

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JUNE 6, 2005
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM**

Board Members Present: David D. Macy, Selectman,
Julie M. Hannum, Selectman

Staff Present: Robert Weitz, Town Administrator

Selectman Macy called the meeting to order at 7PM.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MAY 16TH REGULAR & EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETINGS, AND MAY 23 REGULAR & EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETINGS

Selectman Hannum moved to approve the Regular and Executive Session minutes for May 16, 2005, and the regular session minutes for May 16, 2005. Selectman Macy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. LILA MILUKAS RE: MT. EVERETT KEY CLUB

Lila Milukas of Mt. Everett Key Club (under advisement of the Sheffield Kiwanis Club) asked for the Board's support as well as signs, vests, gloves for their clean-up project (Adopt-A-Highway) on Berkshire School Road scheduled for the fall. The Board indicated they favored this activity and referred Ms Milukas to Town Administrator Weitz who will arrange for special fold-up signs to alert drivers while they are working on the road, vests, gloves and bright yellow trash bags. According to Ms Milukas, she estimates 10 members to work at one time. Town Administrator Weitz advised Ms Milukas that prior to starting, to contact the Police Dept. as they need to know specifically when they will be working on the road.

3. ONE-DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PERMIT APPLICATION - UNIFEM

The Board received a correspondence from Cory Hines of Barrington Stage Company. Ms Hines requested that the Board issue a one-day alcoholic beverage license in conjunction with a dinner event she is coordinating as part of a UNIFEM welcoming conference. Ketchup to Caviar, Inc. will cater a UNIFEM dinner at the Bushnell Sage Library on June 24, 2005. Part of their schedule involves having dinner at the library prior to attending a Barrington Stage Company play. Selectman Hannum stated that she had talked to the Board of Library Trustees member Susan Young who conveyed that the Board of Library Trustees favors this event.

Selectman Hannum moved to grant a one-day wine & beer license to Lynne Urbain, (Ketchup to Caviar, Inc.) in conjunction with a UNIFEM welcoming reception dinner held at the Bushnell Sage Library on June 24, 2005, from 5PM till 8PM, pending proper insurance & licensing forms. Selectman Macy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. MAIL OF NOTE:

➤ **Dept. of Agricultural Resources - re: consideration of acquiring interest in approx. 96 acres of land within Sheffield for Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program**

Town Administrator explained that the state is required to notify a municipality anytime the state considers acquiring an interest in real estate for one of its programs. The letter specified the Department of Agricultural Resources' interest in the Delmolino property located on Sheffield Egremont Road (Map 33 Lot 2 Block 3). Town Administrator advised that all that is required of the board at this time is to announce the letter at a meeting, and then sign and return a form to the state (indicating notice was read at a Selectmen's meeting).

➤ **Mass Highway Dept. re: Bridge Repair Project proposal - Kelsey Road over Schenob Brook**

Mr. Dindio, District Highway Director of Mass. Highway Dept. announced that via their bridge inspection program (to identify and repair deficient bridges throughout the Commonwealth) Mass. Highway Dept. determined that the Kelsey Road Bridge over Schenob Brook is deficient, and would benefit from a pre-fabricated deck replacement. If the town agrees, the state will pay for and contract repair of the bridge as specified in the accompanying plans. During the construction (approx. 1 to 2 months) anticipated in the summer, the bridge would need to be closed. Mass Highway Engineer Mark Moore discussed the repair with Sheffield Highway Superintendent Ron Bassett and Town Administrator Weitz. Town Administrator Weitz informed the Board that the bridge is between Foley and Barnum and he did not think this would impact anyone as there are no homes on that stretch of the street. He also indicated that the Board needs to reply to Mass. Highway. Selectman Hannum moved to approve the Mass. Highway Dept. bridge project on Kelsey Road, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.

➤ **Nancy Ghitman re: Traffic on East Main Street, Ashley Falls**

Town Administrator Weitz read Nancy Ghitman's (2 other names were listed -- Don & Maria Ghee). This letter expressed concerns about their observation of increased traffic/speeds brought on by construction along Route 7A with request to place a 4-way stop sign (2 additional stop signs would be needed) at the intersection of School Street and East Main Street. In addition, they requested several, " Children at play. Please slow down" signs, enforcing the speed limit, and posting speed limit signs. Selectman Macy stated that the board will contact the Police Chief and Highway Superintendent for their recommendation.

➤ **Community Television for the Southern Berkshires re: Public Access Programming Fee**

Community Television for the Southern Berkshires sent a follow-up letter addressed to the Boards of Selectmen of Sheffield, Stockbridge, Lee, Lenox, and Great Barrington, requesting a new fee structure involving charging an equal access fee percentage for all five towns receiving its public access programming. They proposed a 5% per cable subscriber rate with the elimination of the matching funds, effective 1/1/06. Selectman Macy stated that he would like to table this until the next meeting.

5. **REQUEST TO CLOSE ROUTE 7 FOR NORTH CANAAN PARADE**

The Police Chief of the Town of North Canaan, Connecticut, sent a letter requesting permission to have a detour involving closing Route 7 along the Connecticut - Massachusetts line -- South of Clayton Road for a parade scheduled from 8AM till 4 PM on Sunday September 18, 2005. Selectman Hannum stated that she is inclined to agree to this and would first like to see a copy of the plans of the parade route and detour.

6. **STREET CURB CUT PERMIT: CASDIN, RANNAPO ROAD**

Selectman Hannum moved to grant approval for the curb cut permit to upgrade the driveway on the Casdin property located at the Rannapo/Cooper Hill intersection, pending the Police Chief's approval. Selectman Macy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **HOUSATONIC RAILROAD VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Massachusetts Railroad Association on Technical Association Engineering letterhead sent a correspondence addressed to the Board of Health, Conservation Commission and Board of Selectman with the 2005 - 2009 Statewide Vegetative Management Plan which explains the method and rationale for vegetation management along railroad tracks. The Board will post a copy of the cover letter at the Ashley Falls Post Office & will give the Town Clerk a copy of the letter/plan for public viewing.

8. OLD BUSINESS: BOARD OF HEALTH RE: ABANDONED MATERIALS ON PINE LANE

Joel Weiss, Chairman of the Board of Health sent a response to the Selectmen's inquiry regarding materials at Pine Lane.

9. BOARD OF SELECTMEN ITEMS

➤ **Selectman Hannum**

1. She and Chairman Stanton attended the Selectmen's Association spring dinner, a good venue for networking.
2. On Friday, she attended the Dept. of Revenue, Division of Local Services training on Finance which she found to be worthwhile and informative.
3. A resident had expressed concern about Barrington Stage Company moving to Pittsfield, and inquired if the Board would want to approach Barrington Stage Company.

SHEFFIELD TREE PROJECT

Tom Ingersoll and Kerry Douglas reported on the Sheffield Tree Project, a not for profit organization formed in 1992. In both 1992 and 2002, this organization received \$5,000 from the Mass. ReLeaf Grant program (the Board of Selectmen supported grant applications) to plant 55 elm trees each time. Since 1997, with the assistance of numerous volunteers (including the Police Dept., Sheffield Land Trust, Kiwanis Club, Boy Scouts, and other members of the community) they have planted approximately 90 elm trees along Main Street, the Library, and in front of the Ashley Falls Post Office. They indicated that they want to be a resource to the town. In addition to their interest in large shade trees, they would like to be involved in plant selection, disease and pest issues and salt intolerance matters.

Selectman Macy praised the Sheffield Tree Project. Selectman Hannum expressed her thanks and agreement with Selectman Macy's words of appreciation.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Miller updated the board re: the repair of headstones at the cemetery. He shared a fundraising letter for the repair of grave markers. He praised Town Administrator Weitz for working so quickly to obtain an estimate (\$2,500) for repair of the grave markers. Ms Blackwell and he hope to raise funds by this summer or early fall.

Sheffield Tree Project - Asked if the board would consider hanging two display sheets (4' X 8' each) at the Town Hall.

Sheryl Lechner inquired about the working meeting, and was told that the Board discussed the appointment process, tax titles, and future home for the Senior Center but no decisions were made. The purpose of the meeting was to form ideas.

Dave West expressed his concern re: his dealings with the board concerning appointment to the Historical Commission:

Over a year ago, his wife (Barbara West) and he applied to serve on Historical Commission but the Board appointed them to the Historical Society (not a town organization), and did not correct this appointment. Several months ago, when a request was submitted, the board did not take action on appointing Barbara and David West to the Historical Commission -- due to not wanting to appoint spouses on the same committee. He stated that this was confusing because his wife and he both serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. West expressed his interest in serving on the Historical Commission, and that he thought it would be beneficial to fill the two vacancies by appointing both Barbara and himself because they each could offer different strengths / knowledge. He has construction background, and she has knowledge of owners/history on properties.

He inquired if there were a written policy not allowing spouses to serve on the same boards.

Selectman Macy stated that this situation is the reason the board wants to review their appointment process. Selectman Macy stated that there is no written policy stating that spouses may not serve on the same committee/board.

Selectman Hannum moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously. Selectman Macy adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert, Recording Secretary
Via recording
[Approved July 18, 2005](#)