

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 14, 2009**

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

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

*Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 20, 2009 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the July 20, 2009 Regular Meeting as presented; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 17, 2009 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the August 17, 2009 Regular Meeting as presented; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:00 p.m. - **PUBLIC HEARING**

To consider an application for a "Change of Manager" for the All Alcoholic Restaurant License as submitted by West End Corp. d/b/a White Cliffs Restaurant for premises located at 167 East Main Street.

Michael LoPresti introduced himself as the new general manager at the White Cliff's Restaurant. He will be replacing the former manager Phyllis Joseph who will continue with the company on a part-time basis. Mr. LoPresti stated that he has over forty years in the food and beverage industry.

Chief Leahy indicated that he has no areas of concern in regards to this application.

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to approve the application to change the manager for the All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License as submitted by West End Corp. d/b/a White Cliffs Restaurant for premises located at 167 East Main Street from Phyllis Joseph to Michael LoPresti; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:03 p.m. - **PROCLAMATION – 137th HOMECOMING DAY
NORTHBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Richard Sargent was present to inform the Board that the 137th Annual Homecoming Day for the Northborough High School Alumni Association will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009.

NORTHBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONT. . .

Mr. Sargent advised the Board that the Reunion Homecoming will include the following events:

- Breakfast in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Town Hall.
- Luncheon at the Trinity Church at 12 Noon.
- Dinner at the White Cliffs Restaurant at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Sargent invited members of the Board to attend any one of the events scheduled.

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to proclaim October 3, 2009 as Homecoming Day for the Northborough High School Alumni Association in recognition of their 137th Reunion; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:05 p.m. - **HENRY FITZGERALD, VICE PRESIDENT FACILITY OPERATIONS – GENZYME CORPORATION**

Mr. Coderre introduced Henry Fitzgerald, Vice President of Facility Operations at Genzyme Corporation. Mr. Fitzgerald spoke about the operations of the company and provided a project overview of their plans to create an operations center in an existing 210,000 square foot warehouse facility located at 11 Forbes Road. Genzyme is a biotech company founded in 1981 and currently employs over 11,000 people worldwide. The \$40 million project is expected to be completed by the Fall of 2010 and it is anticipated that approximately 165 Genzyme employees will occupy the building once its open.

Following Mr. Fitzgerald's presentation, several questions and comments were heard from members of the Board.

7:15 p.m. - **NORTHBOROUGH ROTARY CLUB**

- Update on Applefest Celebration.
- Request to Close Blake Street for Applefest Street Fair.

Steve Georgeson, President of the Rotary Club and Michelle Gillespie, Applefest Chairman were present to provide information on the scheduled events of this year's Applefest celebration. In addition, Ms. Gillespie requested that Blake Street be closed on September 26, 2009 (rain date September 27th) for the Applefest Street Fair.

Ms. Gillespie recognized many of the local groups who either sponsored, helped with the planning or will be participating in this year's event. Mr. Coderre thanked Mr. Georgeson and Ms. Gillespie for taking charge in coordinating this entire event.

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to close Blake Street on September 26, 2009 between the hours of 6 a.m. – 5 p.m. for the annual Applefest Street Fair, with a rain date of September 27, 2009; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:25 p.m. - **MARK LEAHY, POLICE CHIEF**
Assabet Park Signage.

Chief Leahy made a brief presentation about the need for signage at the various Town parks in order to encourage good conduct and proper behavior.

Mr. Coderre added that the Parks & Recreation Commission voted unanimously at their September 8, 2009 meeting to recommend adoption of the new regulations and signage at the various Town parks. In addition to Chief Leahy, the regulations and signage are also recommended by the Recreation Director and Public Works Director.

Selectman Rutan stated that although the signs may be warranted, she is saddened by the negative message that they will portray to the majority of park users who are using them without incident.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to adopt the following regulation for the use of Assabet Park, Ellsworth McAfee Park and Memorial Field; Selectman Pantazis seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Prohibited Activities

Inappropriate conduct in the park is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The following activities are expressly prohibited in the park: fighting, use of profane and/or offensive language or gestures, smoking, consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs, and any other behavior or conduct that is disruptive of the peace and/or good order of a public park designed for use by children.

Violation of this regulation shall be grounds for removal from the park and denial of future access to the park. The Board of Selectmen may establish guidelines or a schedule governing denial of access and the duration of such denial.

This regulation shall be enforced by the Northborough Police Department.

REPORTS

Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman

- No report.

Leslie Rutan, Clerk

- Questioned when the Town's website redesign will be up and running? Mr. Coderre responded that the redesign is in the final stages and he is hoping to bring it before the Board at their next meeting in September or October.
- Questioned if various meetings could be rebroadcast over the new website? Mr. Coderre stated that he is looking into whether or not this would be a possibility.
- Requested an update on the results of the Open Space survey.
- Thanked the School Superintendent for the recent District News Letter.

Leslie Rutan Report Cont. . .

- Requested an update on the frequent power outages experienced on Indian Meadow Drive. Mr. Coderre stated that that whole area is serviced by aging underground utilities. Mass Electric has responded to his letter inquiring about these problems and indicated to him that they will be looking into this problem and will report back to him with their findings.
- Questioned when paving is scheduled to begin on Collins Street? DPW Director Kara Buzanoski stated that paving is scheduled to begin during either the last week in September or the first week in October.
- Thanked the Police Department for their efforts in the recent arrest of the individuals responsible for some recent robberies of local establishments.
- Noted that the Parade banner has been designed and will be ready for the Applefest parade.

Jeff Amberson

- Announced that the Fire Department will be hosting their Annual Fire Prevention Fair at the Fire Station on October 4th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

William Pantazis

- No report.

Fran Bakstran, Chairman

- Attended a meeting between the Wind Committee, the State Delegation and the Assistant Commissioner of the Agriculture Department to discuss if there is any agricultural restrictions on the land at Tougas Farms (the area being proposed for the location of the met tower); and if so, how we can work around them.
- Provided members of the Board with a Statement of Facts from the Wind Committee to be used in the event that a press release needs to be issued in response to those residents who are uncertain about the method and motives of the Wind Committee.
- Announced that the G-Green Design Center recently opened their doors at 290 West Main Street. They carry many environmentally friendly products.

John Coderre, Town Administrator

- Informed the Board that Verizon has indicated that the information regarding when Verizon FiOS will be available to specific areas in Town is proprietary, and therefore will not be made available to the general public. Verizon also indicated that they are absolutely on schedule to have the entire Town 100% complete in accordance with the terms of the license. That date is July 2012.
- Announced that Health Agent Jamie Terry has put together an Emergency Preparedness Guidebook that is specific to Northborough. This is a great tool for knowing what to do in the first 72 hours of an emergency. Copies are free and available at the Town Offices. Mr. Coderre also indicated that this document will be available on the new website in a PDF format.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cultural Council Grant Applications

Chairman of the Cultural Council Terry Crean noted that the Cultural Council is now accepting grant applications for the year 2010. All applications must be postmarked no later than October 15, 2009 to be eligible.

Ms. Crean also announced that the Cultural Council currently has openings for volunteers. Encouraged residents to apply if interested.

Richard Chandler – 31 Valentine Road

Mr. Chandler was present to express his concern regarding the administrative fee on the water bills. DPW Director Kara Buzanoski was present and answered several questions about the structure of the water bills. She also spoke about the history of the Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds and explained the reasons as to why the rates have increased.

Chairman Bakstran thanked Mr. Chandler for sharing his concerns with the Board this evening. She suggested that he speak to the Water & Sewer Commissioners directly, since the Board of Selectmen does not have any authority over this issue.

Selectman Rutan suggested that the information provided this evening be included on the Town website – with a note on future water bills directing them to the website. She also suggested that the DPW/Water & Sewer website include a “most frequently asked questions” portion where this information can be included.

Again, the Board thanked Mr. Chandler for sharing his concerns with them this evening.

PROCLAIM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DAYS FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to proclaim October 2, 3 & 4, 2009 as Knights of Columbus Days for the Handicapped in recognition of their annual fund raising campaign; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

INFORMATION ON HOTEL AND MEALS TAX

Mr. Coderre provided a brief update on the Local Option Excise Revenue for Meals & Room Occupancy. Following his presentation, Mr. Coderre suggested that the Board postpone taking a formal position on either of these options, given that the Town’s FY10 Budget remains balanced at the current time. This would allow the Board time to move cautiously and to first get a better sense of what will happen with State revenues and where we are in terms of our local receipts.

Selectman Amberson supported the decision to wait, adding that he is happy to see that we are not advocating to increase taxes just because we can.

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEEDS A817, A818 & A819

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve and execute Cemetery Deeds A817, A818 & A819; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant to the
Board of Selectmen