

April 30, 2012

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
APRIL 30, 2012**

Present: Thomas Creamer, Chairman  
Priscilla Gimas  
Mary Blanchard  
Mary Dowling  
Mary Redetzke  
Shaun Suhoski, Town Administrator

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

**Joint Meeting with Conservation Commission**

This discussion was deferred to a future date at the request of the Conservation Commission.

**Town Administrator Goals**

The Board reviewed a submittal from the Town Administrator, then engaged in a discussion based on a handout distributed by the Chairman that contained all of the suggestions from the members of the Board. The Board reviewed the goals that were held in common by most members first, then agreed upon eight primary topics that the Chairman will compile for acceptance at the next meeting. The goals included:

1. Re-convene Insurance Advisory Committee to discuss and implement modifications to Town's health insurance plan that safeguards employee coverage while achieving cost containment for the FY14 budget proposal.
2. Complete review of compensation plan and efficiency of general government staffing levels, for review by Personnel Committee and use in developing FY14 budget.
3. Study cost-benefit of initiating Town-based maintenance or management of Town-owned buildings and issue written report to Board of Selectmen.
4. Further advance Commercial Tourist District Improvements in concert with the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Planner and relevant state and federal entities, issue written update with suggested next action steps to Board of Selectmen. This goal shall include lending support, leadership, guidance, and grant writing experience towards this project.
5. Promote sound community economic development principles through collaboration with key stakeholders (EDAC, staff, Chamber of Commerce, Old

Sturbridge Village and local businesses) and issue written community economic development update.

6. Work collaboratively with Police Chief to develop a written plan and funding proposal to ensure a functional emergency management structure and Emergency Operations Center.
7. Assist Recreation Department in developing comprehensive development approach to meet identified needs and enhance recreational opportunities (Town Barn field development, alternate site to Shepard parcel).
8. Conservation Restrictions: Develop a plan for addressing the required Conservation Restrictions on the Heins property, Shepard property, Riverlands property and Long Pond property and present same to the Board.

### **Old Business**

M. Blanchard reminded S. Suhoski that Ch. 90 information was expected for the next meeting.

P. Gimas thanked S. Suhoski for advancing the decommissioning of the old drain pipe from Farquhar Road project and that residents were pleased that the work would begin soon.

P. Gimas noted that she had spoken with a resident who stated that they will never attend town meetings for fear of losing business. P. Gimas said that the same business owners wondered whether votes could be done by secret ballot. M. Blanchard stated that it was not allowed. S. Suhoski stated that in some cases it may be allowable by Town Meeting voters. T. Creamer stated his preference for open discussion and votes.

M. Redetzke provided the Board with dates for potential "meet and greet" with residents. She will email the dates to BOS membership and schedule no more than two members at any event to avoid quorum issues.

M. Dowling questioned whether S. Suhoski will address the citizen petition impact to budget at Town Meeting, and indicated her support for such a presentation. S. Suhoski stated that he plans to make a brief presentation. T. Creamer said that the Board had directed the Town Administrator to prepare an overview of potential impact of cuts. M. Blanchard said that the Finance Committee also requested a level funded budget. S. Suhoski said that he was working on such information and would have it no later than the second May meeting of the Board.

T. Creamer expressed concern over the backlog of Board of Selectmen meeting minutes and requested, as an individual member of the Board, that the Town Administrator submit to him and the Board a plan by Wednesday to address the issue or

T. Creamer will file a complaint with the Attorney General. He further stated that under the Open Meeting Law, as well as the Massachusetts Public Records Law, that the Board of Selectmen was in violation of State statutes that dictate the posting of meeting minutes within a reasonable time. He stated that 4-6 months is by no means reasonable. T. Creamer went on to say that he does not hold the Board's Secretary responsible for the delay, but rather the Town Administrator, as he is the one who establishes the Secretary's priorities.

T. Creamer inquired whether the PLAC vacancies were posted. SAS said they were included in latest vacancy advertisement that Judy Knowles had just issued and would look to see if it had been previously posted.

T. Creamer inquired whether the "critical infrastructure list" had been reviewed and submitted to National Grid. S. Suhoski responded that the Police Chief had reviewed the list prior to the April 20th deadline and had no changes. S. Suhoski said that he would double-check with the DPW Director regarding same.

### **New Business**

M. Blanchard noted that it was the season to initiate the appointment process. S. Suhoski said that he and staff have already reviewed the status of term expirations and that letters had been issued. S. Suhoski stated that he anticipated all reappointments to be concluded in May. M. Blanchard noted that the employees could be done separately.

M. Redetzke thanked the environmental class for their assistance in planting trees for Arbor Day and that she will seek the list of names. S. Suhoski noted that DPW crews had provided assistance in moving and storing of trees for the event.

M. Dowling expressed regret that the Conservation Agent was leaving the Town's employ and said "Erin Jacque is a jewel" and she wishes her well in her future endeavors.

M. Dowling announced that the National Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. on the Town Common, and what a wonderful event it is for all faiths.

T. Creamer reminded the public about the availability of tree seedlings on the first floor of Town Hall.

**MOTION: To adjourn, by M. Blanchard.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Gimás**  
**Vote: All in favor.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

April 30, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

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BOS Clerk

Date