

Board of Selectmen

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes of March 30, 2012

*Location:* Nipmuc High School, 90 Pleasant Street – Auditorium

*Present:* Chairman Robert J. Fleming, Selectman Kenneth E. Picard, Selectman James A. Brochu, Town Manager, Blythe C. Robinson

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm.

The Selectmen called the meeting to review the setup of the room for the Special Town Meeting on Tuesday night with the use of a PowerPoint presentation to display the warrant articles for the meeting, as well as a presentation on the status of the TIP program. The other item on the agenda was to discuss the status of Article #19 regarding the purchase of the land on South Street.

Given that several members of the public were there to discuss that item the Selectmen took it up first.

Chairman Fleming indicated that at this point he prefers to pass over the article at the meeting. Given the concerns raised by residents and that the owner does not want to agree to any contingencies to wait for payment on the land until the permitting is complete he believes this is the way to go. Selectmen Picard said he did not agree, he wants to move forward with the question and let there be debate on the matter so we can find out why residents may be opposed to the project. Selectmen Brochu said that he agreed with Chairman Fleming at this point. Dr. Taylor in the audience asked to address the Board. The Board decided to take input from the public. Dr. Taylor asked questions about the development of the 2006 Master Plan and challenged the appropriateness of it because he didn't feel that a random sampling of residents was actually done, on which the plan was based. Chairman Fleming reminded Dr. Taylor that the plan was not a requirement for the Board to bring this article forward on the warrant, and that this was not the proper forum to debate a six year old plan that had been adopted by the Town. Mr. Robinson of North Street asked the board to confirm that the only action that the Town was voting on Tuesday was the purchase of the land, nothing else. The Board confirmed this. Dr. Taylor asked if the question could still come up on Tuesday night even though the Board makes a motion to pass over. Chairman Fleming indicated it could, and suggested to Dr. Taylor that he discuss this further with Moderator Dave Loeper who was present at this meeting. The Board also asked Recreation Commission Chairman Rich Gazoorian for his input. He told the Board that two of the three members of his board were in favor of passing over, but not himself. Whatever the Board decides, he will be ready with a presentation for Tuesday if it is decided to move forward.

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46 **Motion #1:** Selectman Brochu made a motion to pass over Article #19 of the Special Town  
47 Meeting Warrant on Tuesday evening. Second: Chairman Fleming. Selectman Picard voted  
48 against the motion, so the vote was 2 – 1.

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50 At 3:40 PM the Selectmen decided to recess for 10 minutes prior to working on the setup for the  
51 meeting.

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53 The Selectmen then reviewed the setup of the room for Tuesday night with the Town Clerk and  
54 the Moderator. It was decided that the Selectmen will move to the other side of the stage, and  
55 that the Town Clerk and Moderator will be where the Selectmen have sat in the past. The Town  
56 Accountant will sit down in the auditorium. Selectman Picard will operate the presentations on  
57 his laptop from his seat. The Finance Committee will be placed in their regular location.

58 **Motion #2:** At 4:10pm Motion was made by Chairman Fleming to adjourn the meeting. Second:  
59 Selectman Picard, unanimous: Selectman Brochu.

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61 Respectfully submitted,  
62 Blythe Robinson, Town Manager

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