

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2003**

Present: Arnold Wilson, Chairman
Charles Blanchard
David Schmida
Hal White
Doris Sosik
Greg Morse, DPW Director, Acting 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 October 20, 2003 as amended, by C. Blanchard.
2nd: D. Sosik
Vote: All in favor.

Paradise Beach Association – Dock on Big Alum

A.Wilson noted that the Board had the opportunity to review all of the correspondence regarding this matter, visited the site and heard from numerous parties.

Joseph Veneziano, 240 Roy Road, said that the smaller the lake, the more congested, especially since there is public access to it, which makes for an unstable and dangerous condition.

MOTION: To approve the dock proposed by the Paradise Beach Association that was depicted in the architectural drawings dated October 20, 2003 and to limit the number of motorized craft to no more than three moorings, by D. Schmida.
2nd: C. Blanchard
Vote: Four in favor; A. Wilson opposed.

Cooperative Trail Agreement

An agreement between the Town and the Army Corps of Engineers is necessary for their continued assistance in developing trails on their property in Sturbridge.

MOTION: To approve the Cooperative Agreement for Trail Management between the Town of Sturbridge and the Army Corps of Engineers, and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the agreement, by D. Sosik.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Early Retirement

J. Malloy had informed the Board that one Group 4 member indicated that he will participate and six Group 1 members will participate, for a total of five. He will keep the Board updated.

8 Brookfield Road RFP

C. Blanchard considered a 10 year lease too long, and suggested changing it to 5 years. He also suggested a cost of living adjustment. D. Sosik noted that on page 1 some information was missing after the words "may be obtained at." C. Blanchard suggested that J. Malloy come up with a proposal for a cost of living inflationary adjustment which should be reviewed every two years.

MOTION: To authorize the Town Administrator to advertise for the lease of the 8 Brookfield Road building, as modified by the Board, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Common Victualler Application for Z-Dogs

Paul Zenaro appeared before the Board. Z-Dogs has been open since October 2, 2003.

MOTION: To approve the Common Victualler license for Z-Dogs, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

Correspondence

D. Sosik asked about the status of painted sidewalks on Route 148 between the Junior High and the Senior High Schools, as requested in Robert Couture's letter dated October 22. A. Wilson said that J. Malloy sent the requirements to the school, and the school must request that it be done. G. Morse said that there were no advance warning signs in either direction. They will look at the placement, and will move them to a safer location. There are a few questions that need to be answered. A. Wilson noted that there is a question as to who should pay for it.

Old Business

C. Blanchard thanked the Fire Department and the Lions Club for the Halloween festivities on the Common. The Horribles Parade was well attended, with costume judging afterward.

Board of Assessors

Lloyd Pote, Donald Mapplebeck and Beverly Poirier appeared before the Board. A. Wilson said that during the classification hearing, an announcement was made on the tax rate and the levy limit. The figures were sent to the Dept. of Revenue and were returned, and substantial adjustments had to be made. In the past years, not only have the Board of Assessors reviewed all of the figures but they were also reviewed by the Finance Director and the Town Administrator before they were submitted.

B. Poirier said that they all work on estimated receipts and different components of the recap. The majority of the error was in the way that the CPA was reported.

A. Wilson asked whether the Board of Assessors reviews the numbers before sending the information to the Dept. of Revenue. L. Pote said that they did, but this time there wasn't time for it. B. Poirier explained that there was one area on the form that no one knew how to fill out. D. Mapplebeck said that they only had minimal time this year, which was insufficient for a complete review.

A. Wilson asked whether it was necessary to establish a formalized procedure to follow, before submitting the information to the Dept. of Revenue. L. Pote agreed that the allocation of money should be reviewed by the Finance Director and Town Administrator. The Board of Assessors agreed with the suggestion for having a procedure in place to follow. D. Mapplebeck said that the Dept. of Revenue has eliminated a lot of their

employees, with only a few left to take care of things in a timely manner, and deficiencies will continue to happen. There are new programs being initiated without enough people to deal with them.

A. Wilson said that a supplemental tax assessment on new construction is now mandatory. He asked whether there is a mechanism in place to do it. L. Pote said that the Board of Assessors will move forward on it, but they don't have the figures on the assessment. Mark Lev, Building Inspector, will keep them informed when an occupancy permit has been issued, then they will go out to review it.

Logging Permit – Breakneck Road

Joseph Theroux appeared before the Board. He submitted the green cards, list of abutters and the Workmen's Compensation form.

MOTION: To approve the forest harvesting permit for Joseph Theroux per the Conservation Commission's letter dated 10/3/03 and Bernie Lorkiewicz's memo of 10/31/03, by D. Schmida.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: All in favor.

New Business

D. Sosik asked about the procedure for the lights at the Recreation area tennis courts. G. Morse said that they are on a timer, and have been turned off for the year last week. The lights had been on until about 11:00 p.m.

A. Wilson said that there has been a lot of discussion in the newspapers recently regarding casino gambling. If Maine approves it, it may be approved in New Hampshire, then Massachusetts may follow. Mr. Conrad, legal representative for the Nipmucs, is confident that they will get recognition from the BIA next spring. A. Wilson suggested re-engaging Perkins-Coie in Washington to keep Sturbridge informed as to what is going on there. He said that the issue has been gathering momentum in Boston. C. Blanchard noted that Sturbridge is being kept informed of any correspondence. He said that Rep. Reed Hillman was forceful in his comments, and Senator Brewer has expressed his concerns. H. White suggested discussing it next Monday during the work session.

Ask the Selectmen

D. Sosik said that there were no calls.

MOTION: To adjourn, by D. Schmida

2nd: C. Blanchard

Vote: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date