

**MEETING      BOARD OF SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSION      NOVEMBER 3, 2010**

Members present:      Allen Phillips      Christopher A. Rucho  
                                 Steven Quist      John O'Brien  
Members absent:      Kevin McCormick

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

**Read and Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Motion Mr. O'Brien to approve the regular session meeting minutes for October 18, 2010, seconded by Mr. Quist. Vote on the motion – Messrs. Quist, Rucho and O'Brien yes; Mr. Phillips abstains as he was not in attendance at the meeting.

Motion Mr. O'Brien to approve the regular session meeting minutes for October 20, 2010, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

**John Scannell, Department of Conservation & Recreation**

**1. Update on Wachusett Earthday Facility**

John Scannell announced that the facility held its grant opening a week ago Friday. Regional collections continue uneventful on Wednesday afternoons and the third Saturday of each month. The last quarterly hazardous products collection will be on November 20<sup>th</sup>, our fourth of the year. He added that we may revisit the frequency of those times. The numbers are still fairly steady with our last event bringing in 168 cars. DEP wanted the quarterly hazardous waste collections. Wachusett Earthday's website has information on event dates, what is collected, fees and users towns have also posted the information on their websites. The temporary trailer was put in place two weeks ago, septic was completed and we are waiting for utilities. In accordance with the agreement with the neighbors and the Selectmen, the landscaping was completed about one month ago. The Fire Chief requested a lockbox and that is on order. They intend to collection through the winter, weather permitting, with the same schedule.

Mr. Gaumond noted that he has been working at the site on Wednesdays to greet people and the residents are really appreciative that this project is in operation. The last time he covered the people were all first time users of the facility and it is all positive.

**2. Wachusett Reservoir Public Access Plan**

At the last Selectmen's meeting, Mr. Gaumond announced that the DCR is going through the update of their Public Access Plan and the Board requested an update on that process. Mr. Scannell explained that part of DCR's Watershed Protection Plan is to have a Public Access Plan which controls public use of the watershed. The plan was last updated in 2003, and our new Plan will be completed by the end of this year. They will have a public meeting to finalize the Plan before the end of the fiscal year and have put together a public access survey, which will give DCR guidance on how people use the property and help with the implementation of a new plan.

Mr. O'Brien attended DCR's public 'kick-off' meeting and found it was very informative. What he learned was the priorities of DCR and he hoped for more recreation opportunities of the land in West Boylston. Mr. Scannell explained that their primary function is to maintain the land for the protection of the public water supply. The ultimate protection is to not let the public use the property at all, which is what they do in the City of Worcester, as you are not allowed on water supply lands at all. Historically there has been public access to their property and they need to be guarded in what they allow on the property. Staff time and resources are meant to protect the water supply. They have had an Access Plan since 1996 and it has pretty much been the same.

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Mr. Rucho questioned the location of the Intake Protection Zones identified in the DCR Wachusett Reservoir Public Access Plan Update, which Mr. Scannell provided to the Board. Mr. Scannell noted the maps are posted on DCR's website. Mr. Phillips questioned Reservoir and Tributary Shorelines. Mr. Scannell explained that the entire south end of the reservoir out towards Gates Brook, West Waushacum and Muddy Brook is in that category. They consider it reservoir where Waushacum comes into the reservoir past Chapmans and Thomas Street to Quinapoxet and River Road is also considered reservoir. Non-motorized boating is allowed only on West Waushacum Pond. Mr. Phillips noted that now that the town is sewerred, is there any reason why we couldn't open up the Reservoir in West Boylston to non-motorized boating. Mr. Scannell stated that any potential human contact with the water raises a risk. Mr. Phillips suggested kayaking. Mr. Scannell does not think it will be allowed and from the perspective of our regulations they say the best protection is not to allow anyone to step foot onto the property. The only thing more concerning than boating is swimming. Mr. Phillips feels there is no contamination with non-motorized boating and suggested we look at it. Mr. Scannell thinks it would raise serious questions from their regulators about what they are doing. Mr. Phillips questioned the process the Board should follow in order to raise the issue. Mr. Scannell advised that it would be by making a comment through the public access comment process.

Mr. Scannell requested access to the landfill through the locked gate due to all-terrain vehicle issues they have been having. Mr. Phillips instructed Mr. Scannell to put the request in writing explaining what they want.

Mr. Phillips noted that following the Wachusett Earthday grand opening, they discussed the parking at the rail trail where the large boulders were. He would like to extend the parking lot. Mr. Scannell explained the reason for the placement of the boulders was due to people parking on the grass so there cars could be in the shade under the trees. He suggested spending time monitoring the usage of the lot and noted that when it is full people park up the grass hill. Mr. Phillips reported that the Police Chief has given a couple of tickets out to people who parked on the street. Mr. Scannell stated that he is open to discussions about what makes the most sense and the easiest place would be to go into the hill. In order to extend the lot you would have to add a lot more area to one side or the other. Mr. Phillips suggested installing a sign to advise of additional parking.

Mr. Quist questioned whether Carroll's Pond could be used for public skating. Mr. Scannell does not think DCR owns the pond, however, they may own a conservation restriction on it. He will look into it and report back. Mr. Quist noted that years ago he used to skate on the pond. Mr. Scannell believes it is a private pond.

**Public Hearing: Re., Consider Adopting Beautification of Town Squares and Islands Policy**

Mr. Phillips opened the public hearing and read the following notice. Public notice is hereby given, in conformity with the requirements of the General Bylaws of the Town of West Boylston, ARTICLE XXIII - PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE, that the Board of Selectmen will meet on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. for the purpose of considering adopting a Beautification of Town Squares and Islands Policy. The meeting will be held in the Municipal Office Building, 127 Hartwell Street, West Boylston. For additional information, or to review the proposed information, please contact the Office of the Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator at 508.835.3490. All interested persons, groups, and agencies are invited to attend. Kevin McCormick, Chairman, October 20, 27, 2010.

John Westerling joined the Board and noted that this policy is the result of a follow up to a discussion the Board previously had. He sat down with the Town Administrator and Mrs. Lucier and identified nine different areas, which are included in the policy together with their square footage. The

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policy will help to beautify the islands we have across town. Two of the locations are in the Mass DOT layout and they are fine with the policy.

The policy is as follows, annually, on February 1<sup>st</sup> the Board of Selectmen will kick off an Adopt-a-Square/Island Program. For the entire month of February, applications will be posted on line or by visiting the Office of the Board of Selectmen. At the first regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen in March, the Board will hold a drawing for the following squares and islands: Hosmer @ Laurel Sts., Beaman @ N. Main Sts. (Huntington Sq.), Crescent @ Thomas Sts., Malden @ Goodale Sts., Woodland @ Prospect Sts. (Gleason Memorial Sq.), Woodland St. @ Route 12, Kings Mountain @ Yorktown Sts., Worcester St. @ Route 12 and Church St. @ Route 12.

Prior to kicking off the Adopt-a-Square/Island Program, the organizations who have traditionally maintained Squares/Islands in the community will be contacted to determine whether they wish to continue that tradition. After completion of the first year of the Adopt-a-Square/Island Program, annually in the month of January, all participants will be contacted and given first right of refusal for their Square/Island. Should a participant decline, their Square/Island will be included in the annual lottery. All participants in the Program agree to plant and maintain their designated island/square in compliance with the following conditions:

- 1.) Island/square plantings must be maintained by the sponsor through the first frost. Maintenance includes trash removal, weeding, planting of flowers, plants and shrubs, spreading of mulch, watering and the revitalizing / replenishing of all aforementioned materials throughout the season.
- 2.) Ensure that any planting on the islands will be limited to natural materials such as plants, shrubs and flowers all planted in the ground, and mulch. No pots or barrels shall be allowed in any plantings.
- 3.) Replace, as needed any plant items that perish during the course of the season.
- 4.) The height of the plants and shrubs should not exceed 24 inches, and any signage and plantings may not impede visibility for vehicles.
- 5.) The signage on the island shall be limited to one sign paid for by the sponsor. The sign shall read 'Sponsored by' and the name of the sponsor along with the company's logo if sponsored by a business.
- 6) All signage and plantings shall be reviewed by the public safety department and the Department of Public Works to ensure they do not present a visual hazard.

The sign specifications are as follows:

- 1.) Material: 3/4 inch PVC or 3 millimeter DiBond material
- 2.) Size: 2x3 feet or not to exceed 6 square feet
- 3.) Colors: Specific to businesses logo (No limitations on number of colors) if sponsored by a business
- 4.) Posts: 1x1, 2x2 or 4x4 inch square aluminum tubing
- 5.) Font: Specific to businesses logo (No limitations with font styles and size) if sponsored by a business

If at any point the Town deems that the square/island is unsightly due to lack of care, the participant in the Program will be notified by the Town Administrator of the need for maintenance. Two weeks after such notification, the Square/Island will be re-inspected, and if the Square/Island is found to be unsightly, then the Town can remove the "Adopt-A-Square/Island" sign and the person or business may forfeit their rights to plant or advertise on the square/island. The Town reserves the right to refuse any or all applications.

Mr. O'Brien questioned where we will get the signs. Mr. Westerling replied, a professional company. Mr. Rucho asked if there are any provisions to give priority to local groups, or do they need to go into the lottery. Mr. Westerling noted that there are no provisions for that, however, it is something we could consider if it is the Board's wish. Mr. Rucho suggested for non-profit groups they would get preference as to which island they would like. Mr. Westerling advised that the Garden Club does a lot of the plantings in front of the Congregational Church and at the Library.

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Mr. Phillips asked if you have 12 organizations in town who want an island, would you do a drawing? In addition, if you want to give first refusal to them, you would need a contingency that says more than nine, then that would go into a drawing. Mr. Rucho would like non-profit to get preference. Mr. Westerling feels it would be taking it away from businesses. Mr. Rucho asked after the drawing if you get an island that you do not want, do you have the right to say no to it. Mr. Westerling answered yes. Mr. Quist asked if there will be plantings with the Gateway Signs. Mr. Rucho does not have that level of detail yet, although it could be.

Mr. Phillips would like to add language under #6 'and for appropriateness'. Mr. Westerling noted that we discussed that and included the language, which says the town reserves the right to refuse any or all applications. There is no one present to speak on this agenda item.

Motion Mr. Quist to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the policy adding in language regarding preference to local groups. Mr. Gaumond noted that local groups and families will be encouraged to participate. We could try this as it is and see how it works out. Mr. Westerling noted that there are some large islands which could be non-profit and business together. Mr. Rucho is fine with trying it out.

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the policy with the inclusion of the following language under #6 'and for appropriateness', seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

**John Westerling, Director of Public Works**

**1. Consider Request for Driveway Opening Waiver**

Mr. Westerling informed the Board that Jesse Kaminski, who is in the audience this evening, has requested a waiver of the ten-foot driveway setback requirement. The Board previously had a conversation with Charles Derrah, Mr. Kaminski's next door neighbor, with regards to his driveway not being constructed correctly. At that time, the Board voted to have the DPW go out and relocate Mr. Derrah's driveway.

Mr. Westerling explained that Mr. Kaminski's would like permission to move his driveway seven feet towards Mr. Derrah's property line as the current set up is both awkward and unsafe. If this is not approved, the existing granite curb on the right will have to be cut and a new curb will need to be added to the left side. His builder has agreed to move the driveway at no additional cost, and Mr. Derrah has indicated that he is not opposed to a waiver of the setback requirements and would agree to this in writing. Mr. Westerling added that there are no conflicts with catch basins or telephone phones. He is unable to allow this because it does not meet the driveway regulations.

Mr. O'Brien pointed out the fact that the Board agreed to Mr. Derrah's request and had the DPW move it. Mr. Quist questioned snow removal. Mr. Westerling believes that would be an issue. Mr. Phillips would require the letter from Mr. Derrah in advance and would like that condition included in any motion for approving the request.

Motion Mr. Rucho to grant the waive for the driveway opening at 20 Olde Century Farm Road provided that the town is in receipt of a letter from Mr. Derrah approving same, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

**2. Consider scheduling public hearing to consider making Franklin Street one-way**

Mr. Westerling sent a memo to the Town Administrator on October 28. He noted that the intersection of West Boylston Street and Franklin Street has been identified by Central Mass Regional Planning Commission as a location of high traffic accidents. It has also been identified by the Transportation Committee and the Master Plan as a dangerous intersection in need of modification. Chief Minnich indicated that it has the fourth highest incidence of accidents in town.

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Cars entering the intersection have reduced sight distance due to the relatively steep angle of approach of Franklin Street to Route 12. The angle makes merging into traffic flow difficult, especially in the winter months. The high traffic volume on Route 12 makes merging difficult which can frustrate motorists causing them to attempt to merge into traffic when there may not be adequate time to merge safely. In addition, the evening rush hour traffic traveling northbound on Route 140 is delayed as cars queue waiting to turn left onto Franklin Street from Route 140. There is also inadequate room to pass to the right of those vehicles queuing so traffic can back up as far back as the intersection of Maple Street. The most recent accident at the intersection occurred over the summer when a motorcycle was struck by a car. There were no serious injuries, however, the abutter on the corner was so upset she called and asked that something be done to improve the safety of the intersection. All of these challenges will be exacerbated when the residents of the 26 housing units on Franklin Street move into their new homes.

Mr. Westerling recommends making Franklin Street a one-way street from Route 12 to Worcester Street which will substantially reduce the conflicts that occur at Franklin and Route 12, it will direct all traffic onto Route 12 from Route 140 through the signalized intersection of Route 12 and 140 in front of Honey Farms and it will eliminate the cars queuing on Route 140 to turn left onto Franklin Street and reduce traffic delays on Route 140. This recommendation is also supported by a unanimous vote of the Transportation Committee and the Police Chief. If the Board agrees with this recommendation, then we must seek the approval of the MassDOT and schedule a public hearing.

If this change is made, Mr. Quist recommends the light at the intersection of Route 140 and 12 be changed to include a dedicated left turn arrow. Mr. Westerling advised that we would have to petition MassDOT for that. Mr. Rucho feels all we are doing is moving the issue, which will now be in the center of town. The next issue will be the left onto Franklin Street when the residents are going home. He thinks we are just moving the problem. Mr. Westerling stated that it is moving the problem to an intersection with signals. Mr. Rucho feels all we are going to do is make it worse. Mr. Phillips asked if we tried this before. He thinks Franklin Street was a one-way street at one time and it was removed. He is an advocate for one-way if it doesn't create a problem. He also suggested going back and looking at the other options before we look at making this a one-way street. You have an issue in front of Honey Farms and it is difficult with that traffic.

Mr. Westerling advised that the other option is change the construction of Franklin Street with Route 12 and raise it, however, you will still have the heavy traffic. Mr. Phillips would like to look at all the alternatives and bring them forward at the public hearing. Mr. Westerling added that we may have a better opportunity to look at this once the 26 families move in. Mr. Rucho feels this would be the cheapest option. Mr. Westerling stated that his recommendation is not based purely on cost. Mr. Phillips suggested waiting to see what happens when the 26 units come and if needed, schedule a public hearing to review all the options. Mr. Westerling reported that he spoke with the Police Chief and when they designed the Rayan Building he asked for a left turn only in anticipation of Franklin Street becoming a one-way some day.

Motion Mr. Quist to table this issue at this time, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

**3. Consider scheduling public hearing to consider closing River Road**

Mr. Westerling explained that River Road has been closed due to poor construction for quite some time. According to the General Laws, the matter must be referred by the Board of Selectmen to the Planning Board for them to report back in 45 days to the Selectmen. He asked the Board to request the Planning Board review the possibility of discontinuing River Road and in addition, continuing the closing of River Road through town meeting.

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Motion Mr. O'Brien to send the closing of River Road to the Planning Board so that they can start their 45-day process, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Rucho to continue the closing of the road until town meeting and install a 'dead end' sign at Thomas Street, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, all in favor.

**4. Consider Applications for Abatement of Sewer Usage Charges**

The first application is for Vokes, 63 Temple Street, who is seeking an abatement for 40,000 gallons of water. The applicant, Norman Vokes provided the reason being new liner installed and water was used to fill pool and water lawn. Their usage of 66,150 gallons for their most recent charge does exceed past usages. The dollar value of the 40,000 gallons is \$360. Mr. Westerling recommends denying the request because the Board of Sewer Commission does have a policy on Sewer Use Bill Abatements which clearly stated that failure to secure a second water meter from the Water District shall not be a reason for granting an abatement of a sewer use bill.

Mr. Vokes joined the Board. He explained at the time he called Mr. Westerling in the spring and he went to the Water District about a second meter. They told him there is a 20% reduction and they advised not to put in a second meter. He checked with the pool company and they said they could truck the water in. The Water District said call the DPW and he will tell you what to do. He called Mr. Westerling and Mr. Westerling said he would send me an abatement letter and I should include the letter from the pool company that they installed the new lines and when I get the bill it will be adjusted. He sent the letter and a copy from the pool company and Mr. Westerling said he cannot get an abatement on it. Mr. Vokes advised that he is paying \$600 to put water into the pool it is for one quarter of the year. He is paying over \$1,100 for water and sewer and it is ridiculous. If I am paying \$600 for water to go into the pool where does that go, and it is above and beyond my water bill. Some people have sprinkler systems. My water bill is \$400 and sewer is \$600, which is \$200 more than water.

Mr. Westerling explained that the Sewer Department gets their water readings from the Water District and we subtract the current reading from the former reading. He added that Mr. Vokes did submit the invoice showing the installation of the new liner. The Board did set up a policy with a second meter for that. In that case the Water District reads the meters and the second meter would be deducted from the first meter.

Mr. Vokes added that when he connected to the sewer, the sewer contractor, Leahy, broke his sprinkler system and the water went into the ground. This is \$600 to fill a pool and the water does not go into the sewer because it went into the pool. He added that he should have had the pool guy fill it with his truck. Mr. Westerling does not have the ability to abate the request. Mr. Rucho noted that we have hundreds of people filling pools every year. Mr. Phillips asked about getting a second meter. Mr. Vokes explained that to put in a new meter it's \$365 plus the plumber.

Mr. O'Brien explained that Mr. Westerling's job is to follow the policy and in this case the water did not go through the sewer system and it is the right thing to do.

Motion Mr. O'Brien to approve the abatement for \$360.00, seconded by Mr. Quist.

Mr. Rucho voiced concern over saying that anybody who has a pool or a sprinkler system could be abated. He questioned whether Mr. Westerling received any other requests like this. Mr. Westerling advised that we have had and he advised them of the Sewer Commission's Policy. He added that the Board of Sewer Commissioners has never processed an abatement request like this.

Mr. Phillips agrees and thinks we are setting a bad precedent, but he thinks there was some confusion. He thinks Mr. Vokes was under the impression that all he had to do was fill out the abatement. He also thinks it is the right thing to do and it is a bad precedent. Mr. Vokes stated Mr. Westerling said you can abate it and I will send you the form, fill it out and when you get the bill from

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the pool company send it in. Mr. Phillips thinks it is the right thing to do. Mr. Westerling stated that it may open a can of word in the future somebody could call and say I am filling my pool.

Vote on the motion – Messrs. Phillips, Quist and O'Brien yes; Mr. Rucho, no. He added that maybe we should change our rules. Mr. Phillips suggested a review of the policy.

Mr. Vokes noted that in the City of Worcester and in other towns, they hook up a special meter and take the water use off your bill. He suggested working something out with the Water Department if you are going to be using the water. Mr. Philips feels it is something worth looking at.

The second application is from Duffy, 5 Marsh Hawk Way. Mr. Duffy seeks an abatement due to a leak found by the Water District. Mr. Westerling has reviewed the sewer usage, and because they did have information suggesting there was a leak, he recommends abating \$223.13 of the bill. Mr. Westerling spoke with Mr. Duffy and told him that would be the logical thing to do. Mr. Rucho asked if the Board has abated this in the past because of leaks. Mr. Westerling added that we have had very few abatement requests. In the instance of leaks, it is within the Board's purview to do this and it follows the policy.

Motion Mr. O'Brien to approve the \$223.13 abatement, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

**Planning Board, Economic Development Task Force, Zoning Board of Appeals and Building Inspector**

Mr. Phillips explained that Selectmen requested this meeting to provide an opportunity to discuss the current items the Boards are working on.

1. Refer Zoning bylaw Change re: trailers on construction sites to the Planning Board for public hearing

This item was requested by the Board of Selectmen. It would change the approving authority to the Building Inspector instead of the Board of Selectmen. We brought this forward for the October town meeting, however, there was never a public hearing by the Planning Board on the change. The Board would like to refer this to the Planning Board. Mr. Gaumond noted that there were additional suggestions for bylaw changes in the areas of Site Plan Review and the Sign Bylaw. With regard to the bylaw on construction site trailers, Ms. Paré explained that the Selectmen just need to refer the bylaw to the Planning Board who is required to hold a public hearing six months prior to town meeting.

Motion Mr. Rucho to refer the Zoning Bylaw change relative to trailers on construction sites to the Planning Board for public hearing, seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Ms. Paré further added that the Planning Board is required to hold the hearing within 65 days of receiving the request. Mr. Gaumond suggested holding off until there is another public hearing for a bylaw change.

Ms. Paré advised that they do not have anything scheduled at this time. Mr. Rucho recommends combining this with another public hearing in order to keep the costs down. He is also fine with putting this off until October. Mr. Rucho withdrew his motion and the second was also withdraw by Mr. O'Brien.

1. Discussion about proposed bylaw changes

Karen Paré of the Planning Board, Philippe Chevalier of the Zoning Board of Appeals and John Hadley of the Economic Development Task Force joined the Board. Mr. Rucho suggested reviewing the Zoning Bylaws. He questions whether the focus of what we want to do in certain areas has changed. The Task Force has discussed Site Plan Review as it seems that every project triggers it. Ms. Paré advised that the Planning Board has not seen a Site Plan Review in quite some time as not everything triggers a Site Plan Review. Mr. Rucho noted that the Task Force would also like to talk about the Sign Blaws. Ms. Paré would be happy to look at the Sign Bylaw. She added that the Planning

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Board previously asked the Economic Development Task Force to come up with specific recommendation and then we can start working on it. Mr. Phillips informed Ms. Paré that the Selectmen are sending the Planning Board the permanent closing of River Road so that they can begin their 45-day review process and schedule the required public hearing.

Mr. Quist thanked everyone for doing their job. He feels we are at crossing roads in the town and we have to work hard to bring our economy back up to where it should be. How we are going to do this he is not sure. He wants to stress that this is an important time for us to work together as a team. If anyone has suggestions to streamline the process we are here to listen and let's talk about it. He is looking for feedback.

Mr. Chevalier reports that the ZBA had a previous meeting to go over some of the things they have talked about and they would like to see a definition section to the Zoning Bylaws as they are constantly trying to find what is a dwelling unit or a habitable unit. If there is going to be a re-write of the Zoning Bylaws there are things going on in the business district. Some of the businesses have been empty for a long time. The feeling of the business community is reluctant to do anything because of what it is going to cost. Mr. Phillips asked who should be working on the definition section. Mr. Chevalier recommends starting with the Planning Board and maybe bring other people in. He thinks there needs to be some input from the businesses as well. The Planning Board should put it forward. In addition, an accessory apartment is a temporary permit. When you sell your house the next person has to get a permit. He feels it should be a permanent use. As far as Site Plan Review, we all agree the scope in the bylaw is terribly written. We also talked about signage a bit. They feel it should be based on a percentage of the front of the building. The ZBA would be more than happy to give individual input. Ms. Paré would like to ask questions about the Accessory Apartment Bylaw, which was written to allow for in-law apartments. It is clearly written that it is part of the main structure and if we give permanency or increase the size, are we then saying that we are converting single-family homes into two-family houses. An accessory apartment is part of the structure and when you move out it can be converted back into the main home again. We would be changing the nature of the single-family zone into two-family houses. Mr. Chevalier feels the spirit of the Accessory Apartment Bylaw is to create the use in a structure that is supposed to look like a single-family home. You have an investment in a single-family home. Now these do go through the whole process with the ZBA. We are not saying that it should be anything else different.

Mr. Philips recommends identifying the issues and take a look at sitting down and tackling some of them. Mr. Chevalier noted that one of the areas in West Boylston is the Prospect Street/Central Street area and all the homes are two, three or four-family homes. Ms. Paré added that the area is a General Residence Zone and the people in the neighborhoods may have something to say about it. She would like to bring up sidewalks in the business district along Route 12. We tried to make it a condition of Site Plan Review but there is nothing in the bylaw that requires them and we get a lot of push back. If the town agreed with this, the Planning Board would request some help by having that codified in the Zoning Bylaw. Mr. Gaumond noted that we have it in writing from the state that they do not have any objection to sidewalks being installed, but do not look at them for maintenance. It would be a large investment of funds. He thinks we could find ways to incorporate that into our funding mechanism. Ms. Paré noted that we require sidewalks in all new subdivisions and she thinks maybe the 40B projects should also be required to include sidewalks. Mr. Chevalier advised that when the sidewalks were installed on Shrewsbury Street we ran into some of the neighbors having issues with them.

Ms. Paré reported that the Planning Board has a few other things they have been dealing with including a Village Zoning Bylaw and assisting the Sustainability Committee for a wind turbine bylaw. Mr. Hadley noted on the issue of sidewalks on Route 12, it is our main gateway and sidewalks would

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be a good help. The property owners should maintain them and we could give them a tax break if they do the facades of their buildings. Mr. Gaumond noted that there are Community Development Block Grants you can get for a Facade Program. They look at the least attractive properties on Route 12 and build a program to help improve the facade of some of those businesses. Mr. Philips questioned whether we really think that if we put sidewalks in people would walk up and down Route 12. Mr. Hadley noted that in the Town of Holden they installed sidewalks and they have Holden Days and people walk along the sidewalks.

Mr. Rucho questioned what do we leave here with and how do we move forward. Mr. Hadley would like to see a roundtable discussion with one person from each board to get something ready for the Board of Selectmen. He would also invite some of the business people in to hear the concerns. He feels we have to protect the look and asset of the town and make it easier for them. At their next meeting they will be discussing bringing back the Businessman's Association. Mr. Phillips suggested inviting residents who live near businesses. Mr. Quist thanked everyone for coming in. He feels we have to be pro active and take that extra step as this should be a go-to town. Karen Paré thinks we should start leveraging the resources and bring tourism back to town. Mr. Philips noted that we had Mr. Scannell in earlier and he noted that they allow non-motorized boating in some places on the Wachusett Reservoir although it is not allowed in West Boylston. Maybe hearing from more than just the Board of Selectmen would be beneficial. Mr. Rucho reported that the Task Force is working on a brochure which discussed the positive aspects of the community.

Mr. Phillips asked if the Economic Development Task Force goes out and recruits business to come to town. Mr. Hadley stated, we have not done that. We do not have the ability, however, when approached we do talk to them. Mr. Gaumond added that through the Economic Development Task Force we have established a list of vacant properties we can use as a marketing tool. Mr. Phillips noted that the town does not have any of the chain retailers. Mr. Gaumond reported that through the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission we are developing the Community Economic Development Project, which includes Century Drive, Gerardo's Wedding Emporium and the newly rezoned light industrial area off of Huntington Highway. It will become part of our regional economic plan. Mr. Phillips recommends doing promotions with these retailers. Mr. Hadley pointed out the fact that because we do not own the property all we can do is recommend who they can call. Mr. Chevalier feels the single biggest asset we have in West Boylston is the single tax rate. As the businesses across the city line pay almost double the taxes, Mr. Phillips would like this group to get together and ask the questions, which will include why they wouldn't locate in West Boylston. Paul Hennessey of the ZBA asked if Task Force works with the different plazas. Mr. Hadley indicated that he brought somebody to meet with Mr. Israel, who owns the Meadowbrook Plaza. Mr. Rucho noted that there are a lot of vacancies in the plazas.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consider request for Transient Vendor License from Christ Lutheran Church to sell holiday trees beginning the day after Thanksgiving

This is an annual request. Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the license request, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

2. Vote to approve Town Administrator & Selectmen Goals for 2011

Mr. Gaumond explained that on an annual basis, the Board works together and with the Town Administrator on preparing a list of goals for the upcoming year. The goals they set for this year include the following Town Administrator goals: Implement Economic Development/marketing program, Gateway improvement/beautification, re-examine pay-as-you-throw, examination of Senior

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Center/Senior Services, improve parks and recreation programs, develop a strategic plan for municipal lands and properties, explore alternatives for the town Sewer Department, human resources, and increase our investment in the Town's 'rainy-day funds.' They also include the following Board of Selectmen goals: focus on West Boylston schools, Community events, and more public meetings for citizen input. Mr. Gaumond asked for the Board's concurrence on the goals.

Motion Mr. Quist to approve the goals as presented, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Mr. Gaumond is also looking for feedback on prioritizing the Board's top three of the nine goals. He will present the top three at the next meeting of the Board.

**3. Review and consider approving West Boylston Police Department Cruiser Plan**

Mr. Gaumond noted that the Town previously adopted a cruiser plan, which went askew due to the economic downturn. We now have a different plan. The Capital Investment Board asked whether or not we would have a new plan that the Board of Selectmen and Police Chief agreed with. This is an innovative plan that allows us to go with four cruisers over a five year period, and the Capital Investment Board spoke highly of this plan at town meeting. Mr. Rucho questioned whether we can put dollar figures to the plan. Mr. Gaumond noted that the last cruiser cost \$33,000 at town meeting and we could use that figure to get a rough figure.

Motion Mr. Rucho to concur with the West Boylston Police Department Cruiser Plan, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

**4. Consider signing Veterans Day, 2010 Proclamation**

Motion Mr. Quist for the Board to sign the Veterans Day, 2010 Proclamation, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

**5. Consider designating a Board member to attend a Central Mass Metropolitan Planning Organization**

As Mr. Quist is the Board's designee to the Central Mass Metropolitan Planning Organization, he will check his schedule to see if he can attend the event. Mr. O'Brien offered to go in his place should Mr. Quist have a scheduling conflict.

Motion Mr. Rucho to designate Mr. Quist as the designee to the Central Mass Metropolitan Planning Organization and if he can attend the event Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, all in favor.

**6. Information & Member Selection meeting at the Princeton Town Hall Annex, 4 Town Hall Drive on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

**MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Monday, November 15, 7:00; first look at revenues meeting. Finance Director Michael Daley will be in attendance at the meeting. Both the Finance and School Committees have been invited to attend.

2. Notification from Mass Department of Transportation of intent to repair Route 12 Causeway Stone Wall

Mass DOT has inspected the wall and has agreed to make repairs to the wall in the spring time.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. O'Brien noted seeing a copy of a letter to the School Committee regarding a \$4,500 grant. Mr. Gaumond credited Mrs. Lucier for obtaining the grant as she saw a need in the community and a source of funds through MIIA that offers loss control grants. We used these funds in the past to purchase the sign board. The School Committee has been notified.

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Mr. Quist requested an agenda spot at the next meeting for the Municipal Buildings Advisory Committee.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. O'Brien at 9:45 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: November 17, 2010

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Nancy E. Lucier

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Allen R. Phillips, Vice Chairman

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Steven J. Quist, Clerk

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Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman

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John J. O'Brien, Selectman