

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 23, 2008**

7:00 p.m. - Selectmen's Meeting Room, 63 Main Street, Northborough, MA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Rand, Chairman
Jeff Amberson, Vice Chairman
Leslie Rutan, Clerk
Fran Bakstran
William Pantazis

*Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 9, 2008 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the June 9, 2008 Regular Meeting as submitted; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:00 p.m. - PUBLIC HEARING

Establishing a Fee for Wine & Malt Beverage License Holders who wish to sell Cordials and Liqueurs.

Mr. Brenner recommended that the Board set an additional charge of \$250 for those Wine & Malt Beverage License Holders who wish to also serve cordials and liqueurs.

The amended fee schedule would be as follows:

Restaurant - Beer & Wine:	\$1750.00 (current fee)
Restaurant – Beer, Wine, Cordials & Liqueurs:	\$2000.00 (new fee)*
Restaurant - All Alcoholic:	\$2250.00 (current fee)

All Wine & Malt Beverage License Holders were invited to attend tonight's public hearing. None were present.

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to establish the fee for the sale of cordials and liqueurs by Wine & Malt Beverage License Holders at \$2,000; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members in favor.

7:05 p.m. - CLAUDIA McGUIRE, DOG OFFICER

Presentation on Leash Law.

Dog Officer Claudia McGuire was present to remind the public that the Town does have a leash law and that it applies to all trails in Town, as well as the property at 119 Colburn Street. Tonight's presentation is being made in response to recent complaints when she posted signs at 119 Colburn Street reminding residents of the leash law. This is an area where residents gather to run their dogs without being leashed.

Ms. McGuire provided some history leading up to her decision to post the signs at this particular location. She added that she would not oppose a dog park and recommended that interested residents in tonight's audience get together to research whether or not this would be a feasible option in Town.

PRESENTATION ON LEASH LAW CONT. . .

Richard Robinson of 167 Howard Street spoke on behalf of a majority of the audience members. Following a brief presentation, Mr. Robinson requested permission from the Board of Selectmen to form a committee that would investigate whether or not an Off-leash Dog Sport Area in Northborough would be feasible. He also asked the Board to recognize "PWPWP" (People Who Play With Pups) as a Political Action Committee. This Committee will work to raise the funds to create a legal Off-leash Dog Sport Area. Chairman Rand informed Mr. Robinson that the "PWPWP" Committee must be registered as a Political Action Committee with the Town Clerk's Office.

Selectman Bakstran requested that in addition to researching whether or not a dog park is feasible, that the Committee also look at the option of designating certain areas in Town as "dog friendly". Ms. McGuire agreed that this is a good idea and suggested that maybe one of the trails could be designated as a "dog friendly - off leash" area. Selectman Bakstran asked the Committee to also look into whether or not any of the options presented would require a bylaw change to the current leash law.

Selectman Rutan disagreed with the "off leash" designated area, stating that residents should be allowed to walk all trails without encountering unleashed dogs. She stated that the Town has a leash law and it is up to the Board of Selectmen to assure that it is upheld. She is concerned that by not doing so, a double standard is created. She added that she would be in favor of a "fenced-in" dog park rather than "off-leash" designated areas.

Lynn Welsh at 246 Brewer Street stated that she uses the property at 119 Colburn Street to run her dog. She informed the Board that she is not here to advocate a dog park, but rather agrees with the suggestion to designate certain areas as "dog friendly". She asked that this option be included in the options being researched by the Committee.

The Board agreed to support the efforts of the "PWPWP" Committee and their desire to explore whether or not a dog park would be feasible in Town. The Board asked that the Committee also explore the option of designating certain areas as "dog friendly". The Board asked Ms. McGuire to work with this Committee in their research efforts and to report back to the Board with their findings. It was also agreed that Mr. Robinson would be the contact person for the "PWPWP" Committee.

7:35 p.m. - DAVID DURGIN, FIRE CHIEF
Presentation on Fire Ladder Truck.

Chief Durgin was present to request the authorization of the Board to purchase a Fire Department Ladder Truck. He provided details of the events leading up to tonight's request – see attached memorandum from the Fire Chief dated June 18, 2008.

Mr. Brenner provided a brief presentation on the proposed funding for the ladder truck, including the receipt of mitigation funds from the Avalon Bay and Loop Projects. A brief discussion followed.

PRESENTATION ON FIRE LADDER TRUCK CONT. . .

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to authorize the purchase of the Fire Department Ladder Truck; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

REPORTSWilliam Pantazis

- No report.

Fran Bakstran

- Attended the recent traffic study meeting. Noted that the meeting was very well attended. Looking forward to seeing the options for the proposed modifications to the Route 20 Corridor.
- Attended a recent Court of Honor ceremony for Garrett Price. Congratulated him on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.
- Noted that the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals recently made a presentation on the proposed zoning bylaw changes in the downtown business district. Noted that additional meetings will be held to discuss this issue and encouraged the public to get involved by attending the meetings.
- Noted that the Solid Waste Committee continues to meet and is looking forward to coming before the Board to present their options.

Leslie Rutan, Clerk

- Noted that the power point presentation that was presented at the traffic study meeting is available on the Town website. The meeting is also being re-broadcast on the Town Cable Channel 11.
- Thanked the DPW Department for cleaning up the overgrown brush at the intersection of Hudson and Allen Streets. Encouraged residents to report any other intersections that need attention.
- Thanked the DPW Department for their efforts in coordinating Big Truck Day.

Jeff Amberson, Vice Chairman

- Thanked the DPW Department for their efforts in coordinating Big Truck Day.
- Thanked John Coderre for his eloquent job in presenting the Board's viewpoint to the Regional School Committee on the reimbursement issue.
- Thanked the Fire and Police Departments for their efforts in the recent storm.

Dawn Rand

- Thanked John Coderre for his presentation to the Regional School Committee on behalf of the Board. Noted that Mr. Coderre has drafted a letter to the Regional School Committee asking them once again to consider the Board's request relative to the reimbursement issue. Asked the members of the Board to review the draft and get back to John if they have any suggestions.
- Announced the summer concert series at Ellsworth Park on Route 135 sponsored by the Community Affairs Committee.

Barry M. Brenner, Town Administrator

- No report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

BOARD SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to set the Summer Meeting Schedule as follows: July 21, 2008 and August 25, 2008; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEEDS A773 THROUGH A776

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to approve and execute Cemetery Deeds A773 through A776; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

8:15 p.m. – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Subsection 23B, Subsection 3, Labor Negotiations; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Pantazis	“aye”	Rutan	“aye”
Amberson	“aye”	Rand	“aye”
Bakstran	“aye”		

Chairman Rand announced that the Board would return from Executive Session to make an announcement.

8:30 p.m. – RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

Mr. Brenner announced that the Town of Northborough and the Northborough Municipal Employees’ Association (NMEA) Union have reached an agreement for a new contract. The contract is for three years effective July 1, 2008 and provides wage increases of 3% each year.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to adjourn; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant to the
Board of Selectmen