

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2009 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman David Canada, Selectmen Bruno Federico and Tim Copeland, and Town Administrator Paul Deschaine.

The meeting opened at 7:05 PM. Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue with Town Clerk/Tax Collector Joyce Charbonneau. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 7:40 PM, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the discussion of personnel matters. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:43 PM, the Board reconvened.

Mr. Canada asked that Melanie McGrail, of 14 Brown Ave., and Parks and Recreation Director, Tara Barker, who were present, come forward to discuss the proposal to establish the Stratham Pocket Gardeners. The proposal is to maintain Town gardens on public property throughout Town. She handed out a proposal, which included various volunteers who would be maintaining the gardens at Stratham Hill Park and at the Municipal Center. At least one master gardener has expressed an interest in evaluating the gardens and providing suggestions in maintenance. This master gardener lives in Town. Mr. Federico asked who would be doing the Veteran's Garden. Ms. McGrail stated the Exeter Garden Club, of which she is a member, has already volunteered to head-up that effort. Mr. Copeland moved to accept the proposal as presented with gratitude. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. McGrail asked that this effort be announced at Town Meeting in order to gather volunteers. Mr. Canada said that it could be easily done.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck was present and provided a Treasurer's Report. He had \$524,715.64 in the general checking account with \$2,600,000 invested.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

Rich Marden was present to discuss using Stratham Hill Park and the Gifford property to host a Boy Scout Camporee. This was last done in 2004. At that time, it was found to be a great location because it is central to the Council to which they belong. They predominantly use the two fields on the Gifford property with an estimated 250 scouts from the Council in attendance. He is requesting the period of May 1st through the 5th of 2009. Mr. Federico asked what services they would need. Mr. Marden said that they would bring in their own port-a-potties. They would only need potable water. A discussion followed on the likelihood of having water available that early in May. Mr. Marden said the event could still be held if Town water was not available. If necessary, they would make other arrangements. There were also discussions regarding the maintenance of the Gifford fields. Mr. Federico asked if there were going to be any fires. Mr. Marden said that it would be very limited and there were to be no fire pits. Most of the scouts cook on camp stoves instead of open fires. They plan to have various fun activities throughout the weekend. Mr. Federico moved to approve the request and to waive any fee. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board then discussed how requests for waiver of a user fees be done. The Board asked that, in the future, if there is any request for a waiver of a fee that it be done in writing explaining why and the benefits, which the requester provides to the Town in waiving the fee.

The remaining Park Permits and Municipal Center rentals were reviewed which included the Exeter Relay for Life to be held on April 25, 2009 at the Park. This application had been previously reviewed but was suspended pending clarification on the fee waiver request. They have now submitted the request in writing on letterhead. Mr. Copeland moved to allow this use and to waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Chair reviewed the meetings scheduled for the coming week and those held during the past week.

A discussion occurred regarding the Eat Local event held this last Saturday. There was a slight problem with traffic during the event this time with cars parking on both sides of Bunker Hill Avenue. It was noted that it was for a brief period, but it should not have happen at all. It was decided that the next time they approach the Board for the use of the facility, this would be emphasized more strongly with them.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Administration: Mr. Deschaine reported on his discussions with PRIMEX concerning the exclusions under our policies. There is no additional coverage available to have bounce houses or helicopter rides. Mr. Canada questioned if we should ban these activities outright. Mr. Federico said the question really is will the Town accept certificates of insurance naming the Town as an additional insured from the owners of these activities as adequate coverage. Mr. Canada did not know about the bounce houses but the idea of helicopter rides presented a higher risk and probably should be banned. Mr. Copeland suggested discussing it more thoroughly before voting on an outright ban. The discussion continued on how to implement a ban on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Federico said that even third party renters of Town property need to request the ability to use such devices. Mr. Canada moved that anyone desiring to have a rebound device (i.e., bounce house, trampoline, etc.) and/or aviation activities (i.e., helicopter rides, balloon rides, etc.) on Town property needs to request permission from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The discussion continued on the need to have a request section on the Park permits and Municipal Center rentals by which an applicant can request a waiver of the ban. Mr. Deschaine will look at means of applying that to the applications. The Board would then act on each request on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Deschaine brought to the attention of the Board of Selectmen the attempt by the Town of Bedford to have a petition at the polls requesting the governor and the legislature to be mindful of towns' and cities' funding in their budget deliberations. Mr. Federico moved to implement the petition and make it available. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The logistics of having the petition at the polls was then discussed.

Mr. Deschaine brought to the attention of the Board an opportunity from the firm of Dubois & King, which is offering free engineering services in honor of their 50th anniversary of business. The Board will consider over the next week a possible request to make application. The deadline for submitting requests is March 19th.

The discussions continued on the logistics of Election Day and holding Town Meeting. The Board and Mr. Deschaine reviewed each article to determine who was going to make a motion and second that motion for passage of the article. On Article 14, an amendment was proposed to allow some more flexibility in establishing the Fire Department Revolving Fund. The Board discussed the positive and the negative outcomes of proposing the article at all and/or amending it. It was decided to move forward with the amendment in order to keep the Town's options available. Discussions continued in a similar manner until Article 19 was reached. Mr. Deschaine informed the Board that Senate Bill 38, which passed and was signed by the Governor, now makes that article moot. He pointed out if the Town wanted to pass the article, it would then require the Board to give recommendations on each and every article. The new legislation that recently passed gives the Selectmen the ability, should it choose, to make recommendations on each article. The Board decided it would motion for the article's passage but speak and advocate for it's defeat in order to give it the most amount of latitude to make a decision as to whether or not to recommend an article or not.

Mr. Copeland discussed a request by the 76ers to have a storage area at the Firehouse for the items they have in support of their meetings. Mr. Deschaine explained the history of the request, and that it has been over six months pending input from other users of the Firehouse building. Mr. Copeland will speak with Tara Barker and others to try to resolve the matter.

Mr. Canada mentioned that he thought that the March Project Meeting may not be necessary since they have had so many meetings both last month and this month. He suggested canceling that meeting and holding the April Project Meeting where the Board would discuss Park fees, user fees, and possibly the geographic limitations on users of the Park. The other Board members concurred with that conclusion.

Mr. Federico asked when a discussion on using the Park Ranger house would occur. He then asked how long the lease was for the current tenant of the building. Mr. Deschaine said that it was currently month-to-month, but we had informed Mr. Watkins that no actions would occur before April 1st. Mr. Canada said that Mr. Watkins had an interest in staying until April 1st and possibly further. Mr. Canada asked Mr. Federico if he was going to investigate the requirements to convert the residence to an office for the Parks and Recreation Director. The Board also reached a consensus that if Mr. Watkins wanted to stay after April 1st, he could, but if he desired not to then they would consider the conversion.

Mr. Deschaine reported on various elements of information regarding the stimulus package. That information is still evolving.

At 9:40 PM, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss an issue of personnel. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 10:16 PM, Mr. Canada

moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the matters of personnel discussed. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:17 PM, Mr. Federico moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Norma Corrow
Recording Secretary

Paul Deschaine
Town Administrator