

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 26, 2005
TOWN HALL**

Board Members Present: Janet G. Stanton, Chairman
David D. Macy, Selectman
Julie M. Hannum, Selectman

Board of Library Trustees Betty LeGeyt, Chairman
Susan Young
Peter Rowntree

Other Staff Present: Robert Weitz, Town Administrator
Nancy Hahn, Director of Library

Chairman Stanton called meeting to order at 7PM

**PUBLIC HEARING: DISCONTINUANCE OF MAINTENANCE OF MT.
WASHINGTON ROAD**

At 7PM, Chairman Stanton opened the public hearing on the discontinuance of maintenance of Mount Washington Road. Town Administrator Weitz read the notice of public hearing:

The Sheffield Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, September 26, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, 21 Depot Street, Sheffield, MA, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 82, Section 32A, for the purpose of receiving comments relative to a proposal to find that Mt. Washington Road, from a point 665 feet west of South Undermountain Road (Route 41) to the Mt. Washington Town Line, has become abandoned and unused for ordinary travel and that the common convenience and necessity no longer requires said town way or public way to be maintained in a condition reasonable safe and convenient for travel. If said Board makes such finding under the before mentioned statute, it shall declare that the town of Sheffield shall no longer be bound to keep such public way in repair and upon filing of such declaration with the town clerk such declaration shall take effect, provided that sufficient notice to warn the public against entering thereon is posted at both ends of such public way, or portions thereof. Any person wishing to comment on this proposal should appear at the above place and time.

Sheffield Board of Selectmen,
Janet G. Stanton, Chairman

The Board and Town Administrator Weitz held discussion and fielded questions. Barry Kaufman of Options Institute sought clarification about the portion of the road proposed

for discontinuation of maintenance, difference between discontinuation and abandonment, and understanding of current maintenance. In addition, he described Option Institute's road maintenance. The board stated its intentions to continue to maintain the road up to the last driveway.

The Board received a letter from Marilyn S. McMennamin and G. Barry McMennamin stating that they do not object to said proposal with the understanding that the Town will continue to maintain the section of the Road from Route 41 to the point that is 665' west of Route 41 (road maintained up to their driveway).

Should the Board vote to discontinue maintenance, the town would post signs (under provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 82, Section 32A).

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES – DRIVEWAY ISSUES

The Board held discussion with the Board of Library Trustees, and Library Director Nancy Hahn concerning the driveway access road to the library. Part of what prompted discussion at this involves a letter received on September 12th from Griffith House Apartments (Barbara Davison) asking to board to do something about speeding cars on the driveway. This led to a discussion about the history of the driveway, and ownership rights/liabilities. The Board of Library Trustees gave the Board of Selectmen a copy of correspondence in which Town Counsel Anthony Blair replied to the below issues of inquiry:

- The Status of any right of way that may connect the drive in to the Library to the street known as Cook avenue.
- What should be done with regard to encroachment of the neighbor to the south as you enter the library drive, and do they have any right to prevent Library patrons from parking along the drive? Issue of Liability arising from the use of the Library land for parking by private parties.
- What should be done regarding the driveway of the neighbor to the north of the Library drive, and do they have the right to use that as the access to their property. – Yes within their rights. Attorney Blair suggests that the Board of Library Trustees send a letter of clarification concerning the liability issues.

The Boards agreed to have the Selectmen's Office coordinate a joint site visit.

VILLAGE GREEN TRAFFIC AND PARKING

The Board held discussion with Village Green Property Owners and Tenants. Dana Barthlomew, Jim Silk regarding temporary traffic flow changes instituted in the Village Green. Mr. Barthlomew stated that he felt that this accomplished increasing the number of spaces in the most southern end of the Village Green. Ideas discussed included designating long-term parking, time restriction on parking, fifteen minute parking in front of the post office, weekend parking.

Selectman Macy moved to continue for three months using the most southerly opening as a one-way exit (no entrance from Route 7) from the Village Green, and 2) one-way traffic flow southbound south of the Post Office. seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

VOTE TO SIGN DEEDS FOR BUSINESS PARK LOT 3 TO SEAN MCEVOY, AND LOT 5 FOR EURO PRECISION PROPERTIES (LES FLEMING)
Selectman Macy moved to sign deeds for the Business Park: Lot 3 – Sean McEvoy, and Lot 5 – Les Fleming. Selectman Hannum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT - COUNCIL ON AGING

At the recommendation of Rae Eastman, Director of the Senior Center, Selectman Macy moved to appoint Grace Campbell to the Council on Aging, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

GRAVEL REMOVAL APPLICATION CONSULTANT

Selectman Macy moved to authorize Town Administrator Weitz to seek proposals from consultants for the review of Robert and Rose Cronk's gravel permit application, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

CURB CUT PERMIT APPLICATION

The Board held on Ron Durning curb cut application for Lot 5, Hewlett Hill Road pending the Highway Superintendent and Police Dept's review. Concern was expressed re: remediation of berm.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN ITEMS

Selectman Macy moved to send a letter to Ross Dindio to request new guardrails on the Berkshire School Road bridge over Schenob Brook, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board will schedule a visit and keep the Barrington Stage Building under consideration for a possible home for the Senior Center.

Selectman Macy moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Stanton adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert, Recording Secretary