

## **MINUTES OF THE APRIL 26, 2010 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman David Canada, Selectman Bruno Federico, and Town Administrator Paul Deschaine. Tim Copeland is on vacation.

At 7:49 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kevin Peck reported that he had \$233,559.13 in the general fund checking account.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Mr. Canada opened the public hearing for the second reading of the new Home Occupation Ordinance. Mr. Deschaine read the public notice of hearing. Mr. Canada moved to waive the second reading of the ordinance in its entirety. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Hearing no discussion from those present, Mr. Canada moved to adopt the ordinance as amended previously during the first reading. Mr. Federico seconded the motion. Mr. Deschaine did note a small editorial change in Paragraph 4, but it was nothing substantial. The motion passed unanimously. The Board then proceeded to sign the ordinance as adopted.

Mr. Canada then opened a public comment period on joining the Southeast Watershed Alliance. Michael Perfit of the Public Works Commission was present to answer any questions as the Town's representative to the Alliance. Hearing no questions from the audience, Mr. Canada moved to join the Southeast Watershed Alliance under the draft bylaws dated April 26, 2010, thereby endorsing the initial charter of the Alliance as outlined in the bylaws and to affirm the appointment of Michael Perfit as the Town's representative on the Alliance. Mr. Federico seconded the motion. Mr. Federico then asked specifically what the objectives of the Alliance were. Mr. Perfit noted that the stated purposes are under the legislative authority which created the Alliance, which is RSA 485-e. This was to address the environmental issues associated with the Great Bay watershed. With that, the motion passed unanimously.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Parks and Recreation:** Tara Barker gave a written report concerning the Recreation Revolving Fund. The Board had no questions on that report.

Ms. Barker then distributed a written report on registrations for this quarter. She clarified various entries in the report. She reported that there were 163 registrants for the basketball program but that she wanted to verify the number as it seemed low to her. She reported that there were no cuts in the Babe Ruth roster.

Ms. Barker reported that water service has been turned on at Stratham Hill Park. Kim Woods, the Park Ranger, accomplished this on her own and needed no outside contracted help. Repairs were necessary in the 4-H bathroom due to some freezing problems. Some remaining repairs are required which affect the bathrooms associated with the Noyes Stage and one Snack Shack since they are all serviced by the same damaged water line. Mr. Barker stated that Chet Tukey has started working with Ms. Woods today to assist her in various projects, mainly mowing at the Park.

This past weekend various volunteers assisted in clean up at the Park, especially around the Veteran's Memorial Garden.

Ms. Woods reported on quotes obtained for the purchase of an RTV for use at the Park. She has received three different quotes, but they are not finalized as of yet, due to obtaining pricing on a plow attachment that would help clear snow off the ice skating rink. Upon initial review, she indicates she would favor the Kubota model and is more likely to recommend it. However, the model with the plow would cost more than what was budgeted. Ms. Woods is thinking of approaching the Parks Association to assist in covering those costs. She will report to the Board later with the results of that conversation.

Ms. Woods has passed four tests needed for a State Pesticides License. With that license, now is the time to prepare for implementing a treatment program. In implementing that program, she would like to job shadow a veteran licensed applicator before doing it on her own. Mr. Canada did not object to that idea. His main objective was to have the ability to use products such as "Round Up" for weed and poison ivy control and possibly grub control on the playing fields at the Park and elsewhere. In discussing preparations for such a program, storage of materials was considered. If proper storage of pesticides and herbicides becomes an issue, Mr. Canada suggested approaching Scamman Home & Garden to see if they might store these products for Ms. Woods, since they have to have proper storage for these materials to begin with.

The discussion turned towards what Ms. Woods would be expected to treat. Grub control, weed and/or crabgrass control were mentioned. Since Ms. Woods does not have any experience in these control programs, it was suggested that Bio-Spray be approached to act as a consultant to allow Ms. Woods to learn from their experience. Bio-Spray has offered to do such work at a rate of \$85 an hour. Since Ms. Woods may not have the proper equipment and experience to do the applications needed this year, it was decided to contract with Bio-Spray as usual if they will allow Ms. Woods to job shadow during their treatments.

Discussion then turned to the ball field at Stevens Park. It was noted that the seeding done last Fall did not take very well and will need to be re-done. Before doing so, it has been recommended by Jim Coombs of Greenside Up that the irrigation system be put in first. Aqua Tech should begin the installation in a few weeks according to Ms. Barker. Meanwhile, they will test the soil to get the proper nutrient mix before offering a proposal for re-seeding the area.

Mr. Canada wanted to meet with Aqua Tech about the installation of the irrigation system at the Fire Department. Certain details need to be finished from last Fall's installation at that location.

The Board discussed filling vacancies that remain on the Recreation Commission. After reviewing all of the candidates for appointment, there still appears to be an alternate's position left to be filled on the Commission.

**Assessing:** Andrea Lewy was present to discuss her monthly report. She reviewed her recommendations made for processing abatements (please see attached). Mr. Canada moved to approve the first 17 abatement requests as recommended by Ms. Lewy. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Application #18, which is Bruce and Allison Scamman, was recommended not to be approved. Ms. Lewy had studied their comparisons provided, which were predominantly for locations on

River Road. She does not agree that those properties are comparable to the homes on Greta's Way since the homes on Greta's Way are of a quality and style that are better than the homes located on River Road. The Scamman's house is located on Greta's Way. Mr. Canada moved to deny the request based on the recommendations of the Assessor. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy then presented a list of applicants for the veteran's credit, which included Robert Perrier. Mr. Canada moved to approve the application. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy then presented her recommendations for assessing residences that exist in the Commercial District. After several questions on the statute and its application to these particular properties, Ms. Lewy will review the applications again for their eligibility.

Ms. Lewy then presented a request for the solar exemption recently authorized by Town Meeting. Her recommendation was to approve the request. Mr. Federico asked how the program works and how the value of the solar installation is determined. Ms. Lewy explained the offsetting nature of the exemption that being the increased value on the property by virtue of the installation of solar equipment is reduced by the exemption granted. Mr. Federico moved to approve the request of Philip Piatti. Mr. Canada seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to approve the request of George and Muriel Rubin. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada then moved to approve the request of Thomas and Heidi Shealy. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy then reviewed a recommendation for a religious exemption request for property owned by the Catholic Church. Her recommendation was denied since they do not occupy the property. Mr. Federico moved to accept the recommendation because they don't actively use the property. Mr. Canada seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy reported on the Map Conversion Project, which occurred without any difficulties. There was only one inconsistency found between the old mapping system and the new mapping system and that was due to a new lot that was created, but not yet in the system.

Ms. Lewy stated that the State Department of Revenue Administration has approved the Town's Mass Appraisal Evaluation Report. This is a major accomplishment to validate the methodology used in the reevaluation this past year. The Board congratulated her on this milestone.

Ms. Lewy then discussed the petition of The Golf Course of New England to the NH Supreme Court to appeal the Board of Tax and Land Appeals decision in their abatement request. It has not yet been determined whether the Supreme Court will accept the case.

At 10:03 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss applications for the elderly exemption. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At 10:15 pm, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the privacy of the applicants submitted for the elderly exemption. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico asked how the new Assessing Assistant, Jim Joseph, was working out. Ms. Lewy replied that he was doing very well.

The Chair then reviewed the meetings scheduled for the coming week and reported on the meetings held this past week. The Board discussed the results of last week's construction meeting, which included a review of the proposed improved entryway to the Library. Mr. Canada also noted under the meetings that the Fire Association has accepted the reorganization plan proposed for it so that the Association's affairs are kept distinct from the Department's. This acceptance occurred last Tuesday.

**PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:**

The following park permits and municipal center rentals were discussed and acted upon:

Karen Tomanio requested, on behalf of Living Innovations, to be allowed to plant flowers at the Park. Mr. Canada suggested to accept the offer, but in coordination with the Stratham Pocket Gardeners. Mr. Federico agreed, but said that Kim Woods should also be involved. Mr. Federico moved to accept the offer as long as they coordinate with the Stratham Pocket Gardeners and the Park Ranger. Mr. Canada seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Tom Haslam of the Stratham Cub Scouts Pack 185 requested the use of the Park for a crossover and sleepover by the Pack on June 12, 2010. Mr. Canada moved to allow the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion with passed unanimously.

Michael Papa requested the use of the Park on May 23, 2010 for a birthday party. The request was approved.

Nanette Bowley requested the use of the Park on June 20, 2010 for a graduation party. The request was approved.

Steven Hallinan requested the use of the Park on May 29, 2010 for a birthday party. The request was approved.

Dave and Dina Paquet requested the use of the Park on May 15, 2010 for a birthday party. The request was approved.

Megan Billingham & Sam Cresta requested the use of the Park for a family reunion and wedding reception on July 31, 2010. The request was approved.

Cara Rince, Inc. requested the use of the Municipal Center on June 12, 2010 for a yard sale fundraising. The request was approved.

Timothy Schuft of Alcoholics Anonymous requested the use of the Municipal Center on October 11, 2010. The request was approved.

**Administration:** Mr. Deschaine reviewed a list of properties that could be potentially subject to tax deeding this year. He will send owners a courtesy reminder that they are in immediate jeopardy of losing their property.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board took action on the following appointments: Mr. Canada moved to appoint Jamie Marsh and Bradley Jones to three-year terms as regular members of the Conservation Commission, and Edie Barker and Donna Jensen to three-year terms as alternates to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada reported on his discussions with Bruce Barker concerning his continuation of service on the Board of Adjustment. As a result of that, he moved to appoint Mr. Barker as a regular member to the Board of Adjustment, and Jeff Karam as an alternate to the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to appoint Jeff Hyland as a regular member for a three-year term, and Robert Baskerville as an alternate for a three-year term on the Planning Board. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to appoint Shelly Browne, Tim Copeland and Claire Ellis as regular members for three-year terms on the Recreation Commission. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to re-appoint Rebecca Mitchell as a regular member for a three-year term, and Florence Wiggin as an alternate member for a three-year term, on the Heritage Commission. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to re-appoint John Boisvert and Michael Perfit as regular members for a three-year term, and Lissa Ham as an alternate member for a three-year term to the Public Works Commission. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to re-appoint all members of the Ad Hoc Conservation Bond Subcommittee to the Conservation Commission, which consists of Roger Stephenson, Laura Lee, Edie Barker, Tammy Hathaway, Caroline Robinson and Dan McAuliffe for a one-year term to that Subcommittee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to re-appoint the entire Ad Hoc Stevens Park Construction Committee for a one-year term, which consists of Tara Barker, David Short, John Hopping, Brad Russ and Tim Copeland. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada nominated the following individuals to serve as members of the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee for a term of six years: Jim Scamman, Florence Wiggin, Joyce Rowe, John Dold, Liz Chisholm as regular members, and Susan Canada, Pat Sapienza, Chelsea Bailey, Jeff Hyland and Joyce Charbonneau as alternates to this Committee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Chair noted they were still considering members to serve on the Economic Development Committee. Action on appointments to that Committee will happen at a later date.

Jim Scamman, who was present, expressed his enthusiasm for being a member on the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee.

Mr. Canada then reported on his efforts to investigate the cost of re-pointing and sealing the masonry at the Stratham Historical Society building. He should be reporting on those costs shortly.

Mr. Canada had been approached by members of the Fair Committee asking to be allowed to remove portions of the fencing around the upper ball field. This was at the request of the new ride vendor the Fair has hired. Mr. Canada moved to grant the request. Mr. Federico seconded the motion. Mr. Canada added to the motion that the Fair Committee be allowed to remove the fencing so long as it is replaced after the Fair in a professional and timely manner. Mr. Federico accepted and seconded the addition. The amended motion passed unanimously.

The Board then discussed restructuring office personnel. Mr. Deschaine said that during discussions with individual Board members, he was led to believe that three part-time positions were seen as the best way to address the needs of both his office and the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office. The Board agreed with that conclusion.

Mr. Canada reported that Doug Scamman has been keeping him apprised of various bills in the legislature that may affect the Town, most particularly in a budgetary manner.

At 11:05 pm, Mr. Federico moved to adjourn. Mr. Canada seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Stacey J. Grella  
Executive Assistant

Paul Deschaine  
Town Administrator