

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AUGUST 16, 2006
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
2:20 PM**

Board Members Present: David D. Macy, Chairman
Julie M. Hannum, Clerk
James T. Collingwood

Other Staff Present: Robert Weitz, Town Administrator
Rhonda LaBombard, Recording Secretary

Others Present: Peter Rowntree, Library Trustee
Betty Legeyt, Library Trustee
Susan Young, Library Trustee
William Camp
Barbara Davidson
Mr. & Mrs. Engels

Chairman Macy called the meeting to order at 2:20 PM.

APPOINTMENT OF CUSTODIAN:

Administrator Weitz recommended that Lawrence Allen O'Brien Jr. be appointed, with a 6-month probationary period, as custodian for Town Hall and Police Department. Selectman Hannum made a motion to appoint Lawrence Allen O'Brien Jr. as Town Hall and Police Department Custodian pending a 6-month probationary period, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. Motion carried unanimously.

SANDWICH SIGN:

A request was received from the Mt. Everett Girls Softball Team to place a sandwich board sign on the green at the intersection of Route 7 and Berkshire School Road to advertise their spaghetti supper at the school tonight. Selectman Collingwood moved to grant permission for the sign, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

SELECTMEN ITEMS:

Chairman Macy stated that the issue with signs being placed in town would be discussed at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Selectman Hannum inquired on the status of the Senior Center Design Project. Administrator Weitz stated that a briefing session was held this morning with potential designers.

Selectman Hannum discussed items that could be placed in the Sheffield Times. Administrator Weitz will contact the Sheffield Times to submit information.

LIBRARY DRIVEWAY:

Chairman Macy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Introductions took place.

Chairman Macy stated that reason for the meeting is to obtain information from the Library Trustees and William Camp & Barbara Davidson, library property abutters, and to try to resolve issues that have arisen.

Barbara Davidson showed a plot plan that shows a building that is owned by Camp/Davidson but encroaches by 2" on town property. The plan was reviewed. Ms. Davidson stated that the building has been there for many years and asked why there is a problem now. Selectman Hannum stated that there are safety issues with people backing out into the library driveway and people entering the library. Ms. Davidson stated that speeding is a problem with the driveway. Discussion ensued regarding installation of speed bumps in the driveway. Discussion ensued regarding tenants of Camp/Davidson backing into the driveway. Mr. Engels is a tenant of the property and stated that he has never had a problem but felt that the traffic on Route 7 was too fast for the village.

Mr. Camp stated that there have been problems with the Library Trustees in the past regarding the drive being public or private. Ms. Davidson is concerned that issues with parking will be the cause of losing her tenants.

Library Trustee Peter Rowntree showed a survey of the property done by the town for review. This survey shows the encroachment of the building is 2'.

Library Trustee Betty Legeyt stated that these issues have been on going for many years even before Mr. Camp and Ms. Davidson purchased the property. The Trustees are concerned with safety and have investigated other options for entering and exiting the library but no other option was found. Chairman Macy stated that backing into the library drive is not desirable but cannot see another solution. Mrs. Legeyt stated that Camp/Davidson have placed cones along the library drive during functions to block parking.

Ms. Davidson stated that the driveway is a right of way and submitted papers she obtained from the Registry of Deeds. Ms. Davidson will investigate the right of way further before the next meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding a land transfer, lease and adverse possession. A long-term lease would expire when the property was sold. Adverse possession cannot take place with town owned land. Terms of a land transfer could be negotiated.

Library Trustee Susan Young stated that her main concern is safety issues when entering the library and the liability issues. She would like the parking issue along the driveway changed from parallel to perpendicular. Discussion ensued regarding this change but it would not allow the needed number of parking spaces.

Chairman Macy listed the following as the issues that need to be resolved:

1. Safety Concerns
2. Liability Issues
3. Right of Way Issue
4. Corner of Building on town property

Administrator Weitz will investigate the above issues and another meeting will take place within 3 to 4 weeks.

Discussion ensued regarding a swap of properties between the Town and Camp/Davidson. This would need town meeting approval.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of the library parking lot for parking.

Discussion ensued on alternative drive and parking for Camp/Davidson but the topography of their property will not allow changes and the septic fields are in the front yard.

Selectman Hannum inquired how many of the parking spaces are used for Ms. Davidson's bakery business. Ms. Davidson stated that most of her business takes place at the farmer's market and it slows down in the winter.

Administrator showed an aerial photo of the property.

Discussion ensued regarding the setting of speed limits within town. Mass Highway sets the speeds and the Sheffield Police Department does enforce them. Chairman Macy stated that the process to change the set speeds is a lengthy process.

Administrator Weitz will investigate a property swap.

Selectman Hannum stated that the crosswalk sign is difficult to navigate when entering the library. She would like to investigate moving the crosswalk closer to the center of town.

Administrative Assistant will set up another meeting in 3 to 4 weeks to revisit all the issues.

Mr. Camp, Ms. Davidson and Mr. & Mrs. Engels left the meeting

Discussion continued regarding parallel vs. perpendicular parking. One solution to the safety issue regarding entering the library is to not allow parking within "x" number of feet of Route 7. This would allow a car to pull into the library and be completely off of Route 7 before anyone backing to the driveway would be a problem.

Discussion ensued regarding installation of curb along the driveway.

Administrator Weitz will contact Town Counsel to determine the difference between a town road and town driveway regarding liability issues.

Selectman Hannum stated that future improvements of the driveway should be looked at.

A working meeting was scheduled at the library driveway for Tuesday, August 29, 2006 at 2:30 pm. Chairman Macy suggested that everyone visit the site before the next meeting to determine placement of speed bumps and # of feet for parking in relation to Route 7.

Discussion ensued on width of roads and curb cuts.

Selectman Hannum moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Macy adjourned the meeting at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda LaBombard, Recording Secretary