

1 Board of Selectmen

2 **Town of Upton**



3 **Massachusetts**

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6
7 Meeting Minutes of May 31, 2011

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9 *Location:* 25 Maple Ave / 20 Church St – 2nd floor training room.

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11 *Present:* Chairman Robert J. Fleming, Selectman Kenneth E. Picard, Selectman James A.
12 Brochu, Town Manager, Blythe C. Robinson, and Department Coordinator Karen
13 L. Varney.
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15 The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm at 25 Maple Ave. The Board met with Grafton
16 & Upton Railroad President, Jon Delli Priscoli to review a conceptual plan for the railroad. To
17 insure that everyone is informed of his proposed plan, he recently met with the Police Chief
18 Michael Bradley and Fire Chief Aaron Goodale. He said both gentlemen liked the proposal. Mr.
19 Priscoli, detailed his plan by noting the installation of approaching warning signals on Hartford
20 Ave, along with traditional railroad signals. Operations will be on a daily service with a
21 maximum of 20 rail cars in the RR yard. In the next 6 to 12 months, for security reasons, he is
22 planning to fence in the entire 32 acre area with at least an 8 foot fence and has been in
23 communication with abutters, informing them he is planning to put in plantings in front of some
24 areas of the fencing to block areas of the yard making it more pleasing to the neighborhood. Mr.
25 Priscoli also said that a parking area is planned to the left of the main entrance off Maple ave
26 which will be fenced and gated. He hopes to have this in place within the year. The Building
27 Inspector is in the process of completing the inspections on the buildings. Summarizing the
28 capping of the landfill, Cody Henderson and Kevin Lobisser have been working diligently
29 however the scope of this landfill has increased dramatically and it looks like it is 6-12 months
30 away from completion.
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32 At 6:45pm the Board recessed so they can meet with the Mendon-Upton School
33 Committee and the Finance Committee for the purpose of reviewing the FY12 budget.
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35 7:00pm the meeting reconvened at 20 Church St. Chairman Fleming stated that at the
36 conclusion of this meeting, the Board will motion to enter into executive session under MGL c.
37 30A, s. 21 exception #6, land values.
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39 In attendance, Mendon Selectmen Mike Ammendolia and Mike Goddard, School
40 Committee members, Michelle Goodwin, Liana Moore, Donna Coakley-McGowan, Heather
41 Applegate, Kathleen Drennan and Don Morin, Upton Finance Committee Paul Flaherty, Joan
42 Shanahan, John O’Sullivan, Karen Glowacki, and Jonathan Graves. Chairman Robert Fleming
43 said the reason for this meeting is to have general dialog among the school committee and
44 Finance Committee members about the FY12 budget. School Committee Chair Heather

45 Applegate summarized in detail the FY12 preliminary budget noting funding (grants) losses. The
46 Mendon Board of Selectmen will be meeting tomorrow night to decide what action to take
47 seeing that the Mendon override did not pass. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of
48 dissolving the School District which could be costly in the end. There was concern among the
49 Upton Board of Selectmen as July 1st is around the corner and the need to make a final decision
50 on this budget.

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52 It was agreed by the Board and the School Committee to meet in July and then
53 periodically meet every 2 months to keep the communication open. Chairman Fleming suggested
54 that perhaps the School Committee prepare a multi-year budget forecast going forward.

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56 In an effort to try and ease the town's shortfall, Town Manager Blythe Robinson said she
57 will have a copy of the June 16th Special Town meeting Warrant Article motions prepared for the
58 Board's review to choose those that are a priority.

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60 In other business, the Town Manager confirmed that the Planning Board on May 24th
61 had a Public hearing for review of a Large Lot Frontage Reduction Special Permit application for
62 the Sweetwilliam Farm property at 153 North St that was approved. Also Ms. Robinson has an
63 updated version of the Conservation Restriction for Sweetwilliam Farm for the Board to review.
64 It is the Board's intention to meet at 5:00pm before the STM on July 16th to sign this CR for
65 Sweetwilliam Farm. Regarding the closing for Sweetwilliam Farm, Sudbury Valley Trustees will
66 need to cut a check for \$74,000. Kopleman and Paige will handle the payoffs once the property
67 is closed. The Memorandum of Understanding for Sudbury Valley Trustees will be finalized as
68 they will hold the restriction as the primary and the Conservation Commission is the back up.
69 Legal bills have been absorbed by the Town, Sudbury Valley Trustees and Open Space.

70 At 8:40pm Chairman Fleming motioned to enter into an Executive Session under MGL c.
71 30A, sec. 21 exception #6, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate.
72 There will be 2 Executive Sessions, dealing with the same exception #6, land values. The Board
73 will reconvene their regular meeting upon completion of these executive sessions for
74 adjournment only. Robert Fleming aye, Ken Picard aye, James Brochu aye.

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76 The Board reconvened at 9:01pm and motioned to adjourn.

77 Robert Fleming aye, Ken Picard aye, James Brochu aye.

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79 Respectfully submitted,

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81 Karen L. Varney, Department Coordinator

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