

June 7, 2010

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
JUNE 7, 2010**

Present: Ted Goodwin, Chairman  
Thomas Creamer  
Mary Blanchard  
Mary Dowling  
Scott Garieri  
Shaun Suhoski, Town Administrator

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance, then called for a moment of silence in honor of Police Officer John Hart, who passed away recently.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: To accept the minutes of May 3, 2010 as written, by M. Blanchard.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: T. Creamer**  
**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION: To accept the executive session minutes of May 3, 2010 as written, to remain confidential, by M. Blanchard.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: T. Creamer**  
**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION: To accept the Work Session minutes of May 10, 2010 as amended, by T. Creamer.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Blanchard**  
**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION: To accept the minutes of May 17, 2010 as amended, by T. Creamer.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: S. Garieri**  
**Vote: Four in favor; M. Blanchard abstained.**

**Bay State Forestry – Logging Permit**

S. Suhoski read the legal ad into the record. Michael Barry of Bay State Forestry, representing Old Sturbridge Village, appeared before the Board to request a logging permit for selective harvesting at Stallion Hill Road. S. Suhoski read the legal ad into the record. He noted that Erin Jacque, Conservation Agent, and Greg Morse, DPW Director, had submitted their comments, including requirement of a \$5,000 bond. M. Barry agreed to submit a copy of the Forester's license to the Town Administrator's office.

**MOTION:** To close the public hearing, by M. Blanchard.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** S. Garieri

**Vote:** All in favor.

**MOTION:** To grant the logging permit as requested by Michael Barry of Bay State Forestry, to include all of the conditions and comments stated in the April 30, 2010 memo from Greg Morse, DPW Director, including a \$5,000 road maintenance bond, and the April 8, 2010 memo from Erin Jacque, Conservation Agent that the cutting area bordered by the wetland be done during the driest period of the proposed cutting, by M. Blanchard.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** T. Creamer

**Vote:** All in favor.

### **Cell Tower Discussion**

T. Goodwin said that the Board should be careful in its comments, as the cell tower matter is still being reviewed by the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Board should not infringe upon it.

S. Suhoski said that the former Town Administrator, Jim Malloy, had issued a Request for Proposal to lease space for an antenna site on town owned land, and to collect revenue for that. Metro PCS was the respondent to the RFP, and proposed to locate a communications tower near the Town DPW facility.

Ted Heywood, 95 Colonial Drive, member of the Board of Trustees from Sturbridge Hills Condominium Association, read their letter to the Board of Selectmen into the record. He also read their May 10, 2010 letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals into the record. The following were suggested options in order of acceptability to the Association:

1. Reject the zoning change request.
2. Move the tower to a different location, with appropriate restrictions, that would make it not visible from the Condominium properties.
3. Approve the zoning change with an adjusted tower height restriction that would read as follows: "zero feet above the existing tree line that exists between the tower and the Sturbridge Hills Condominium property."
4. Approve the zoning change with the stipulation that the owner of the tower will compensate all 120 Sturbridge Hills units' owners at the rate of \$150/Month/Residence, commencing on completion of the tower or beginning of operations, whichever comes first and as long as the tower is in place. Such compensation to be in the form of a check forwarded as directed to The Sturbridge Hills Condominium Association, c/o Salisbury Management, Inc.

M. Dowling noted that the agent's letter asserted had failed to notify all of the abutters. T. Heywood said that two of the owners had received notification of the hearing. The petitioner claimed that they were the only abutters within 300 feet of the proposed project. He said that things such as tennis courts and parking lots are held in common by all of the owners, so that there were 120 unit owners within 300 feet of the proposed tower.

M. Dowling asked whether the prior Board of Selectmen had taken a vote requesting an RFP to seek cell towers, or if it was self initiated. M. Blanchard said that there was no vote taken for the RFP. The Board at that time was seeking other means of revenue for the Town. She noted that the Board had not seen the RFP that was sent out. S. Garieri said that the Board had considered the Town landfill as a possibility, and Metro PCS had determined that the DPW site was a good area for them.

M. Blanchard asked whether it was made clear that they are looking for a variance, not a zoning change. T. Creamer said that the Board should let the ZBA work it out, and after that process has concluded, the Board should determine whether or not to engage in the lease.

T. Heywood said that Metro PCS is interested in getting coverage for the Route 84 area, and there are many options for them to place their cell tower in that area. S. Garieri asked whether Metro PCS has supplied any drawing or diagram of what the tower will look like. T. Heywood said that they had provided a ground level chart to the ZBA, but no pictures of what the tower would look like. S. Garieri noted that when Metro PCS had located a couple of towers along the Mass Pike, they had to decorate them to resemble pine trees. T. Heywood said that according to the Telecommunications Act, they don't need permission to locate the cell tower. S. Garieri pointed out that Metro PCS does not own the property.

M. Dowling said that she had seen the balloon test that was conducted at the site. The petitioner's representative told her that they had made an adjustment for the height, and it was 60 feet out from where it would be made.

Mary Ferron, 74 Colonial Drive, said that at the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, Metro PCS had talked about the Telecommunications Act, and stated that the ZBA could not stop their proposal; only the Board of Selectmen could hold the line. She said that the only leverage is for the Board of Selectmen to put an amount on the lease that is exorbitant. T. Goodwin said that the Board is trying not to give opinions before it has been discussed by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

James Diggins, 116 Colonial Drive, said that the lawyer for Metro PCS was intimidating. He noted that the Board of Selectmen have the ability to withdraw

that area from consideration. Metro PCS had indicated that the cell tower is going to be 55 feet above the tree line. T. Creamer noted that the Telecommunications Act gives certain leverage to placing a cell tower; it does not give them carte blanche. T. Heywood said that the RFP had indicated 18 different sites within the Town, and the DPW site is the one that Metro PCS had chosen themselves.

Virginia Stallone, 102 Colonial Drive, said that Metro PCS had indicated that only one unit was within the fall zone. She did not think it was right to put anyone at risk, and suggested finding another site for the tower.

Ginger Peabody said that she was serving on the ZBA when the cell tower was put up on Clark Road. She noted that the Telecommunications Act is very powerful.

Paul Fontaine, 109 Colonial Drive, asked how many sites were offered by the Town to Metro PCS. T. Creamer said that there were over 43 sites. P. Fontaine asked how many overlays were provided by Metro PCS. S. Suhoski said that he could look into it. He noted that the Telecommunications Act cannot mandate the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease. He recommended that the Board take the matter under advisement. T. Creamer thanked the residents for coming forward. T. Goodwin added that the Board will consider the comments made by residents when making its decision.

### **Carol Childress – Correspondence**

T. Goodwin said that the Board had an obligation to address the email from Carol Childress regarding the findings of the investigation that was conducted by an independent party regarding the sexual harassment issue. M. Blanchard noted that it had been addressed previously by the Board, and that motion still stands. C. Childress had suggested adding things to the Town's policies. T. Goodwin said that if the Board were to discuss policy, it should be done outside of this incident or investigation. It was the consensus of the Board to discuss changes in policy in two weeks. M. Blanchard said that it is up to the Personnel Committee to come up with a handbook.

T. Creamer noted that there were three requests in the letter from C. Childress:

- 1) That S. Garieri be asked to resign his elected position.
- 2) That S. Garieri receive full censure.
- 3) That the Personnel Policy and Committee Handbook be amended to include elected officials, and any other harassment policies that will bring the town up to date with state and federal laws.

S. Garieri said that he would not resign from the Board.

**MOTION:** Having been found in violation of the Town's Sexual Harassment Policy, specifically as it relates to Section 10.A.1.a "the use of sexually degrading words," the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen hereby formally censure Selectman Garieri for the use of offensive language directed towards a fellow committee member and resident of this community. Further, the Board recognizes that Selectman Garieri's language was not in keeping with the ideals of this body, nor the Town of Sturbridge, and that we recognize our responsibility to ensure a work environment that is free of all forms of abuse, as well as the right of employees, residents and committee members to be treated with respect, by T. Creamer.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** M. Dowling

**Vote:** Four in favor; S. Garieri abstained.

T. Creamer had given the Board copies of personnel policies from eight different communities for review. Carol Childress thanked the Board.

### **Town Administrator's Update**

#### **Dept. of Public Works – Various Bid Awards:**

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board a series of four bid spreadsheets documenting responses for (1) Equipment Rental, (2) Piping and Road Materials, (3) Paving and Road Materials, and (4) Concrete Sidewalk Repairs. The Director of the DPW recommended awarding based upon the low bid, or a joint award where pricing is equal.

**MOTION:** That the Board award the bids for (1) Equipment Rental, (2) Piping and Road Materials, (3) Paving and Road Materials, and (4) Concrete Sidewalk Repairs as recommended in memoranda and spreadsheets from the Dept. of Public Works dated May 27, 2010; and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute any required documents, by M. Blanchard.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** T. Creamer

**Vote:** All in favor.

#### **Welcome Message at MMA Conference:**

S. Suhoski informed the Board that on June 12 the MMA is sponsoring a leadership conference for selectmen at Old Sturbridge Village. Governor Patrick will be the opening speaker. S. Suhoski arranged for a member of the Board to offer a brief "welcome" message at the beginning of the event, which could be useful as a chance to promote the trek Sturbridge trails system, or other general positive comments.

T. Goodwin volunteered to welcome the statewide selectmen's group to Sturbridge.

**Town Hall / Center Office Building Change Orders:**

S. Suhoski informed the Board that a compilation of change orders (Change Order No. 10) totaling \$6,651.48 was approved by the TH/COB Building Committee. There was no additional time granted for these work items and the date for substantial completion remains July 5. The total price adjustment to date for change orders is \$258,363.59 bringing the total contract sum to \$4,123,967.59. The total price increase by change orders is 6.7 percent of the original construction budget which remains very reasonable for extensive rehabilitation of historic structures. He requested the Board's approval.

S. Garieri asked how it was possible that these items were overlooked on the original design of the project. S. Suhoski said that the road and curb cuts are on private property, and this was an accommodation to complete the work. He noted that there was no agreement with the land owner before the site was dug up. S. Garieri said that it should have been realized by the architect. He considered it to be an obvious oversight, having to pave a driveway that already existed. He also had issues with the additional costs for steel reinforcements on the back of the building, as well as the \$1800 paving oversight.

T. Creamer indicated that he had been quite impressed thus far with the due diligent efforts undertaken by the Town Hall/Center Office Building Committee, and that they had demonstrated strenuous oversight of the project thus far, and that he was quite comfortable that this issue had been properly vetted by them.

**MOTION: To approve Change Order No. 10 for the Town Hall and Center Office Building project in the amount of \$6,651.48 and authorize the Town Administrator to execute any required documentation, by M. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: T. Creamer**

**Vote: Four in favor; S. Garieri opposed.**

**Permitting Fees – Tantasqua Regional School District Solar Installation:**

S. Suhoski informed the Board that the Tantasqua Regional School District is proposing the installation of 2400 photovoltaic nodules upon its expansive rooftops. As noted in the June 2 request from the district's facilities manager, the PV array will be the largest of any school district in the state thus far. The TRSD is requesting a full waiver of any building and electrical fees. In discussion with the Building Commissioner, it was their joint recommendation that the Board waive the building permit fees in full and offer a 50 percent abatement of any electrical permit fees. This reflects the same position of the Board with respect to the Burgess School project.

**MOTION:** To waive any building permit fees, and to abate any electrical permit fees by 50 percent, for the solar power installation proposed at Tantasqua Regional High School and Junior High School, by M. Blanchard.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** T. Creamer

**Vote:** All in favor.

#### **Signature Authority for Town Administrator:**

The Town Accountant has issued her yearly update seeking signatory authority for various boards and committees. S. Suhoski requested that the Board authorize him as their signatory for payroll, invoices, and any receipts or turnovers for the treasurer. Also related to this is a request that the Board authorize the Town Administrator to sign any required grant documentation. On November 9, 2009 the Board voted to authorize "Michael J. Racicot" to sign any USDA grant documents. That grant requires close-out reporting at this time. Also, S. Suhoski received the grant contract for the \$2,520 grant announced by The Last Green Valley to improve the Trolley Line trail. S. Suhoski requested the Board's general authority for the "Town Administrator" to execute any and all grant-related documentation.

**MOTION:** To authorize the Town Administrator to execute any grant-related documentation and to execute departmental payroll, bill schedules and turnover reports on behalf of the Board of Selectmen Department, by M. Blanchard.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** T. Creamer

**Vote:** All in favor.

#### **Building Department – Inspectional Procedures:**

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board a memo from him to the Building Commissioner that expressed some of his thoughts relative to operational improvements. Today, the Building Commissioner initiated some of these procedures with the Town's part-time inspectors. He said that coordinating all inspections, permits and fees through the department office will afford better consistency and clarity with respect to record-keeping. As a follow-on, building department staff are surveying other communities to benchmark the reasonableness of Sturbridge fees and the sufficiency of compensation. S. Suhoski's goal is to explore a fee and compensation matrix that will provide modest fee reductions while increasing Town revenue. He and David Lindberg, Building Inspector, hope to present a proposed fee and compensation schedule to your Board on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Town Counsel and Additional Appointments:**

S. Suhoski submitted to the Board a brief expression of interest and fee proposal from Atty. Joel Bard relative to Kopelman & Paige continuing as Town Counsel. K&P was utilized for over four years as counsel in Ayer, and S. Suhoski found the team of attorneys to be broadly qualified in the many unique intricacies of municipal law. He had experience with Mr. Bard about ten years ago when he was a special counsel working on a Planning Board matter for Ayer. In his tenure in Sturbridge, K&P's attorneys continue to provide prompt and professional service. He therefore recommended Kopelman & Paige, P.C. be reappointed as Town Counsel. S. Suhoski negotiated a modest fee reduction for FY11 which roughly equates to the cut in state aid that Sturbridge experienced in the upcoming fiscal year. The services provided at a blended rate of \$170 per hour are very reasonable from a cost perspective. On a related note, in Ayer he was able to reduce the Town Counsel line item by over 50 percent between FY08 and FY10. The Sturbridge line item has less fat; however, he plans to vigorously work to reduce legal costs in FY11.

T. Creamer reminded the Board that he had previously expressed reservations specific to some of the opinions from Kopelman and Paige which were contradictory to the Town Charter. He indicated that he had hoped the Board would have been given another option to review relative to Counsel representation, but that he would support this appointment recognizing that a new Town Administrator needed a level of familiarity while transitioning to his new role.

**MOTION: That the Board ratify the Town Administrator's re-appointment of Kopelman & Paige, P.C. as Town Counsel for a one year term at a blended hourly rate of \$170, by M. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: S. Garieri**

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Additional Appointments:**

**MOTION: To approve the Town Administrator's appointment of Priscilla Gimias to the Sturbridge Tourist Association in the OSV/resident position for a term to expire in 2012, by T. Creamer.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Blanchard**

**Vote: Four in favor; S. Garieri opposed.**

S. Garieri stated that he did not think a resident had the same level of commitment to tourism and economic development as a business owner whose livelihood depends upon tourism. He stated that he did not support this appointment.

T. Creamer responded that he believed that residents – like any business owner – are every bit as committed to tourism and economic growth, as their tax rates,



fees for services and other municipal bills are directly impacted by the success or failure of tourism and economic development. He stated that he fully supported this appointment.

T. Goodwin said that he agreed with T. Creamer, and stated that if businesses don't believe this to be the case, then we need to better educate them – referring to the commitment of residents to tourism.

**MOTION: To approve the Town Administrator's appointment of Margaret Cooney to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire in 2013, by T. Creamer.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Dowling**

**Vote: All in favor.**

S. Suhoski informed the Board that due to a two consecutive three-year term limit on the Cultural Council, it was necessary to rescind the appointment of Debra Tracy.

**MOTION: To rescind the appointment of Debra Tracy from the Cultural Council, whose term would have expired in 2013, by S. Garieri.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Dowling**

**Vote: All in favor.**

#### **Engineering Contract Award – Grand Trunk Trail:**

S. Suhoski noted that CME Associates, Inc. was the only respondent to an Invitation to Bid due on May 27 for design and engineering services for an approximate  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile improvement of the Grand Trunk Trail beginning at the Ed Calcutt Bridge and extending north to the intersection of River and Farquhar roads. The price is \$51,795 and the Town must notify MassDOT by June 30 to encumber the funds as approved under the state Transportation Improvement Plan. The grant is funding 80 percent of the costs with the Town responsible for 20 percent. The matching funds have been previously approved by the Town and are in a matching grant account per the Finance Director.

**MOTION: That the Board award the contract for design and engineering services of the Grand Trunk Trail from the Ed Calcutt Bridge and extending north to the intersection of River and Farquhar roads to CME Associates, Inc., of East Hartford, in an amount not-to exceed \$51,795. All work to be completed in accordance with the scope and bid submittal dated May 27, 2010, by M. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: S. Garieri**

**Vote: All in favor.**

#### **Miscellaneous:**

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At the May 17 meeting the Board had requested letters of appreciation be drafted for the Board's signature for Barbara Boiteau (for achievements as a dispatcher) and for Erin Jacque and Leslie Wong (for their extraordinary efforts associated with the Adopt-A-Trail program). Originals were available for the Selectmen's signatures.

Since his last report, S. Suhoski has been busy with the following summarized list:

- a) participated in the Town Hall / COB construction meetings and a full Town Hall / COB building committee meeting,
- b) participated in the Burgess School Building Committee meeting,
- c) concluded negotiations with the DPW workers (SEIU),
- d) met with the Cable Advisory Committee to advance the RFP for AV equipment and plan for installation in Town Hall / COB,
- e) met with a health insurance consultant with the Finance Director to review potential methods of savings,
- f) attended a forest stewardship program update at the Harvard Forest in support of our Conservation Agent,
- g) met with Chief Ford and Lynne Girouard to develop a revised parking and traffic plan for events on the Common,
- h) met with TRSD Superintendent Dan Durgin to discuss Town / District relations and to tour the regional schools (Sturbridge should be very proud of its schools!),
- i) met with Jim Donahue at Old Sturbridge Village to get acquainted and discuss how the Town and OSV can work together to achieve mutual goals,
- j) met with various potential appointees to committees and boards (great people!),
- k) met with the head of the police union to get acquainted and discuss various matters,
- l) met with John Argitis at G and F Industries,
- m) initiated a review of all telephone, cell phone and long-distance costs through the Chambers Advisory Group (no cost unless Town implements actual savings),
- n) conducted a department head meeting focused on timing and process of move back to Town Hall and Center Office Building as well as administrative matters,
- o) met with Randy Redetzke to coordinate needed action items with respect to trails development,
- p) met with Chris Tanguay and Craig Semon from the area newspapers, and
- q) discussed method of implementation of compliance testing and inspections of semi-private pools by Board of Health and worked collaboratively to schedule and conduct a meeting with local hospitality vendors to discuss same.

Chief Thomas Ford appeared before the Board. He said that he and Lynne Girouard, Recreation Director, had meet with S. Suhoski to discuss a revised parking and traffic plan for events on the Town Common. He said that he empowered the Chamberlain Street residents by providing them with cones and

road barriers for their use on their properties and to block off their road to through traffic during events on the Common. That should reduce the number of vehicles parked in the area of the Common. They plan to provide those residents with schedules of events on the Common so that they will be aware of them and set up the cones and barriers to their driveways beforehand. This will give them peace of mind and some sense of regulatory control during events.

Chief Ford said that there have been complaints from handicapped citizens that there is no place for them to park for events on the Town Common. He said that the issue is being addressed.

### **Correspondence**

T. Creamer said that Donald Fairbrother of the Cable Advisory Committee had sent a letter indicating that the cable contract with Charter Communications had not been reviewed by the Cable Advisory Committee before its acceptance by the Board of Selectmen. He said that in the future, he will want to see documentation from any committee involved in the development of proposals/contracts before he, as an individual member of the Board of Selectmen would vote on such issues. He further stated that the Board had been told by the interim Town Administrator that the Charter Communications Contract Proposal had been fully reviewed and signed off on by the Cable Advisory Committee, and it is clear now that such was not the case. S. Garieri suggested that it be taken up by the Board while reviewing policy changes.

T. Creamer commended S. Suhoski, Town Administrator, for his prompt and empathetic responses to residents and vendors on various issues.

### **Old Business**

M. Blanchard asked whether Craig Moran had gone forward with his sewer connection. S. Suhoski said that he had.

M. Blanchard asked about the status of the Town Administrator's goals. T. Goodwin said that he had not yet sent them out, but would provide them to the Board.

M. Blanchard said that Tom Chamberland, Veterans' Agent, had done an outstanding job organizing the Memorial Day activities.

S. Garieri thanked S. Suhoski for his handling of the pool situation with the Board of Health.

T. Creamer said that he had sent an email to the Board following the last meeting which is in the public record that he had intended to read publicly this evening. He stated that the Board had entertained some discussion regarding the Board of

Health personnel issues that they should not have, as they violated the Board's policy on personnel matters. He stated that since S. Suhoski had appropriately addressed the issue, he no longer felt compelled to read the letter, and asked the Board if they wanted to waive his reading of the letter. The Board agreed.

T. Creamer asked about the status of a section of Route 131. S. Suhoski said that there is an issue with settling of the trench. Mass. Highway has put Bruschi Brothers on notice for repairs to the trench, and they have until November to make the repairs. The area in question will be leveled off before winter. S. Garieri noted that there are spots that are raised which are like speed bumps that should also be addressed.

T. Creamer reminded the Board that as far back as February, the Board had intended to discuss compensation for Barbara Barry, Finance Director for the period of time that she was in effect the Acting Town Administrator. He said that Barbara Barry has established herself as an extremely competent individual, and suggested a merit bonus for her. It was the consensus of the Board that she was deserving of a bonus.

M. Dowling said that she had the pleasure of attending the breakfast and ceremony for veterans that was sponsored by the Junior High School students, staff, administration and faculty. She said that it was an inspiring tribute to the veterans.

### **New Business**

M. Dowling had received a letter from a resident of Fiske Hill Road regarding a traffic safety issue at the intersection of Fiske Hill Road and Whittemore Road, which she read into the record. She noted that there is no warning of a hidden driveway, and people drive faster than 20 mph around the curve. S. Garieri suggested changing it to a three-way stop intersection. Chief Ford said that the situation should be reviewed, and said that he would defer to the Town Administrator and DPW Director. S. Sushoski said that he had spoken with Greg Morse, DPW Director about the situation, and G. Morse will draft a response. T. Creamer suggested letting the resident know that some definitive action is being taken.

T. Creamer said that several veterans have complained that the outdoor war plaques honoring World War II and Korean War veterans have been moved inside Town Hall. When people come to visit Sturbridge on weekends, they are unable to see the plaques because Town Hall is closed.

T. Creamer commended the Town Administrator for the information that he published regarding senior discounts from Charter Communications. He read the information regarding discounts for seniors into the record. He recommended that the Town Administrator consider some options.

T. Creamer noted that S. Suhoski is working on the maintenance issue with the Sturbridge Tourist Association.

T. Goodwin said that in July the Selectmen will meet with the Planning Board at a work session to discuss Main Street revitalization grants.

T. Goodwin said that he would send out an email regarding dates in June for the off site meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

### **Citizens' Forum**

Ginger Peabody expressed concern about the number of illegal signs and flags on Route 20. She noted that the Planning Board had created a sign bylaw, but stores have been ignoring it. She requested enforcement of the bylaw.

G. Peabody commended the volunteers who had done an excellent job at the Heins property trails.

G. Peabody noted that this is the first time in over 20 years that she has not served on a committee in Sturbridge. She said that it is difficult to know what is going on in the town. She said that the cable access channel is slow, and suggested that the town publish a monthly newsletter, such as the one issued by the Council on Aging.

G. Peabody said that the Building Committee was appointed for their expertise, and the members need to have some sort of skill to be on that committee.

M. Blanchard said that she had spoken to the Town Administrator about the proliferation of signs, including neon signs, and S. Suhoski has discussed it with the Building Inspector. David Lindberg, Building Inspector will speak to the businesses and educate them about the sign bylaw, then enforce the bylaw.

T. Creamer thanked G. Peabody for the points she had raised. In terms of the illegal signs and flags, T. Creamer stated that the failure to enforce the bylaw ultimately rests on the shoulders of the Board of Selectmen as the Board is duty bound by the Charter to "cause the laws and the orders of the Town of Sturbridge to be enforced." T. Creamer stated that the Board individually and collectively had an obligation to set the example for compliance, and that although he was not a strong fan of the current sign bylaw (noting its restrictiveness) there was no option for the Board but to comply with and enforce the bylaw. As for communicating town news, T. Creamer that Chris Clark, Town Administrator in Southbridge, has a weekly column in the Southbridge Evening News. He suggested doing the same, submitting a streamlined version of what is going on in Sturbridge. M. Blanchard noted that the Town Administrator's report is posted on the Town's website. T. Creamer suggested doing an enews blast that

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residents could subscribe to. G. Peabody said that many residents don't know how to sign up, so we need to draw them in. T. Goodwin suggested that the Board discuss the matter during the next work session on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION: To adjourn, by M. Blanchard.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: S. Garieri**

**Vote: All in favor.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

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BOS Clerk

Date