TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 6:30pm

Mary Herbert Conference Room

These minutes were prepared as a reasonable summary of the essential content of the meeting, not as a transcription. All exhibits mentioned in these minutes are a part of the Town Record.

Attendance

Members present: Richard Stanton, Chairman; Richard Batchelder, Vice Chairman; Susan Smith and Robert Field, Jr.

- Alternates present: Chuck Gordon, Jennifer Lermer, Ted Turchan and Debbie Wood
- **Members Absent:** Michele Peckham
- **Staff present:** Richard Mabey, Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector, Wendy Chase,
- 21 Recording Secretary, and Craig Salomon, Select Board Liaison

Preliminary Matters; Procedure; Swearing in of Witnesses; Recording Secretary Report

- Mr. Stanton convened the Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Mr. Stanton called for a Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Stanton seated Ms. Lermer for Ms. Peckham.

32 Mr. Stanton introduced the Board Members and Staff.

Mr. Field asked who the next alternate was in the order. Ms. Chase said that it was Mr. Ted Turchan.

Ms. Chase reported that the May 26, 2009 Zoning Board Agenda was posted in the May 11, 2009
 Hampton Union, the Town Clerk's Office, Town Office and Library.

- Mr. Stanton asked if anyone wished to question any regular or alternate member of the Board sitting tonight that they should be disqualified. Mr. Stanton explained the procedure for juror
- disqualification. Mr. Field asked that Mr. Stanton articulate the juror standard. Mr. Stanton said that he did. There was no public comment.

Mr. Stanton changed the order of business on the agenda to do the "new business" first.

- Mr. Field Moved to change the order of business to try and accommodate Mr. and Mrs. Maloney.
- Mr. Stanton explained that the Chair has the discretion of the order of the agenda.

There was no second to the Motion; the Motion failed.

New Business

2009:07 – **Victor & Sarah Maloney, 5 Grandview Terrace, North Hampton**. The Applicants request a variance from Article IV, Section 406 – yard and lot requirements to allow the construction of a second floor addition and an addition to the existing garage 14-feet from the side setback where 25-feet is required. Property owners: Victor and Sarah Maloney, Property location: 5 Grandview Terrace, M/L 014-054, zoning district R-1.

In attendance for this application:

61 Victor & Sarah Maloney, Owners/Applicants 62

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Mr. Stanton swore in the Maloneys as witnesses.

Mr. Maloney submitted pictures of his property to the Board members.

Mr. Stanton entered into evidence, as part of the permanent record, a signed petition, two letters from abutters in support of the application and the pictures. The letter from Beth Hill was dated May 16, 2009. The letter from Michael Sullivan and the petition were not dated.

Mr. Maloney presented his case, and offered the following:

- Applicants request relief from the 25-feet side setback to add another bay to the existing one-car garage that would encroach into the setback by 11-feet.
- There will be no added bedrooms to the home.
- They have a septic system and dry well (no leach field) and have public water.

The Applicant was asked to address the five criteria under the Boccia analysis.

- 1. The proposed use would not diminish surrounding property values. Mr. Maloney said that it was his opinion that by adding the addition to the second floor and garage would only increase the property value. He did not have hard evidence to back that statement up with.
- 2. Granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest. Mr. Maloney said that the immediate property owners that can see his house are in support of the additions, he referred to the petition that was submitted into evidence.
- 3. Granting the variance would do substantial justice. Mr. Maloney said that if North Hampton were creating the ordinances today they would base the guidelines on two acre lots. His development was created when two acre lots were not required.
- 4. The use is not contrary to the spirit of the ordinance. Mr. Maloney said that the neighbors are in support and it is a minor intrusion into the setback.
- 5B. Denial of the variance would result in unnecessary hardship to the owner because:
 - I. The following special conditions of the property make an area variance necessary in order to allow the development as designed: Mr. Maloney said that they could put the garage on the back of the house but it would not be favorable to the neighbors.
 - II. The same benefit cannot be achieved by some other reasonably feasible method that would not impose an undue financial burden: Mr. Maloney said that if the garage were to be located on the other side it would cause a financial burden and it would not meet the

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Mr. Stanton informed the Applicants that they would be receiving a decision letter and explained 138 139 the 30-day appeal process.

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141 Mr. Field mentioned an email that Phil Wilson sent to various Board members, dated May 17, 2009,

142 where he raised potential conflicts on the Board in regard to actions at the Select Board Meeting. Zoning Board of Adjustment Minutes May 26, 2009 Ms. Lermer referred to the email and asked why Michele Peckham was not mentioned in the email

144 as having a potential conflict.

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146 Mr. Stanton said that the email was not on the agenda and has nothing to do with the business on the 147 agenda.

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149 Mr. Stanton said that he read the notice of the juror standard at the beginning of the meeting and if 150 there was anyone who wanted to object to anyone sitting this evening, they had an opportunity to do 151 it then.

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Mr. Field Moved that Mr. Wilson's email dated Sunday, May 17, 2009 is made a part of the record of this Meeting with respect to the Corbett case.

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- 156 Ms. Smith said that the email is one man's personal opinion without substance. She said that Mr. 157 Wilson is entitled to his opinion but strongly disagreed that his email of May 17, 2009 be made part 158
 - of the permanent record of the Corbett case, #2009:03.

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There was no second to the Motion. The Motion failed.

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- 162 Mr. Stanton turned the Chair over to Ms. Smith and recused himself from the Corbett case.
- Mr. Field and Mr. Batchelder recused themselves. 163
- 164 Ms. Smith seated Mr. Gordon, Mr. Turchan and Ms. Wood for Mr. Stanton, Mr. Field and Mr.
- 165 Batchelder.

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Unfinished Business

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2009:03 - Vincent Peter Corbett, Jr., 134 Walnut Ave., North Hampton. The Applicant requests a variance from Article IV, Section 409.9.A.1 to establish a building lot that has less than the required 100-feet wetland buffer setback. Property owner: Vincent Peter Corbett, Jr., Property location: 134 Walnut Ave., M/L 019-003, 004, 005 & M/L 015-017, zoning district R-2. This case is continued from the April 28, 2009 meeting.

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In attendance for this application:

Vincent Peter Corbett, Owner/Applicant

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Ms. Smith asked Mr. Corbett to present his case again since it had been continued the past couple of months.

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Mr. Corbett said that he has lived in North Hampton for 40 years and the purpose of his variance request is to carve out a parcel of land to build his retirement home on. He would like to "down size" from his current home. He went through the five criteria of the variance standard test under the Boccia analysis.

- 183 • When the 50-feet wetlands setback was changed to 100-feet in 2003 it has made the proposed 184 building envelope unacceptable 185
 - Would not be contrary to the public interest to grant the variance because the criterion is met
 - Granting the variance would ultimately protect the wetlands and the head waters of the Winnicut River
 - The 100-feet setback results in an inability to have a building envelope to build a retirement home close to the road, if he were to build further back they would have to construct a long driveway crossing wetlands and constructing culverts and would be encroaching on land he wanted to preserve in the first place.

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- The unique shape of the land renders the land unbuildable
 - The land would not be able to be utilized without a variance to the wetlands setback requirement of
 - Substantial justice will be done because if given the variance to be able to build the house put the remaining portion of the land in conservation for fair market value.
 - Surrounding property values would not be diminished it would enhance the value of abutting property because no one would be building on the other side of his property because he owns it.

Mr. Gordon asked for the approximate square footage of the cross hatch depiction on the map. Mr. Corbett did not know. Mr. Gordon asked if Mr. Corbett would have any objection to having the Building Inspector give an estimate of the square footage. Mr. Corbett had no objections.

Mr. Corbett explained that he has been approached by developers to develop his land in the past and has declined.

Ms. Smith asked questions about the in-ground pool that once existed on the property. Mr. Corbett explained that the in-ground pool was a "bag pool" made of concrete and was filled in; the concrete was not removed. He also explained that the tennis court was dug up and removed.

Mr. Turchan said that NH Soils did the wetlands delineation on the plan but did not certify the drawings. Mr. Corbett did not know why.

Mr. Corbett said that Mr. Cote came out to the property and marked the test holes.

Mr. Turchan questioned where the septic for the proposed house on lot two would be located. Mr. Corbett said it would be located behind the existing barn. Mr. Turchan said that by measuring 75-feet from the wetlands for the proposed septic system for the proposed house and it would end up on lot one. Mr. Corbett said that he hasn't thought about where to put the septic; he is only looking to get an approved building envelope.

Ms. Smith said that in order to approve a buildable lot there are questions that will need answers to.

Mr. Gordon questioned the members on why the Applicant would need to depict a septic system on the plan when he was requesting a variance to the wetlands to create a building envelope.

Mr. Mabey explained that during the subdivision approval process (through the Planning Board) it has to be proven that the lot can support a septic system under both State and local regulations.

Mr. Turchan said that there is a State standard that prohibits the "breakage" of a lot under so many acres unless it's proven it can support a septic system.

Mr. Gordon said that the Applicant is only asking for relief from the wetland buffer to create a building envelope. He said that the absence of an approved septic area is not a reason to deny the variance the Applicant is requesting.

Mr. Mabey said that if the Applicant is granted the variance, then his next course of action would be to apply to the Planning Board for subdivision approval.

Ms. Smith opened the Public Hearing for those in support of the Application. 241

Mr. Phil Wilson disclosed that he is the Chairman of the Planning Board, and Co-Chair of North Hampton Forever and a Rockingham Planning Commission Commissioner for North Hampton. He explained that Page 5 of 11

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- North Hampton Forever was formed in 2001 and members of the Committee went out and identified parcels of interest (for placing in permanent conservation) and prioritized them. Mr. Corbett's property was a property of interest to preserve. Mr. Corbett had a developer do a conceptual subdivision which was done before 2003 when the setback to the wetlands was 50-feet. He said that the issues of the septic would be addressed if Mr. Corbett chose to apply for a subdivision with the Planning Board. Mr. Wilson said that North Hampton Forever and the Conservation Commission favor this application because it would give the
- Town the opportunity to acquire another significant piece of land in the head waters of the Winnicut River.

 Mr. Wilson said that if the variance is granted there is still no guarantee that an agreement would be made with the Corbett's. He further stated that he is very interested in conservation and would like to see that significant parcel of land in conservation instead of being developed.

significant parcel of land in conservation instead of being developed 254

Mr. Wilson said that the Corbett's would need to do a subdivision plan to include the current house, the proposed house and would need to leave adequate frontage for a road. The property can't be appraised as subdividable property without a road. He explained that the 50-feet strip of land would be developed into a road if the land were subdivided and if the land were to be put in conservation land the 50-feet strip would be the access to that conservation land.

Mr. Turchan thought it would behoove North Hampton Forever that an accurate delineation of the wetlands be preformed. Mr. Wilson agreed; he explained that once North Hampton Forever is at the point where there is a willing seller of property and they are willing to buy then a conceptual subdivision needs to be done and a certified appraiser does a "yellow book" appraisal. The appraisal cannot be done without a certified wetlands delineation of the property.

Ms. Smith opened the Public Hearing to anyone opposed to the Application.

Richard Batchelder, an abutter to the property, asked that Mr. Don Gould speak on his behalf. Ms. Smith swore in witnesses.

Mr. Don Gould, spoke on the Batchelder Family's behalf in opposition to the application. Mr. Gould said that the Batchelders have lived in North Hampton for generations. They originally owned a farm that is now the Winterberry subdivision. They currently own a 25-acre wood lot that abuts proposed lot #3 shown on the plan and identified as tax map 15-18. He explained that the Batchelders had enjoyed unrestricted access to the wood lot for decades. He said that Mr. Corbett bought the property in the 1970s and built an in-ground swimming pool blocking the wood lot access. The Batchelders took them to Court and they were ordered to either remove the pool or put in new access route to the woodlot. Mr. Corbett put in a new access point and cut down trees but did not remove the stumps, they went back to Court and the Mr. Corbett was ordered to remove the stumps making the road passable, and by Court mandate Mr. Corbett was required to prepare a site plan that showed woods road and the right-of-way on the plan and recorded at the Registry of Deeds which he did. Mr. Gould said that because of the history, the Batchelders are concerned about their access to their woodlot, and added that there are other woodlot owners that access their lots through that access point.

Mr. Gould suggested that the members take into account the following:

• There are markings on the plan that appear to have been placed on there after the surveyor prepared the plan, he referred to the cross hatchings on proposed lot #2.

No indication on the plan of the square footage of the building area
No indication of the location of the septic

No wetland delineation on lot # 3 at all

• The Conservation Commission wrote a letter to the ZBA endorsing the proposal even though there are significant wetlands issues involved. The Conservation Commission objected to every wetland buffer application before the ZBA regardless of how significant the intrusion was.

Mr. Gould said on behalf of the Batchelders that the ZBA should not consider in any way the potential acquisition of any land from Mr. Corbett by North Hampton Forever. The Board is supposed to confine consideration to the five criteria and should not consider the potential of land that may come to the Town. He suggested that North Hampton Forever should not be a factor because there is no guarantee that the Town will get the Corbett property. He said that there may be other variances the Corbett's would need if the new lot is created. Mr. Gould concluded by saying that the Batchelders are opposed to the Town paying any money, in these difficult economic times, to acquire more conservation land especially the Corbett land because it is very wet and maybe not developable. He said that if the variance is granted and the Planning Board approves the subdivision, the Batchelder' would like to be included in the decision that guarantees their access rights and the other property owners that use that right of way, and that the Corbett's or the Town agree to maintain the right of way in its current condition due to erosion or increased traffic.

Mr. Turchan measured the wood lot road on the plan to be between 40 and 50 feet wide and narrows down to less than 40 at a certain point.

Mr. Gould said that the Court decision stated that the width of the access way should be sufficient to accommodate vehicles and tractors.

Mr. Batchelder said that there are approximately 15 people who own woodlots and use the Corbett right-of-way, and many of those people depend on the wood to heat their homes.

Mr. Batchelder said that he is concerned with public access because of trash and cigarettes that could burn the woods down.

Mr. Carl Walker, 62 Winnicut Road, said that the wood road goes straight through his property. He spoke in opposition to the Town purchasing the land for conservation because it is so wet.

Dieter Ebert said that he is a woodlot owner and said he believed that there are three woodlot owners in North Hampton that use the Corbett right-of-way to access their lots.

Ms. Smith and Mr. Turchan agreed that the application was incomplete.

Mr. Gordon was concerned with the relevance of the information the Board was looking for. He said that Mr. Corbett was not before the ZBA requesting a subdivision; he was before the board to seek relief from the wetland setback to create a building envelope only. He said that any relief granted could include protective language to protect the rights of those who own woodlots and access those lots through the Corbett's right-of-way.

Mr. Turchan commented that by granting the variance it would potentially be granting another lot.

Ms. Smith called for a recess at 9:38 p.m.
The meeting was reconvened at 9:48 p.m.

Mr. Salomon spoke as the Select Board liaison to the ZBA. He said that it was his job to ensure that however the Board decided the case that it is a clear record in case it is appealed. He suggested the following:

• The extent at which the Board considers the potential of North Hampton Forever acquiring the Corbett land is important. Is it substantial justice that the Board allow construction within the buffer because the trade off is that the Town may get a lot of conservation land in return? Under the criterion: Is it contrary to public interest, the Board should consider whether or not the end justifies the means.

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- If the Board decides not to consider North Hampton Forever's potential acquisition then the Board should consider whether or not the application can stand on its own. Maybe the Board should find out from a soil scientist the value of the wetland that may be encroached upon.
- The Board should consider the protection of the woodlot owners and if the public has access to the abutting property would there be a lot more people utilizing it increasing risk of fire, trash and litter and people driving away the game for those who hunt. Would there be a diminution of value for surrounding properties.

Mr. Wilson suggested that the Board treat the case like those in the past and require that the impact on the wetlands be mitigated.

Ms. Lermer Moved and Mr. Turchan seconded the Motion to continue the Corbett case #2009:03 to the June 23, 2009 Meeting to give the Applicant time to come back to the Board with additional information and to conduct a site walk of the property prior to the June Meeting.

The Board requested the following information from the Applicant:

- 1. Mr. Cote attests that all the markings on the plan presented to the Board are his.
- 2. NH Soil Scientist certifies the delineation of wetlands on the plan presented to the Board.
- 3. NH Soil Scientist to perform a functional wetlands analysis on the value of the wetlands located in the "diamond shape" area on lot #2 and soil values in the proposed buildable area.
- 4. The depiction of a 50-foot road that would satisfy any future subdivision, be added to the plan; the road to begin at Walnut Avenue and end at the Pine Hill connection.
- 5. On the plot plan:
 - a. proposed septic system location on Lot #2
 - b. proposed building location and distances from wetlands on Lot #2
 - c. Specify the one acre of contiguous uplands with square footage on Lot #2
 - d. Major brooks on Lot #3
 - e. Location of septic system on Lot #1
- 6. Results of test pits #1-6 performed by NH Soil Scientists
- 7. And any other information the Board may deem necessary to assist in making a determination.
- The vote passed (4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention). Mr. Gordon abstained.
- Ms. Chase was directed to type up the "punch list" and send a copy to Mr. Corbett with Ms. Smith's signature.
- The Board will determine a good time to hold the site walk and contact Mr. Corbett when the date is set.
- 390 Mr. Stanton assumed the Chair.
- 391 Mr. Field and Mr. Batchelder were reseated.

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Mr. Stanton Moved and Ms. Smith seconded the Motion to table the March 24, 2009 and April 28, 2009 Meeting Minutes to the June 23, 2009 Meeting.

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Mr. Field referred to the March 24, 2009 Meeting Minutes and suggested that he and Mr. Stanton meet and try to submit a set of corrected minutes that they could agree upon. He said that it would probably take two to three hours to accomplish. He said that an alternative would be to hold a special meeting.

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Mr. Stanton said that the Board can use the original draft Minutes as a basis and said he did not think there were that many issues, and said that it could be a lengthy session but does not think it needs to be.

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405 Ms. Smith agreed, and said that she didn't think it would take very long.

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Mr. Stanton said that the Minutes are the Board's and should acted upon by the Board; the Board can decide to hold a special meeting to discuss amendments to the minutes.

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The vote passed (4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention). Mr. Field abstained.

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Mr. Field Moved that he and Mr. Stanton be authorized by the Board to spend time to try and reduce the issues involved in the March 24, 2009 Minutes down to a few items that can be addressed by the Board at the next meeting, and do it so in a very short and efficient manner.

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There was no second to the Motion; the Motion failed.

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Alternate recommendations

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420 Mr. Stanton explained that at the March 24, 2009 Meeting the Board acted on the verbal guidance 421 that the Board was empowered to appoint alternates. The Board selected four alternates, and then it 422 was discovered that Town Counsel advised to follow the advice of the Local Government Center, 423 and that the Select Board would continue to be the appointment authority for the alternates. The 424 Select Board has retained Town Counsel which advised the Select Board to (1) that they would 425 retain the authority to appoint alternates, (2) they would ask the ZBA to make recommendations for 426 the alternates and (3) that the Board members all have equal vote (both appointed and elected members). He said that under the ZBA Rules of Procedure only primary members can vote on 427 428 alternates. Mr. Stanton asked that Ms. Lermer not participate in voting on any alternate matters.

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Mr. Stanton said that at the May 18, 2009 Select Board Meeting that the Select Board received an opinion from Town Counsel that an elected and appointed member carries the same weight on voting on the recommendation of alternates.

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Mr. Field asked if Mr. Stanton had a copy of the May 18, 2009 Select Board Meeting Minutes and he did not but said that he was at the Meeting and was presenting the information as he heard it.

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- Mr. Stanton suggested that the interested alternates address the Board in the order that their letters of interest were received by the Board.
- 439 1. Mr. David Buber

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- 440 2. Mr. Paul Marston
 - 3. Mr. Peter Simmons
 - 4. Mr. Richard Bettcher
 - 5. Mr. Robert Landman

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Mr. Stanton explained that the Zoning Board Members would take a vote and authorize the Chair to write a letter to the Select Board indicating their choice for appointment by the Select Board. It would be the Zoning Board's prerogative what to do with the names of those who were interested and not selected.

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Ms. Smith and Mr. Batchelder said that they were at the May 18, 2009 Select Board Meeting and Mr. Stanton stated what happened accurately.

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453 Mr. Stanton introduced Mr. David Buber. Mr. Buber said he has lived in North Hampton for 10-454 years. He said that he would like to be appointed to the Zoning Board as an alternate because he has numerous concerns that the Local, State and Federal Government Agencies make today and the 455 456 impact those decisions have on future generations. He said that proper planning and zoning regulations play a key role on the environment. He said that if he is appointed he would pledge to 457 458 serve the Zoning Board and the townspeople to the best of his ability, and that he would take into 459 account all facts before making any decisions. He will keep in mind the rights of land owners and 460 abutters alike while upholding the laws of the State of New Hampshire and the Town of North 461 Hampton.

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Mr. Marston was not present.

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Mr. Peter Simmons said that at this time he would like to retain his position to stay on the alternate list but would like to give his support to Mr. David Buber, and opined that he would make a good alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

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Mr. Richard Bettcher also gave his support to Mr. David Buber.

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- Mr. Bob Landman asked that the Board consider his application for ZBA alternate. He said that being self-employed allows him to be accommodating with his time. He went over his resume with the Board that included the following experience:
- Rockingham Planning Commissioner for North Hampton since 1995
 - RPC Executive Board, Chairman
 - RPC Regional Impact Committee, Member
 - Planning Board Alternate 1995
 - Planning Board Member 1996-1999
- RPC Route 1 Corridor Study Committee.
- He said that he would be proud to be a Member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

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The Board decided to keep a list of the interested parties for future reference in case a position becomes vacant but to also go through the normal procedure and advertise the position to the general public.

	Zoning Board of Adjustment Minutes May 26, 2009
486	The Board agreed to have the candidates leave the room and the Primary Board Members would
487	write down the name of the candidate of their choice.
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489	Mr. Stanton, Mr. Batchelder, Ms. Smith and Mr. Field wrote down the candidate they preferred.
490	Mr. Stanton tallied the votes and said that Mr. David Buber received at least three votes.
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492	Mr. Stanton Moved and Ms. Smith seconded the Motion to authorize the Chair to write a
493	letter to the Select Board, the Zoning Board's decision to recommend Mr. David Buber as a
494	Zoning Board Alternate.
495	The vote was unanimous in favor of the Motion (4-0).
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497	Mr. Field questioned Mr. Stanton why he scheduled a special meeting on May 20, 2009. Mr. Field
498	said that he was out of town at the time.
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500	Mr. Stanton said that he scheduled a special meeting to discuss the appointment of the fifth alternate
501	to the ZBA. He said that the Select Board Meeting of May 18, 2009 resolved the issues so the ZBA
502	special meeting was cancelled.
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504	Ms. Smith Moved and Mr. Batchelder seconded the Motion to adjourn at 11:15pm.
505	The vote passed (4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention). Mr. Field abstained.
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507	Respectfully submitted,
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509	Wendy V. Chase

511 512 Recording Secretary

Approved July 28, 2009