with this approach.

C. Country Club Estates Homeowners Assoc. – Mr. Gerry Billadeau

Mr. Billadeau contacted the Town Office prior to this meeting and asked his presentation be postponed to a future date.

D. North Hampton Beach Discussion – Ms. JoAnn Lamprey

Ms. Lamprey spoke of the unclean conditions she has observed at the North Hampton Beach including debris, garbage and tremendous amounts of seaweed. She further spoke of her observations related to the lack of police patrols of the parking area and of the beach itself. Ms. Lamprey was however quick to clarify that she was very aware that the North Hampton police did not have the resources available to monitor parking lots when many other demands, likely more pressing demands, required their time and attention.

There was discussion related to the prohibition of dogs on the beach with the idea of a resident “dog pass” broached.

There was discussion about the pros and cons of “owning” the beach and the many expenses that come with “ownership”.

Mr. Pardue stated that in the spring of 2004 he had met with a District Manager of the State Parks System, Ms. Johanna Lyons to discuss the State’s approach to beach and facility maintenance at North Hampton Beach for the (then) upcoming season. Mr. Pardue cited a very positive conversation and advised those in attendance that he did not receive a single complaint concerning the beach / parking / restrooms during the summer of 2004.

Mr. Rineman expressed concern about taking the beach “back” but very much favored having the State do more work in maintaining the facilities and the beach itself.

Considerable discussion ensued pertaining to the fact that the State receives all North Hampton beach parking proceeds but fail to use these funds for the betterment of the North Hampton beach.

Mr. Pardue suggested to the Board that he invite Ms. Lyons to a Board meeting to discuss these concerns and to hear more about the State’s beach maintenance plan for the 2005 “season”. The Board supported this approach and asked Mr. Pardue to schedule Ms. Lyons to attend a Board meeting as soon as possible.

E. Municipal Facilities Advisory Subcommittee Report – Ms. Day / Mr. Goeselt

Ms. Day contacted the Town Office prior to this meeting, requesting her presentation be postponed to a date to be determined.

F. Old Town Hall Engineering Study Update

Mr. Pardue advised the Board that the engineering study had been performed and the report was expected within the next week or two.

G. C.A.T.V. Committee Update / Draft Mission Statement Discussion

Mr. Rineman provided the Board with an overview of the progress of the C.A.T.V. Commission. Mr. Rineman and Mr. Pardue discussed with the Board the funds received annually by the Town for C.A.T.V. franchise fees. Mr. Rineman stated that it is the desire of the C.A.T.V. Commission to have past and future franchise fees earmarked for a fund that would serve to support the broadcasts of a public, educational and government channel (PEG) as well as an electronic bulletin board.

Mr. Pardue advised the Board that he is working on the development of a warrant article that would address the funding of an account of this nature funded through the use of C.A.T.V. franchise fees.

H. Deliberative Session – Setting of Date

Motion / Vote: Ms. Creighton made a motion to hold the February 2005 deliberative session at the North Hampton School at 8:00 a.m. on February 5, 2005. Mr. Rineman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0.

I. Questions and Comments Related to Above Topic Areas

Ms. Lamprey stated that she wanted to take this opportunity to “publicly commend the Board of Selectmen for bringing this Town back together”. Those in attendance echoed Ms. Lamprey’s praise of the Board.

Ms. Kierstead “applauded” the Board for their recent letter to the citizens and for their continued efforts to communicate their actions with the citizenry.

The Board thanked those in attendance for their kind words and pledged their continued efforts to work effectively together and for the Town.

IV. Administrators/Business

A. Town Administrator’s Report

1. PWD – Ready for winter.
2. FD – Ambulance has arrived – awaiting Town of North Hampton lettering
3. FD – Conditional Offer of Employment extended – will allow for filling of final staff vacancy bring department to authorized compliment of personnel
4. TA – Awaiting report from Rye re: perambulation effort
5. TA – GASB-34 field work complete – final report expected by end of year
6. TA - Annual audit field work completed
7. TA – Structural engineering assessment of Town Hall building completed – awaiting report
8. TA – Awaiting final report from AG’s office re: polling place deficiencies, including response to Town’s proposed corrective action

9. Assessing Office – DRA Sales Ratio Survey. The Assessing Department (MRI) has completed a Sales Ratio Survey that the Board members are asked to review and “sign off on”. The “Survey” requires a majority of the Board certify as to the completeness and accuracy of the data contained in the Survey. Therefore, it is recommended that the BOS meet with the Assessor (MRI) to review and analyze the data prior to signing. Copies are provided tonight for your (at your leisure) review prior to meeting with the Assessor. Perhaps a daytime meeting next week as you consider setting the tax rate would be appropriate.
10. Assessing Office - The Assessing Office (MRI) completed an In-depth Analysis of the DRA Sales Survey. This “Survey” included an analysis of three mobile home parks in Town. Copies of the memorandum related to this effort are provided to you tonight for your (at your leisure) review. Following your review, the Board may want to consider a meeting with the Assessor (MRI) to review the content and recommendations related to this effort.

B. Correspondence

Mr. Pardue distributed to the Board a letter received at the Town Office from Dorothy and Alan Williams. The letter, dated November 10, 2004, cited the Williams’ “opposition to the proposed cell tower on Chapel Road”.

The Board received the letter, taking same under advisement.

C. Approval of Minutes

October 25, 2004 – Public Session
November 1, 2004 – Public Session
November 1, 2004 Non-Public Session

Motion / Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of 10/25/04 and 11/01/04 public and non-public sessions as written. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0.

D. Payroll

The Board signed off on payroll forms.

E. Manifest

The Board reviewed and signed off on manifest forms.

F. Other Business

Mr. Rineman discussed the efforts of the Hampton Rotary in cleaning-up debris along Atlantic Ave. from Rt. 1 to the beach area. The Board also discussed the efforts of Regal Limousine in cleaning debris from the entire length of Rt. 1 from Rye to Hampton.

IV. Adjournment

Motion / Vote: Being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Rineman made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Pardue
Town Administrator