

MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 2012 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:06 pm, Mr. Canada opened the meeting and then moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:24 pm, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to nature of the matters discussed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:29 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Canada started the meeting by noting the loss of a former selectperson in Town, Elizabeth "Betty" Stockbridge (Corbin). She was the first woman selectperson in the history of Stratham, being elected in 1973. The Board extended their condolences to the Stockbridge family.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Copeland moved to approve the minutes as amended from the regular meeting on 04/30/12. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Tanya Maclean and Angela Anderson from the Local NH Heroes Charity Motorcycle Ride were present at the meeting to discuss details of an upcoming event planned at the Park. This is a fundraiser for all of the officers that were involved in the shooting incident in Greenland. They are anticipating 400 motorcycles taking part in this event. Park Ranger Kim Woods was also present at the meeting so she is aware of the details. The group has also been in touch with the Police Chief to cover traffic details. The Board requested that they also provide 2-3 Port-O-Potties and did not feel it would be necessary to have the septic system pumped. The Board then reviewed a raffle permit for a 50/50 Raffle through the Newmarket Police Relief Association. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the raffle permit request. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$1,234,806.58 in the general checking account.

Mr. Canada welcomed Newfields resident Kenyan Schick, who was present at the meeting. He is currently working on getting the Boy Scout Citizenship and Community Badge and part of that process is to observe a Selectmen's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

Melanie McGrail was present at the meeting to discuss the flag pole at Stratham Hill Park by the Danielle Harmon Garden. She stated the flag pole is currently crooked and she has not seen a flag on the pole for quite some time. She was informed by Tom Healy from the Baseball Board that the flag pole is usually only used on Baseball Opening Day. Ms. McGrail requested to move the flag pole to a better location and stated that Mr. Healy is in agreement with that. Kevin Peck

reported that the flag pole does not have any Memorial significance to the bench or flower garden. Mr. Copeland moved to allow the pole to be moved to a better location at no cost to the Town. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Brad Jones was present at the meeting regarding the Town purchasing his easement. After some prior negotiation, the Board had approved the purchase of the easement from Mr. Jones based on obtaining water rights on the property. Mr. Canada moved to accept the amended easement agreement with Brad Jones and have the Southeast Land Trust move forward. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Alexis Makris from Makris Development was present at the meeting to continue discussions concerning their development plan adjacent to the Municipal Center. Ms. Makris stated they have been working with the Planning Board on this matter, but some issues have come up that they wanted to discuss with the Selectmen pertaining to the finalization of the roadway, the drainage system and the entrances. Also present were Atty. Michael Donohue and Jeff Kevan from T.F. Moran, Inc. Regarding a proposed bio-retention area on Town property, Mr. Kevan stated that the septic tanks at the Municipal Center would be a problem since there would be encroachment on the setbacks from them and they talked about relocating those two tanks. The group discussed alternatives to moving the septic tanks. One alternative is to install chambers on either side of the tanks and interconnect them into the existing drainage structure. Mr. Kevan stated that they are basically looking to use Town property for some way to deal with the water drainage. Highway Agent Fred Hutton was present at the meeting and stated that he and the Town Planner have looked at this plan and decided they would like it so the lawn can be left somewhere near the same slope that it is. Mr. Kevan stated they would address Mr. Hutton's concerns by installing a closed system and then they would not need to move the septic tanks. The group then discussed the need for a cistern. Mr. Canada moved that the Board of Selectmen recommend to the Planning Board that it waive the cistern requirement in view of Makris Development providing the right of way to install the Town's water tank lines needed to service the proposed water tank, provided they provide a central alarm monitoring system in each home to give the Fire Department advanced knowledge of any fire. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Canada also moved to allow Makris Development to utilize the front field at the Municipal Center to install stormwater chambers to accommodate the water coming out of the parking lot and a portion of the new development road, which will be a Town road. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

HIGHWAY: Mr. Hutton stated they have paved Williams Circle, Apple Way, Orchard Hill, and Pinewood Drive, but it depends on the rain whether or not they start the work on the shoulders tomorrow.

He then updated the Board on various items his Department has been working on.

Mr. Hutton discussed the estimated cost to install sidewalks/bike path on Stratham Heights Road. He stated from Portsmouth Ave. to Guinea Road would cost approximately \$650,000 (gravel and pavement only). This does not include catch basins, pipe, digging it all, backfilling it with stone,

landscaping, trees that would need to be cut, a wetlands permit, silt fence, and police details. He stated that on one side from Guinea Road to Bunker Hill Ave. it cannot be done because of the positioning of the driveways. By sidewalks/bike patch, there would not be any curbing; this would basically just be an extension of the road.

Mr. Hutton stated there are some potholes that his Department will be working on. Mr. Federico moved to allow Mr. Hutton to spend up to \$1,500 on cold patch as needed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PARKS & RECREATION: Director Seth Hickey was present at the meeting with resident Eric Flaim, who is a two-time silver medal Olympic speed skater. Mr. Flaim stated he has been involved in an organization where Olympians work with communities to inspire future Olympians and highlight the importance of fitness. He stated they are planning a "Walk to London" event to take place at Stratham Hill Park on June 17, 2012. Mr. Flaim stated he has invited all Olympians that live in New England to participate. He also invited the Board to attend and would like one of them to read a prepared proclamation.

Mr. Hickey then presented price quotes for the Liberty Mutual volunteer painting project at the Park, to include the paint and supplies needed, the lowest being for \$3,000. He stated the Fair Committee and the Park Association are also willing to contribute funds for this project, but does not have exact amounts at this time. The Board agreed to move forward with this project.

Mr. Hickey discussed a grant opportunity for trail development and maintenance with the Board. This is an 80/20 matching reimbursement grant. Mr. Copeland moved to allow Mr. Hickey to proceed with the grant application. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey then updated the Board on various activities happening at the ball fields, and also the condition of the fields.

Mr. Hickey stated they are looking into other recycling options for Stevens Park and Stratham Hill Park. Last year was a trial agreement with Earth-Tec to handle plastic recycling only and people were looking to recycle bottles and paper products as well. He stated he has reached out to Bestway to see if they would provide containers and pick up services. There would be a fee to process the recycling, but they will provide the Town with four totes at each park.

Mr. Hickey stated the infield at the Municipal Center has been replaced, which included laser grading. He is very happy with the results.

Mr. Hickey stated that one candidate has applied for the internship for this fall. He stated he worked with this intern last winter. Mr. Canada moved to have Mr. Hickey move forward with offering this candidate the position. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey then updated the Board on enrollment numbers and other activities.

Mr. Canada asked Mr. Hickey to look into the costs involved in having Ms. Woods fertilize the Park. Currently, it is part of the proposal from Hillside Landscaping.

The group briefly discussed the reevaluation of the Recreation Commission membership. They will discuss this further at their next meeting.

Mr. Deschaine informed the Board that the Stevens family has officially withdrawn their donation offer for naming rights at Stevens Park.

MEETINGS: The Chair then reviewed the meetings scheduled for the coming week and reviewed the meetings held this past week.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

The following Park permits and Municipal Center rentals were discussed and acted upon:

Emily Yergeau requested the use of the Park on September 15, 2012 for a memorial service. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Laura Batchelder from the Stratham Memorial School requested the use of the Park on June 11, 12, & 13, 2012 for end of school picnics. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Laura Batchelder from the Stratham Memorial School requested the use of the Park on June 7, 2012 for a field day. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mandy Bartley requested the use of the Park on May 12, 2012 for a birthday party. The request was approved.

Elizabeth Craig requested the use of the Park on May 19, 2012 for a birthday party. The request was approved, however, the request for a bounce house was denied.

Roger Thompson requested the use of the top of Stratham Hill Park on June 22, 23, & 24, 2012 for their annual Amateur Radio Club weekend. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated that the Board had set the reimbursement rates earlier in the year for personal use of cell phones and asked him to review the actual costs employees were experiencing after the first quarter. He then presented the results of that study to the Board for their review. Mr. Deschaine's recommendation would be to change the Smartphone rate to \$36 per month, from \$44 and the regular phone rate to \$23 or \$24, from \$13 per month for the remainder of the year. This is based on a 50/50 split of the average basic cost. Mr. Federico

moved to accept Mr. Deschaine's recommendation of \$36 for Smartphones and \$23 for regular phones. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:20 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Stacey J. Grella
Executive Assistant

Paul R. Deschaine
Town Administrator