

# ~ PLYMOUTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN ~

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011**

TOWN HALL MAYFLOWER ROOM

The Selectmen held a meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall in the Mayflower Room.

Present: William P. Hallisey, Jr., Chairman  
John T. Mahoney, Jr., Vice Chairman  
Sergio O. Harnais [arrived at 6:30 p.m.]  
Mathew J. Muratore [arrived at 6:30 p.m.]  
Belinda A. Brewster

Mark Stankiewicz, Town Manager

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hallisey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Selectman Brewster, seconded by Vice Chairman Mahoney, the Board voted to enter Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, as an open meeting on the matter may have a detrimental effect on the Town's negotiating position. By roll call: Brewster – yes, Mahoney – yes, and Hallisey – yes.

Chairman Hallisey noted that the Board would return to open session following executive session.

## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Chairman Hallisey reconvened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prior to the commencement of the Board's formal meeting agenda, Chairman Hallisey took a moment to recognize the support shown to the Gutowski family by the Town of Plymouth and its residents during Army Specialist Steven E. Gutowski's funeral services. Chairman Hallisey also thanked the Town's Veterans Agent, Roxanne Whitbeck, for the time and effort she dedicated to assisting the Gutowski family in their time of need.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Funeral for Army Specialist Steven Gutowski** – Town Manager Mark Stankiewicz reported upon the funeral services held on October 17, 2011 for Army Specialist Steven Gutowski, a Plymouth resident who lost his life while serving in Afghanistan. The funeral, he said, was well attended by residents and dignitaries, alike. Mr. Stankiewicz thanked Plymouth's residents and the Town's Police, Fire, and Public Works departments—with special recognition for Veterans' Agent Roxanne Whitbeck—for their show of respect during the services held to honor SPC Gutowski.

**Tax Bills Due by November 1<sup>st</sup>** – Town Manager Mark Stankiewicz reminded the public that tax bills are due on Tuesday, November 1, 2011, noting that the Town will issue tax bills only twice per year (as opposed to quarterly). The vouchers for the first and second quarter bills, he said, were mailed in July, as part of the Town's efforts to save on printing and mailing expenses. Mr. Stankiewicz encouraged taxpayers to contact the Collectors Office and/or visit the Town's website for further information regarding property tax bills.

**Federal Economic Development Grant Application** – Mr. Stankiewicz noted that he and Denis Hanks, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, participated in a conference call with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration ("EDA") to discuss the denial of the Town's grant application for funding of the T-Wharf and Harbor Dredging projects. The EDA, he explained, considered the application to be "non-competitive" and recommended that the Town apply for each project, separately. In addition, he noted, EDA has indicated that it will not consider the Town's applications until the Town can secure other funding to support the projects. Mr. Stankiewicz affirmed that the Plymouth Regional Economic Development Foundation will revise and resubmit the applications for the next round of EDA funding.

**Budget Meeting** – Mr. Stankiewicz informed the Board that he held a meeting with Department Heads to initiate the FY2013 budget-building process. Chairman Hallisey and Selectman Muratore attended the meeting, he said, to clarify the Board's position in seeking budgetary economy, efficiency, and new revenue sources to stabilize the tax rate. Mr. Stankiewicz explained that the discussion centered upon preparing a zero-increase budget with explanations as to legal requirements and justifications of service levels.

**Long Beach Seawall** – Mr. Stankiewicz was pleased to announce that the DPW began work on the Long Beach Seawall this week, with the assistance of rented excavation equipment. The work can only be performed during low tide, he said, and, thus, the reconstruction will extend over a number of weeks.

**Fall Annual Town Meeting** – Mr. Stankiewicz issued a reminder that Fall Town Meeting will take place at Plymouth North High School on Monday, October 24, 2011. There are 33 articles on the warrant, he noted, with topics ranging from aquifer protection amendments to zoning changes. Mr. Stankiewicz reported that the Town Moderator will host a "Town Meeting Preview" on PACTV this Thursday, October 20, 2011.

## **LICENSES**

There were no license applications submitted for the meeting of October 18, 2012.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES**

**Meeting Minutes / July 12, 2011** – On a motion by Selectman Harnais, seconded by Selectman Muratore, the Board approved the minutes of the July 12, 2011 Selectmen’s meeting. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

**Meeting Minutes / July 14, 2011** – On a motion by Selectman Harnais, seconded by Selectman Muratore, the Board approved the minutes of the July 14, 2011 Selectmen’s meeting. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

**Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant** – On a motion by Selectman Harnais, seconded by Selectman Muratore, the Board voted to open the Saturday, April 7, 2012 Spring Annual Town Meeting warrant on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 and close the warrant on Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

**Wild Animal Permit** – The Board granted a Wild Animal Permit pursuant to Chapter 23, Article IV of the Town of Plymouth Bylaws to Damon & Pauline Sgarzi of 53 Forest Avenue for their Pit Bull Terrier mix (male, 1 ½ years old).

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Theodore Bosen, who addressed the Board during its October 11, 2011 meeting regarding the implementation of safety measures at nuclear power facilities, urged the Board to communicate whatever concerns it may have regarding Pilgrim Station to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission as quickly as possible.

On the recommendation of Selectman Muratore, Mr. Bosen held his comments until the discussion on this matter was scheduled to begin, later within the evening’s agenda.

## **UPDATE FROM THE SIMES HOUSE FOUNDATION**

Randy Parker of the Simes House Foundation (“SHF”) addressed the Board with an update on the organization’s efforts to restore the historic property at 29 Manomet Point Road. Prior to commencing his presentation, Mr. Parker introduced a number of SHF members who were in the audience, including Mary Ellen Parker, Kevin Doyle, Jim Hoagland, Jim Pierson, and Will Shain.

Mr. Parker reported that the members of the SHF continue to work on a number of fundraising events and public-relations initiatives to raise money and awareness about the

Simes House/Manomet Commons project. Most recently, he noted, the project was featured in an issue of South Shore Living Magazine. Mr. Parker stated that the SHF is aggressively seeking alternative funding sources with the assistance of a professional grant writer. In addition, he said, KC Graphics (a local web and graphics design firm) will manage SHF's website. Mr. Parker referenced the copies of SHF's Annual Report that he provided for the Board's packets, and he thanked the Board for the opportunity to work on the Simes House/Manomet Commons endeavor.

Members of the Board commended Mr. Parker and his colleagues for the work they have done, thus far, to restore the historic home and convert the property into a public space for Manomet (and Plymouth, at-large).

## **MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITY STUDY**

David Farmer, of the consulting firm McMahon Transportation Engineers and Planners, provided a presentation on the Plymouth Transportation Center Site Selection Study. Mr. Farmer reported that his firm is working with the Greater Attleboro Transit Authority ("GATRA"), Plymouth Growth & Development Corporation (PGDC"), and Town of Plymouth to identify a site for a multi-modal transportation facility (a.k.a. "transportation center").

The transportation center, Mr. Farmer explained, would provide for regional bus operations and increased automobile parking, as well as access for other modes of travel (e.g., bicycles and pedestrians), in a single, integrated, sensitively designed facility. As part of the process of developing a plan for the center, he said, the PGDC/GATRA/Town committee has held seven meetings to date and one public hearing (with another public hearing scheduled for November) to exchange ideas and collect input.

Mr. Farmer outlined the purpose and need for the study; the criteria developed for the facility; potential sites that have been investigated; an overview of the more detailed investigation of the Courthouse Corridor and Memorial Hall parking lot sites; and plans to move forth with the remainder of the study. Ridership on the GATRA and PAL lines has increased, he said, and studies show that the Town needs 400-600 more parking spaces to adequately accommodate visitors to the downtown/waterfront district. Mr. Farmer reported that the committee utilized the 2007 Public Space Action Plan to develop specific criteria against which the eight sites considered could be measured. Most of the sites, he said, were either too small, privately held, or topographically challenging.

Mr. Farmer indicated that two of the sites that received a good deal of attention during the review process were the Memorial Hall parking lot and the 1820 Courthouse Corridor. The committee, he said, ultimately determined that the Courthouse Corridor was too small to accommodate a transportation center. The Memorial Hall lot, on the other hand, was considered the most ideal, allowing for at least two scenarios/options for a parking and transit facility, with room for commercial space. The committee has not yet made its final decision on the selection of a site, Mr. Farmer noted.

Mr. Farmer responded to a handful of brief questions from the Selectmen about the options for a transportation/parking facility at the Memorial Hall lot and the methods by which the Town's parking shortage was determined. Mr. Farmer displayed maps of the Town's parking areas and discussed some of the opportunities for Federal funding of the transportation center project.

Chairman Hallisey opened the presentation to public comment.

Paul Hapgood recommended that the committee investigate the use of satellite parking lots, with shuttles, to transport visitors to the downtown/waterfront district during the busy summer season. Mr. Farmer responded that the PGDC is evaluating the use of parking at outside facilities during major events.

Kevin Doyle questioned whether the Town's historic waterfront is the best place for an imposing parking facility. Mr. Farmer acknowledged that there are a number of considerations—both architectural and aesthetic—to take into account if the Town decides to situate the transportation center at the Memorial Hall lot.

John Burke, Director of Operations for ParkPlymouth (PGDC), noted that the Memorial Hall lot was identified as the most ideal location for a transportation/parking facility in the 2007 Public Space Action Plan. The PGDC, Mr. Burke said, is aware that it must address the way a parking facility will affect the cost of surface parking in the outer areas of the downtown/waterfront district.

At the close of public comment and discussion, Chairman Hallisey thanked Mr. Farmer and Mr. Burke for their informative presentation.

## **NRC TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Selectman Muratore reported on a recent meeting held by the Nuclear Matters Committee ("NMC") to discuss the information brought forth to the Selectmen by Plymouth resident Theodore Bosen during the Selectmen's meeting of October 11, 2011. The committee, he explained, views its advisory capacity as more technical than political, and, thus, it did not take a formal vote upon what stance the Town should take with regard to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission's ("NRC") Near-Term Task Force Review/Report of the events at the Fukushima facility in Japan. The committee did appear, however, to be in favor of asking the NRC to implement the Task Force's recommendations for enhanced safety measures at the country's nuclear power facilities, Selectman Muratore noted.

Mr. Bosen questioned why the NRC would not want to implement the measures recommended by its own Task Force. It appears that nothing is going to stop the relicensing process for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, he observed, but this should not preclude the enhancement of safety in and around the facility. Mr. Bosen stated that, whether one supports the use of nuclear power or not, everyone should be supportive of safety at Pilgrim.

The Selectmen, he said, should chime-in on behalf of the community to endorse the recommendations issued by the Task Force.

Mr. Stankiewicz note that he spoke with the Town's Special Legal Counsel, Sheila Hollis of Duane Morris, and Ms. Hollis has indicated that there is no reason why the Selectmen could not communicate its concerns with the NRC.

Selectman Muratore made a motion to direct the Town's Special Legal Counsel to draft a letter to the NRC as a symbolic gesture in favor of implementing the Near-Term Task Force's recommendations for enhanced safety measures at nuclear power facilities. Selectman Harnais seconded the motion, and the Board voted 5-0-0 in favor.

## **DISCUSSION ON 1820 COURTHOUSE**

Chairman Hallisey introduced a brief discussion on the 1820 Courthouse redevelopment project, noting that he participated in a recent meeting with members of the 1820 Courthouse Consortium to gather and exchange information.

Dean Rizzo, chairman of the 1820 Courthouse Consortium, spoke about the meeting (referenced by Chairman Hallisey), noting that it was very productive to have representation from the Board of Selectmen, the Advisory & Finance Committee, the Planning Board, and the Plymouth Redevelopment Authority ("PRA") at the table to work cooperatively, share ideas, and discuss differences. It appears, Mr. Rizzo said, that all parties want to see the historic structure restored into a great economic engine for the Town.

In response to inquiries from Selectman Muratore and Vice Chairman Mahoney, Mr. Rizzo reported that the PRA has identified funding to renew the insurance policy on the courthouse. The insurance on the building has increased nearly \$3,000, Mr. Rizzo explained, and, thus, the PRA is in the process of gathering other insurance quotes and renegotiating the lease on the Commissioners' Building.

## **BOARD LIAISON / DESIGNEE UPDATES**

**400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee / Plymouth 400, Inc.** – Selectman Brewster reported that she attended two recent meetings related to the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, in her new role as the Selectmen's designee on Plymouth 400, Inc. In light of the Selectmen's decision to reject Plymouth 400, Inc.'s request to dissolve the Town's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, she noted, a meeting was held between representatives of each organization to discuss what the roles of each group will be. Selectman Brewster explained her understanding that the original composition of the Town's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee was established at 15 members with non-overlapping, three year terms. As such, she said, there may be a need to re-establish the committee and re-advertise the seats, with the understanding that former members are encouraged reapply. Selectman Brewster indicated that she will work on determining and defining the roles of each group in the coming months.

**Consolidation Committee** – Selectman Harnais informed the Board that the recently re-established Consolidation Committee held its first meeting earlier during the evening (October 18, 2011). The committee, he said, has decided to bring its recommendations to the Selectmen throughout the year, as opposed to holding all recommendations until the end of the year.

## **OLD BUSINESS / LETTERS / NEW BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Town Meeting** – Vice Chairman Mahoney inquired if the Board was scheduled to meet prior to Town Meeting on October 24, 2011. Mr. Stankiewicz noted that staff would post a meeting at Plymouth North High School just prior to the commencement of Town Meeting proceedings.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

On a motion by Selectman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Harnais, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

*Recorded by Tiffany Park, Clerk to the Board of Selectmen*

*A copy of the October 18, 2011 meeting packet is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen's office.*