

November 26, 2001

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 26, 2001**

Present: Arnold Wilson, Chairman
 George Dib
 Hal White
 Charles Blanchard
 Doris Sosik
 James Malloy, Town Administrator

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of November 19, 2001 as
 submitted, by C. Blanchard.**
 2nd: Doris Sosik
 Vote: All in favor.

Quarterly Reports

Beverly Poirier read her report to the Board (copy on file). C. Blanchard asked about the process for the analysis on the 2001 sales. B. Poirier explained that Lloyd Pote takes the sales and breaks them down by the different types of homes, then compares that with the assessed valuation.

Larry Adams read his report to the Board (copy on file). He outlined current subdivision applications which will come before the Planning Board, including Brookhill on Brookfield Road, The Sanctuary on Arnold Road, The Preserve on New Boston Road, Whittemore Woods on Whittemore Road, The Highlands on Arnold Road and Long Pond Woods on Brookfield Road. He noted that growth management is control of the rate, quality and location of development and the preservation of community character, open space and natural habitat. It is accomplished through zoning, design standards for subdivisions, allocation of resources, variances and special permits, open space preservation and grandfathering for approval not required lots. The Growth Management Subcommittee reports to the Planning Board. Cluster development is a way to address the issue of sprawl vs. density. L. Adams said that developers are following the market, and will build something else if single family dwellings are denied to them.

D. Sosik asked how many years it would take for the current subdivision applications for 288 units to come into existence. L. Adams said that it would take about three years for completion of those subdivisions. C. Blanchard asked about the process.

G. Dib suggested that if they consider larger lot zoning, to pay attention to the frontage. D. Sosik asked what the Board of Selectmen could do to assure that this annual growth assessment convocation takes place. L. Adams said that the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board could make a tradition out of choosing a date every year to review the issues and examine failings and opportunities.

Barbara Search read her report to the Board (copy on file). She said that the custodian has worked on painting the windows at the Senior Center, and he has replaced broken window panes. They have installed a doorbell that rings on the outside of the door and in the bathrooms, low to the ground in case someone falls and needs assistance. Regarding funding, she submitted a formula grant for \$6,385 and is awaiting action on the state budget. They received a \$500 grant from the Diocese of Worcester for their Tai Chi program. An incentive grant was submitted for a community resources person at \$6,500 to cover 15 hours/week for 42 weeks, with money for mileage.

J. Malloy said that Mass. Highway is reviewing the crosswalk issue, and Chief Button indicated a willingness to have a police officer direct traffic there during lunch and suggested that B. Search contact the Chief.

Correspondence

- Nov. 12 Nils Nordberg, Executive Director, Mass. Collectors and Treasurers Association – Announcing that they have renewed the Certification of Barbara Barry, Treasurer/Collector for five years, expiring December 31, 2006.
- Nov. 13 Jack Ahern, Professor, UMass. – Regarding completion of the preliminary design for the Millyard Park in Fiskdale.
- Nov. 19 Patricia Mikes, Communications & Membership Director, MMA – Announcing the Annual MMA Business Meeting which will take place at 10:00 a.m. during the MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2002 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel.

Nov. 19 Governor Jane Swift – Regarding the proposed Sales Tax Holiday (House 4734).

A.Wilson noted that there was an MMA Action letter regarding the state budget which is now on the Governor's desk. The House and Senate will meet on December 5th to review it. It was the consensus of the Board to send a letter to Governor Swift expressing the Board's concern with the reduction in state aid for highways, notably Chapter 90 and Chapter 81 funds and to indicate the importance of local aid.

Holland Road Mill Property

J. Malloy spoke with Mark Lev regarding the Board's concern with whether Brian Caron could continue to process materials at the Holland Road Mill site. M. Lev and L. Adams discussed it and both concurred that it is an allowed use under Sections 9.01(a) and 9.01(c) of the Town Zoning Bylaws. The applicable sections of the Zoning and General Bylaws regarding earth removal do not apply, since there is no excavation work on site, only processing of materials. L. Adams also indicated that he did not believe the current operation requires site plan review.

A.Wilson asked where the material was being excavated from, and suggested that J. Malloy and M. Lev determine that, and whether there is a permit for it. C. Blanchard said that it should be clarified, and there should be a special permit review. G. Dib noted that there appears to be an inconsistency, and to make sure that the things identified in the permit are recommended to be in the permit. He saw no problem with the operation, and thought that it should be permitted. D. Sosik asked whether the Conservation Commission needed to be involved. C. Blanchard asked if the Town really should allow earth removal and/or processing operations in the industrial district without a special permit review or approval of the Board of Selectmen. It was the consensus of the Board that J. Malloy and L. Adams review this matter to determine what is permissible and what is required to be done.

Police Officer Mercier

Police Officer Mercier may be out for an extended illness. Chief Button indicated that since Officer Mercier started in January of 2001 that he does not have sufficient sick leave built up to continue being paid. The Chief asked if there was anything that the Town could do relative to other employees volunteering to help by offering their sick time to Officer

Mercier. The Chief noted that this had been done in the past for a DPW employee, and at that time the Selectmen allowed employees to voluntarily donate sick leave time if they chose to do so.

MOTION: To allow the employees of the Police Dept. to make voluntary sick leave donations to Officer Mercier, by D. Sosik.

2nd: G. Dib

Vote: All in favor.

Old Business

C. Blanchard noted that the basketball hoop is still up on Town property on Westwood Drive. He asked J. Malloy to follow up on it.

A.Wilson noted that the Board had voted to place Articles #75 and #77 on the warrant, but had not recommended to support them. The Board received a memo from Lynne Girouard indicating that the Recreation Committee voted 4-0 to support \$80,000 for construction of the bath house and demolition of the old one, per the plans that the Board had reviewed.

MOTION: To support Article #77 at the figure of \$80,000, by G. Dib.

2nd: D. Sosik.

A.Wilson said that he could not support tearing down a building that is structurally sound, and the same square footage as what is proposed. C. Blanchard suggested holding off on the vote until the Board receives a comparison on square footage. G. Dib withdrew his motion; D. Sosik withdrew the second.

A.Wilson announced that the meeting that was scheduled with Rosemary Joseph was postponed until next week so that Paul Gillen can attend.

A.Wilson announced that MMA will sponsor a meeting at Charlton Town Hall on Thursday, November 29th at 7:00 p.m.

A.Wilson announced that he will meet with Charlene Cutler, Executive Director, Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor at 11:30 a.m. on Friday.

A.Wilson announced that the Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11th at 7:30 p.m. at Burgess Elementary School.

New Business

November 26, 2001

G. Dib noted that there is evidence of vandalism at Burgess Elementary School. G. Dib said that he would call to school to make them aware of it. He suggested that the police patrol the area.

A.Wilson announced that the ad hoc casino group will meet on Thursday, December 6, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. He noted that there was an article in the Boston Globe that stated that Senator McCain was the top recipient of contributions from Indian tribes who own casinos.

Ask the Selectmen

H. White took a call from Velma Franz of Commonwealth Avenue who asked whether the minutes of the Board meetings were available. J. Malloy said that draft copies of the minutes become public record once they have been approved by the Board of Selectmen. If someone would like a hard copy they are available at Town Hall, at the Town Clerk's office and Board of Selectmen's office. There would be a charge per page for large copy requests. H. White said that Velma Franz commented that the audio quality of the broadcast of the meeting has improved.

G. Dib announced that the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on December 7th at 6:00 p.m. on the Town Common.

MOTION: To adjourn, by G. Dib.

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date