

Members present: Kevin M. McCormick Christopher A. Rucho
 Allen R. Phillips John B. DiPietro, Sr.
 Valmore H. Pruneau

Mr. McCormick convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Read and acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion Mr. Phillips to approve the meeting minutes of December 19, 2007, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Pruneau to approve the open and executive session meeting minutes of January 2, 2008, seconded by Mr. Pruneau. Vote on the motion – Messrs. McCormick, Phillips, Pruneau and Rucho yes; Mr. DiPietro abstains.

Parks Commission

Dennis Mulryan, Chairman of the Parks Commission, explained that he will be providing the Board with an overview of the plans and activities for the parks during 2008. Following his presentation will be a presentation by the Parks Facilities Committee Chairman Pat Inderwish who will speak on long-term improvements. He noted improvements which have been made in recent years which include the DPW establishing a parks budget account, the establishment of a Parks Facilities Committee for larger projects, renovations to Pride Park, work on fencing and facility renovations at the Richard Townsend Field, sealing of the tennis courts and related fencing repair, replacement of lights, turf and goals and the Goodale football/soccer field, fencing replacement at the baseball field, clean up at the Pine Grove and the creation of the exercise trail, the creation of a sand volleyball court, bench refinishing and plantings at the town common gardens. He noted the efforts of volunteer organizations including the Pride Park Committee, Eagle Scouts, Garden Club, Municipal Light Plant, the Community Service Program and DPW staff on these projects.

Mr. Mulryan reported on setbacks which included the loss of two seasonal maintenance employees, the loss of the Oakdale softball/soccer field, closing of the pool, eliminating the skating rink, and the continued deterioration of facilities across the board. The Mission for the Parks for 2008 is immediately implement priority safety projects, implement maintenance projects with the remaining funds, support activities of the Bicentennial Celebration, improve parks management processes and launch a major parks facilities project. Last year town meeting approved \$30,000 for the priority safety projects. The Parks Commission has also received the permission requests for the year-long Bicentennial events. Mr. Mulryan feels the events will be a strain on the DPW and stressed the need for the committee to plan ahead and keep communicating with the Parks Commission. From a financial stand point, Mr. Mulryan reported that the Commission feels comfortable that they will be able to attack the priority safety issues. They expect a \$4,000 deficit in the Summer Recreation Revolving account. The DPW is seeking bids and scheduling work on the priority safety projects.

Mr. Mulryan asked for the Board's support for one seasonal parks employee as they feel it is important to meet the additional work generated by the Bicentennial activities. The Parks Commission will be requesting two articles be included on the warrant. The first is to move \$12,000 from Summer Recreation Revolving to Field Revolving and the other will be to raise the spending cap on the Field Revolving to \$50,000. He would also like a statement from the Bicentennial Committee and the Selectmen that planned activities are insured for liability, in accordance with the Parks Commission facilities permit. They would also like the Municipal Building Committee to

include the demolition of the town pool in any demolition of the Mixter Building and to coordinate with the Parks Commission and the Parks Facilities Committee on plans for parks facilities at Mixter and on Tivnan Drive.

Mr. Mulryan also noted that he wanted to clarify his response to the questions raised after the Parks \$30,000 appropriation was approved. The question was would fees be eliminated, and the response was the fees would still be needed to support parks maintenance activities. Following that the Commission voted to waive the new fee for school athletics while leaving the others unchanged. The Parks Commission's rules and regulations state that they can waive fees without a public hearing, and they are considering holding a public hearing for the possible roll back of recent fee increases. They also have a question into the Ethics Commission on this.

Mr. Mulryan reported that the Parks Commission has established the position of Parks Facilities Scheduling Coordinator. This was established within the commission to approve ad hoc requests and cancellations due to weather. They took the action to enable them to make decisions without a formal meeting of the entire commission. If the Parks Facilities Scheduling Coordinator is unavailable or has a conflict of interest in a decision, the responsibility can be transferred to the Chairman of the Commission. All seasonal permits and waiving of fees will still be voted upon by the Commission at a formal meeting.

As Chairman of the Bicentennial Committee, Mr. Pruneau stated that he will work closely with the Parks Commission and offered all the help he could. Mr. Phillips suggested giving the Parks Commission the list of activities planned.

Mr. Phillips noted that under the financial resources he didn't see any line item for Community Preservation funds. Mr. Mulryan explained that those are an independent resource, which cannot be on the commission's books. He is on the Community Preservation Committee and feels they will take requests for funding in the April time frame. Mr. Mulryan also clarified that the current balance in the summer recreation fund is \$15,000, and with the \$12,000 transfer the balance would be \$3,000. The \$10,000 put in two years ago to open the pool has been used over the past two years to run the Summer Recreation Program.

Mr. Mulryan reported that there will be a Summer Recreation Program this year, similar to the way it was run the last two years, with one-day a week off-site swimming. Mr. Rucho questioned expanding the program. Mr. Mulryan is considering having the program go until 3:00, however, the question is what types of activities would they do to keep the participants busy in the afternoon. Patrick Crowley, commission member, noted that if the program is expanded it would need to be announced by the end of April as that is when people plan for alternate day care.

Mr. Rucho asked if the Parks Scheduling Coordinator is the person who calls off games for weather issues. Mr. Mulryan explained that the position is basically what they have already had, it is just a little more formal. With regard to the request for a seasonal DPW employee, Mr. Rucho voiced his concern that the individual comes on when the parks are not used, and in previous discussions we talked about having them come on earlier. Mr. Mulryan feels the individual could do routine maintenance activities and have the Lead Parks employee do some of the major parks projects and prepare for Bicentennial events. Mr. DiPietro asked if they were not able to get the DPW employee could a volunteer committee of people on the weekends help out. Mr. Mulryan noted that this is going to involve large scale activities. Mr. Pruneau noted that the Bicentennial Committee will be looking for volunteers. Mr. Mulryan suggested talking with the Sheriff and the Community Service program or boy scouts.

On the issue of insurance coverage, Mr. Gaumond noted that he will work with Mrs. Lucier and the Bicentennial Committee and get a formal response from our insurance carrier. With regard

to the Municipal Buildings Committee and the Tivnan Drive project, Mr. Gaumond does not think it is too early to have those discussions. He suggested the Parks Commission and the Parks Facilities Committee attend the next meeting of the Municipal Buildings Committee scheduled for January 30th.

Mr. Phillips questioned whether they have a policy on the cancellation of field usage. Mr. Mulryan advised that it is contained in their Rules and Regulations and they are on line. Mr. Mulryan acknowledged the work of his fellow members, Patrick Inderwish, Peter Desy, Patrick Crowley and John Milewski. Mr. Mulryan advised that standing water is the number one criteria for closing a field down. Mr. Rucho pointed out the fact that the local groups such as Little League, Pop Warner and soccer, have been doing a lot more such as lining the fields and paying fees that help out. Mr. Phillips asked Mr. DiPietro if he would like to volunteer to do heavy labor. Mr. DiPietro offered to head the Roads and Grounds Committee. He challenged people who do not do anything for the town to get involved.

Parks Facilities Committee

Patrick Inderwish, Chairman of the Parks Facilities Committee, explained that he will speak on long-term projects. The committee was created in October of 2006, and has worked on inventorying what we have and how we will maintain what we have. They also reviewed the Master Plan to see what we accomplished to date and what we have not accomplished. They have communicated with members of the Board of Selectmen who have been on the committee and come up with their first plan, which they wanted to get the endorsement of from the Parks Commission. The Parks Commission voted to endorse the plan last Saturday. The next step is for the Board of Selectmen to endorse the plan.

Patrick Crowley explained that they have come up with a prioritized list of short and long-term goals. Short term goals will be started by FY2010. They include renovation of Goodale Park tennis/basketball courts including drainage upgrade, drainage improvements at Woodland Park and the creation of a new multi-purpose field at Goodale Park. They applied for a grant for the field project, however, they were not successful. Issues to address are the renovation of the baseball/softball fields, aggressively pursue grants and other sources of funding. Other sources of funds are the Community Preservation funds, however, those need approval by the Community Preservation Committee and town meeting. They also want to work with the Municipal Buildings Committee on the design of the new recreational facilities at the Mixter Building and Tivnan Drive.

Mr. Crowley explained that long-term goals are those completed after 2010. They include renovation of the multi-purpose field and athletic track including sanitary facilities, replace pool with new pool and water park, continue to expand parks facilities and partners with DCR and the county jail on state-owned land for recreational facilities, work with Municipal Buildings Committee on the creation of new recreational facilities at Mixter and Tivnan Drive and construct sanitary facilities at all parks facilities. Mr. Inderwish stated that he thinks the Facilities Committee had a good education in applying for and going through the grant funding process this past year. Within a 60-80 day period they gathered all the information and going forward they will be better prepared to be considered for these grants again. He also noted that construction of sanitary facilities was also in the Open Space Plan.

John Owanisian, member of the Parks Facilities Committee, reported that the number one short term project is the renovation of the Goodale Park tennis/basketball courts including drainage upgrades. They need to address the underlying drainage issues as they are experience considerable erosion and the fencing is in need of repair. They toured the facility with an engineer. Due to the

considerable amount of run off and erosion they need to install topsoil and hydro seed to create a drainage swale and berm to stop the water run off. We also do not have three contiguous tennis play-off courts. They propose when done the courts need to be extended and the basketball court removed. They also need to repair erosion on the corner of the basketball court and install a retaining wall. Their number one long-term project is the renovation of the multi-purpose field and track including sanitary facilities. There are very deep cracks in the track and a number of the lanes are under-sized and need to be redone. They also need to improve the playing field and concession stand. A cost benefit analysis will be done on sod versus artificial field.

Mr. Inderwish reviewed Action Request from the 2005 Master Plan – the Open Space and Recreation Section. They include handicap accessibility, rebuild bleachers on the all-purpose field in 2003, renovate the town pool using recommendations from engineer by 2005. Mr. Inderwish explained that they will be making every effort to get the pool back. Other recommendations include obtain additional practice fields by developing DCR land. Mr. Inderwish reported that Rep. O'Day has begun dialog with DCR. DCR's headquarters on Beaman Street has a gym facility and they also have a softball field. Other recommendations included complete softball field dugouts in spring of 2002, safety fencing on Goodale Street in spring of 2002 and construct lights. The new lighting would allow us to play night games. Other action requests include construct additional parking areas around Goodale Park, re-grade and extend irrigation, construct dugouts and lights at the baseball field. Mr. Inderwish pointed out the fact that this field is never idle until covered with snow. Additional actions requests include repair or reconstruct tennis and basketball courts at Goodale Park in 2002, install bathroom facilities at Goodale and Woodland Parks, continue to investigate additional land for the Commission to acquire and make all parks facilities handicap accessible.

To date the committee has received the endorsement of the Parks Commission and they are looking for the Selectmen's endorsement and pursuing funding sources. They will also be holding public hearings on their projects, and plan to seek funding for architectural and engineering services to establish cost estimates for the tennis/basketball court project at the May town meeting.

Mr. Phillips suggested enlisting the assistance of Senator Chandler for any DCR dealings. Mr. DiPietro suggested contacting the military disposal system on Bay Street in Taunton. They dispose of all the equipment when bases close. Mr. Phillips asked what type of facility they would like to see on Tivnan Drive. Mr. Inderwish would like to partner with the Parks Commission to come up with a design. Mr. Mulryan would like to replace the men's softball field which was eliminated. He would like also like a soccer field and a full-sized baseball field for senior Babe Ruth. Mr. McCormick noted that the area will only be seeded and is about eight acres.

Mr. Crowley asked the Board to endorse the plan as outlined to make sure that we are all on the same page as to what needs to happen. Mr. Phillips would like an opportunity to review the information before voting on it. It was agreed that the vote will take place at the Board's next meeting under Old Business. Mr. Mulryan plans to come forward with an article for \$5,000 to \$10,000 for the first project. Mr. McCormick cautioned them to get the correct amount of money. Mr. Rucho pointed out the fact that on some of the parks items identified in the Master Plan should have been completed several years ago and those conditions have worsened going in the same direction as the Mixter Building. Mr. Inderwish stressed that we have to maintain our assets. Mr. Phillips suggested having a time schedule, a five-year plan with projects for each of the five years. The Board thanked the Parks Commission and the Parks Facilities Committee for their presentation and agreed to keep in contact.

Motion Mr. Pruneau to appoint John O'Brien as an Associate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Vote on the motion- Messrs. McCormick, Pruneau, Rucho and DiPietro yes; Mr. Phillips abstains

2. Review request from Kirit Malaviya for a Motel Operation Permit for Reservoir Motor Lodge

All departments have responded that the establishment is in compliance. They have also paid the fine which was assessed for their violation.

Motion Mr. Phillips to issue a Motel Operation permit for Reservoir Motor Lodge, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Phillips at 8:25 p.m. to go into executive session under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 39, Section 23b, Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation, and the Board will be going back into open session, seconded by Mr. Pruneau. Roll call vote: Mr. DiPietro yes, Mr. Rucho yes, Mr. McCormick yes, Mr. Pruneau yes, Mr. Phillips yes.

Motion Mr. Phillips at 9:00 to come out of executive session, seconded by Mr. Pruneau. Roll call vote: Mr. Pruneau yes, Mr. Rucho yes, Mr. DiPietro yes, Mr. Phillips yes, Mr. McCormick yes.

Colleen Abrams, Wachusett Earth Day Collection Center

Colleen Abrams joined the Board and reported that the site team and Earth Day directors have met at least once since her meeting with the Board and have answered many of the Selectmen's questions. They have been working on the MOU and Arthur Allen has helped to get a grant proposal for a private funding grant. The agenda package contains cost phases and she would like the Board of Selectmen to commit to this and go forward. West Boylston would pay 14%, \$21,000 for the next two fiscal years, and in the third and fourth fiscal year they will be looking at found buildings. They will be raising private funds and foundation funds as well. Holden is at 32% and 10% is the lowest any town can be to participate. Maintenance will be by population and snow plowing will have to get resolved. Mr. Pruneau voiced concern over who will plow and sand the entrance. Mr. DiPietro questions estimates on the development costs. Ms. Abrams explained that before they spend money they will get several estimates and then they try to get things done at the lowest cost. She does not think the costs will be reduced by much. DEP has to be satisfied and the plan is a 50-week facility.

West Boylston is the first Board Ms. Abrams has met with. She has learned that in order to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement it has to be approved by town meeting. She hopes all the Boards sign off so the project can go forward. All have expressed interest and verbal support. Mr. Gaumond asked if it is the intension of Wachusett Earth Day to have a joint meeting of all the Boards to have them sign at one time or will it be individual towns doing this. Ms. Abrams noted that with the Hazardous Waste Agreement it was individual signing. It is a five-year agreement with DCR, which is longest term they can enter into an agreement for. The MOU also refers to five years, and there is an opt out clause. Two town meeting votes are required; one to approve entering into the Intermunicipal Agreement and the other to enter a contract greater than three years.

Mr. Phillips would like to get answers to the remainder of his questions, and is concerned over who pays for police and fire services. Ms. Abrams does not anticipate a need for police and fire services. Mr. Phillips feels there may be a need for those services as you will be dealing with hazardous materials some of which may require additional training. He questioned who would pay the cost of cleaning up a spill. Ms. Abrams feels that should be addressed by John Scannell as it

ultimately falls on the land owners. Mr. Phillips voiced concerned that it will come back on the Town of West Boylston. Ms. Abrams feels that might be a good question for DEP to answer and she will find out about hazardous materials training for police and fire.

Mr. Phillips questioned fees. Ms. Abrams replied that they do intend to charge a fee and keep it as low as possible. Mr. Phillips asked what will happen if after five years DCR would like their land back. Ms. Abrams feels that will be covered in the MOU. Mr. Phillips is concerned that it will be seven communities will who have to pay and it being a permanent facility. Ms. Abrams noted that the Towns include Boylston, Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling and West Boylston. Mr. McCormick questioned what would happen if only five towns signed on. Ms. Abrams thinks we will still go forward.

Ms. Abrams noted that they need permission from the DCR to put the facility on their land. Mr. Gaumond advised that a road opening permit will also be needed from the Town of West Boylston. He also does not know if the DEP would like a site assessment from the local Board of Health. Mr. McCormick voiced concern that if the Selectmen do not agree DCR can go ahead and put the facility in without the Town of West Boylston having any say. Mr. Phillips does not think it is far to say to seven towns you can fund the facility and we are going to allow everyone to dispose of items for a fee. Ms. Abrams feels it is possible that outsiders could come in at a great cost and it would reduce the operating costs for the facility. The intent is to service the seven towns and make it a self-pay facility. Mr. Phillips voiced concern with bringing in hazardous waste materials into the town and should it be sited someone else we would not have as many questions.

Ms. Abrams noted that at one point Mr. Gaumond suggested going out to the site. She also feels the figure says to the towns we are not prepared to be 100% self-sufficient. Ms. Abrams also has experience in keeping it reasonable to the residents and will also take household construction debris. The adjustment of the number would be made up by Wachusett Earth Day, or maybe open less hours, but they will manage it. The big issue to Mr. Phillips is bringing in hazardous materials from other towns into our town. Mr. McCormick feel West Boylston is the smallest town involved, and we end up with everything. We have a prison, a reservoir and now a hazardous materials site. Mr. Rucho would not have a problem if it was going to be collection of hazardous materials for just one day. Mr. McCormick needs more answers and does not think the Board will make a decision soon. As we have a town meeting in May, Mr. McCormick would like to revisit the proposal before then. Ms. Abrams agreed to get answer to the additional questions raised by the Board. Mr. Phillips suggested she revisit the list. Ms. Abrams noted that the question on liability is DEP. She will also find out who will pick up the cost should there be a hazardous materials spill.

NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

3. Review and vote to concur with Dog Finding and Order as presented by the Town Administrator
Mr. Phillips recused himself.

Motion Mr. Pruneau to concur with the finding and order as presented, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor. Mr. Phillips returned to the meeting.

4. Review proposed Reservoir Motor Lodge Manager's Policy and vote to accept as written

Mr. Phillips has read the policy and recommends changing the language in paragraph three as follows "the management staff will ensure that the cards are filled out legibly by the guests to the satisfaction of the manager on duty". Mr. Phillips also recommends having all employees read and sign off on the policies. Mr. DiPietro would like a signature line with the name of the employee typed underneath it.

Motion Mr. Phillips to accept the policy with the three revisions, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

5. Concurrence with appointments to the Shared Services Committee

Mr. Gaumond asked for the Board's concurrence on the appointment of Siobahn Bohnson as the School Committee's designee on the Shared Services Committee.

Motion Mr. Phillips to concur with the appointment, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

6. Review request from the Beaman Memorial Public Library to accept donations in the amount of \$811.00

Motion Mr. Phillips to accept the donations in the amount of \$811, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Vote on the motion – Messrs. McCormick, Phillips, Rucho and DiPietro; Mr. Pruneau abstains.

7. Vote to call for a Special Town Meeting & Approve Town Meeting Schedule

Mr. Gaumond requested the Board schedule a special town meeting for the purpose of beginning the Municipal Building Committee's charge of bringing a building plan to town meeting. Prior to the meeting we will also have public hearings. We will be asking for funds for engineering fees to continue the process. Following the meeting we will have an election ballot question at the annual town meeting for a debt exclusion to go forward.

Motion Mr. Phillips to schedule a Special Town Meeting on March 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Phillips to approve the town meeting schedule for the March 10, 2008 Special town Meeting, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Mr. Gaumond provided the Board with a schedule for the May Semi-Annual Town Meeting. This year he plans to have public forums for people to come forward and talk about their budget in addition to two different budget hearings.

Motion Mr. Phillips to concur with the schedule, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

8. Consider request from the Town of Sterling to join the Wachusett Collaborative

Motion Mr. DiPietro to authorize Mr. Gaumond to prepare a letter to the Town of Sterling advising them of the Board's interest in joining the Wachusett Collaborative, seconded by Mr. Phillips, all in favor.

MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Mr. Gaumond announced that the Mixer Building will be closed on Thursday and Friday of this week and we will reopen for business next Tuesday at the 127 Hartwell Street location, the CEA Building, across the street from Waste Management. If anyone has an emergency situation they can reach us through the dispatch center. Mr. McCormick commended Mr. Gaumond and Mrs. Lucier and everyone at town hall for their efforts on the move.

2. January 24, 2008 – 7:00 p.m., Bicentennial Committee Meeting at the Library – everyone is invited to attend and hear about opportunities to become involved in our Bicentennial Celebration

3. January 29, 2008 – 8:30-4:00, Planning and Public Health: Working Together – Creating Safer and Healthier Communities – Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center Marlborough

4. January 30, 2008 – 1:00 p.m., Ezra Beaman Day at the Middle/High School Auditorium

5. January 30, 2008 – 7:00 p.m., Municipal Buildings Committee Meeting

SELECTMEN'S REQUEST AND NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rucho has nothing

Mr. Phillips thanked Mr. Gaumond, Mrs. Lucier and all the people at town hall for their efforts on the move. Mr. Pruneau concurred with Mr. Phillips, and appreciates all the effort.

Mr. DiPietro reported that last Thursday he attended the CMRPC meeting, which lasted an hour and a half. The Federal Government has refused the Transportation Project in this area. They now want local boards to begin discussions on streamlining local permitting. They would like to see local boards dedicating their time only on large projects. If towns are not doing this they will send somebody out from the state to help us. Mr. DiPietro asked Mr. Gaumond to make it a practice if anyone has any town vehicles and they go on vacation he would like the vehicle left at its appropriate parking spot. Mr. Phillips suggested that be an agenda item on a future agenda. Mr. DiPietro reported that while driving through town he noticed that not everyone is putting out recycling containers with their trash. He feels if there is not a recycling bin out with your trash you should not get your trash picked up.

Mr. Phillips announced that the jail recently instituted a 911 system for use by the entire town and is offering to demonstrate the system. He recommends scheduling this on an upcoming agenda so that everyone get the information on how the system works.

Due to the snow storm last Monday the meeting scheduled with the School and Finance Committees was cancelled. Mr. Gaumond will offer January 28 with an alternate of February 4.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Phillips at 10:30 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. DiPietro, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Nancy E. Lucier

Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

Allen R. Phillips, Vice Chairman

Valmore H. Pruneau, Clerk

Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman

John B. DiPietro, Sr., Selectman