

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

Mr. McCormick convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. He congratulated Mr. Rucho on his re-election and welcomed him back to the Board for his third term.

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

Motion Mr. O'Brien to approve the regular session meeting minutes for the June 15, 2011, seconded by Mr. Quist. Vote on the motion Messrs. McCormick, Quist and O'Brien yes; Messrs. Phillips and Rucho abstain as they were not in attendance at the meeting.

Motion Mr. O'Brien to approve the executive session meeting minutes for the June 15, 2011, seconded by Mr. Quist. Vote on the motion Messrs. McCormick, Quist and O'Brien yes; Messrs. Phillips and Rucho abstain as they were not in attendance at the meeting.

**Board of Selectmen & Board of Sewer Commission Reorganization**

Motion Mr. O'Brien to nominate Mr. Phillips to serve as Chairman, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor. Mr. McCormick turned the meeting over to Mr. Phillips.

Motion Mr. McCormick to nominate Mr. O'Brien as Vice Chairman, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Motion Mr. McCormick to nominate Mr. Rucho as Clerk, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, all in favor.

**Public Hearing: Consider Amending Policy L-18, Beautification of Town Squares and Islands**

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, July 6, 2011 at 7:05 p.m. for the purpose of considering amending Policy L-18, Beautification of Town Squares and Islands. The meeting will be held in meeting room #1 of the Municipal Office Building, 127 Hartwell Street, Suite 100, 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, advertised on June 22 and 29, 2011.

Mr. McCormick noted that he requested this agenda item. Since the Board passed this policy, which included deadlines within which to apply, he has been told by people that they did not realize there were deadlines. He would like to amend the policy to allow people to come on board now. In addition, the oversight of the policy is with the DPW Director; however, he would like to clarify the reference to who the "Town" is as the policy speaks to the town deeming the square/island unsightly due to lack of care. He added that he feels the planting on the square in front of Honey Farms is unsightly. In addition, some of the squares have not yet been planting, one of which is his.

Mr. Gaumond reviewed the results of the first square/island drawing. Huntington Square at Beaman and North Main Streets went to the Bouchard, Dickerson and Forhan Families, Crescent Street at Thomas Street to Finders, Woodland Street at Route 12 to Keepers, Worcester Street at Route 12 to Community Strategies for Massachusetts and Church Street at Route 12 to Diana Englehardt. Mr. Rucho inquired as to which squares have not been planted. Mr. McCormick reports that Woodland at

Route 12 is planted and a little effort was made at Worcester and Route 12, however, now the weeds are growing all over. Nothing has been done at Church Street at Route 12 or at Crescent and Thomas Streets. Mr. Rucho pointed out that the program is still in a learning phase and perhaps we should include a section in the policy on the minimum planting which should be done on your square/island. Mr. McCormick recommends putting a date in by which the planting needs to be completed. Mr. Gaumond suggested contacting all the island owners to see if they are still willing to be involved in the program. He also understands that being the first year of the program, more maintenance is involved to begin the planting of the island/square. He offered to outreach to the participants. Mr. McCormick noted that if people do not want to participate there are a lot of people who would like some of these squares. Mr. Phillips suggested having a second drawing to match up the other squares/islands. Mr. Rucho suggested having a second drawing if there are squares/islands which were not adopted.

Mr. McCormick noted that his square at Crescent and Thomas, is a large area and he intends to start off small and add to it each year. He also feels it is a good program, however, it might need to be fine tuned. He recommends including language to have the square/island planted by Memorial Day. Mr. Rucho suggested a second drawing in May for any squares/islands not adopted. Mr. Gaumond also noted that the plantings cannot be greater than 24" high. He suggested carrying the public hearing over until the next Board meeting and work with the DPW Director to establish language to establish a minimum benchmark for such things as sufficient time to remove weeds. He pointed out that the language under "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," of the policy, could be the benchmark.

Mr. McCormick inquired as to whether the town mows the grass on the larger squares and the adoptee just plants it. Mr. Gaumond explained that one of the reasons we started this program in the first place was that some of the islands were not being maintained by the town. Mr. Phillips suggested looking at the policy used by the Town of Shrewsbury as they have an island planting program as well. Mr. Rucho suggested having someone check the planting before the sign is allowed to go up to insure that the planting is okay. For next year, Mr. McCormick would like to see a second round of drawings for any islands/squares not adopted. There is no one present to speak on this issue.

Motion Mr. Rucho to continue the hearing until August 3, get a copy of the Shrewsbury policy, outreach to the sponsors who have not yet planted their islands and encourage them to accomplish something this year and speak with the DPW Director on the review authority, seconded by Mr. McCormick, all in favor.

### **John Scannell, Department of Conservation and Recreation**

As Mr. O'Brien wanted to discuss the DCR Public Access Plan, Mr. Scannell's August update on the Regional Recycling Center was moved up. Mr. Scannell provided the Board with a flyer detailing participation percentages and collection numbers for the Center. He reports that West Boylston is highest on participation. They have collective over 7,000 gallons of household hazardous products and things continue to run well. Collections continue each Wednesday afternoon and the third Saturday of the month, there do not seem to be a lot of complaints about the facility not having a sufficient number of collections and things will continue on as they are until there is a need to change.

Mr. Scannell reports that they had two instances of dumping. The first was something blew off of a vehicle and two months ago rangers found three cans of paint placed next to the gate which they brought inside. He added that DCR has seen an improvement on the items dumped on their property. Mr. Phillips questioned whether Mr. Scannell had received any noise complaints. Mr. Scannell

advised that he has not. Mr. Phillips noted that the scrap metal figure seemed high and asked if that is normal. Mr. Scannell does not know how that compares and offered to check on that. Mr. Gaumond, who has worked at the site doing check in, and he has observed people dropping off old appliances and pipes people get out of their basements.

Mr. Rucho questioned whether there were any agreements with the neighbors that we would have to do something at a certain date. Mr. Scannell advised that DCR agreed to test their wells and they sent written requests to come in and test their wells by certified mail. They also did a follow up and never received any interest from the three neighbors. They also offered to do a planting which was accomplished.

With regard to the DCR Public Access Plan, Mr. Scannell reports that they did a kick off meeting in December followed by a survey which received 327 responses. They held a public hearing on the draft Public Access Plan and the Plan was adopted at the end of June with no significant changes to what we have historical had. Mr. O'Brien asked about some of the requests people made. Mr. Scannell noted that requests included horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking and more access for dogs. As far as written comments on the plan what came up the most were horses. Mr. Rucho asked if anything was changed. Mr. Scannell replied no changes and they are required to conduct a public hearing when reviewing policies. The plan lists a implementation schedule of what DCR will do over the next five to eight years. A lot related to improvements to access at gates and parking facilities. One of the big comments was no place to park near the gates and DCR did construct some parking. One issue was the difficulty in parking near the Old Stone Church, which is a very challenging area because it is so close to the water. DCR has committed to looking at what can be done for parking in that area. Mr. O'Brien stated that one of the things helpful for him was looking for ways to encourage more boating and recreational uses. At the meeting he was educated and understands why DCR is saying no to those activities. Mr. Scannell noted that it is a public water supply and there has to be a level of protection. There are plenty of public water supplies with little to no access and some who allow more use. Mr. Phillips questioned whether any of their other plans changed. According to Mr. Scannell the Quabbin Plan was done four years ago, Ware two years ago and no changes he can remember. Mr. Phillips asked what they were doing on the causeway. He was informed that Mass Highway is repairing the stone wall.

Mr. McCormick asked Mr. Scannell to explain the traps in the trees. Mr. Gaumond advised that the Asian Longhorned Beetle people are using testing traps to attract male ALBs. They are black in color and square in shape with a cross which will lure the beetle into the middle and it will slide into the base to be collected. The males will be inspected to see what the numbers are and to see if they are having an impact on the reduction of the ALB. They are trying to establish the traps on state property.

Mr. Quist asked if DCR is still working on repairing gates for conservation restriction areas. Mr. Scannell advised that they are constantly looking at access points for disrepair and vandalism.

Mr. Gaumond informed Mr. Scannell that the town has just hired Silvio Baruzzi as its new DPW Director. At some point the two should meet. With regard to storm water management, we had a request for an Eagle Scout Project and Mr. Gaumond thought about having them stencil the drains and manholes. Mr. Scannell advised that DCR did a brochure for groups to help with that project.

Mr. Scannell noted that a while back he spoke with the Board about gating River Road. When West Boylston closed the road they installed jersey barriers. DCR is willing to supply a gate for the site in place of the barriers and give a key to the public safety department.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Consider Sewer Abatement Request for 280 West Boylston Street**

Mr. O'Brien recused himself. Mr. Gaumond explained that this item was carried over from the last meeting as we did not have a quorum of the Board to deal with the request. This request is from 280 West Boylston Street. They are paying two betterments and they claim their water use reflects it should only be one. Mr. Gaumond compared the past eleven years of usage. Businesses using 180 gallons of water are assessed one betterment, those using 230 gallons are assessed two betterment and those over 1,000 gallons are assessed five betterments. The water usage average was 206.8 gallons per day. However, when the betterment assessment report was generated they were over the 220 gallons per day and because of that they were assessed two betterments. The town does not go back and check their usage. He recommends denial of the request based on that information. He also discussed this with DPW Director Silvio Baruzzi and Mr. Baruzzi agreed with Mr. Gaumond's philosophy as any business could come in and ask for a review of their water usage. Mr. Rucho suggested having the DPW Director review the request and provide his input. Mr. McCormick does not have a problem with that, however, he agrees with Mr. Gaumond's assessment. If we went back everyone could have a change. He thinks you have to live with what you got when you got it unless you change the business to one which does not use very much water. Although Mr. Rucho thinks Mr. Gaumond is right, maybe we should have Mr. Baruzzi look at it.

Motion Mr. Quist to table the request and have Mr. Baruzzi review the request, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor. Mr. O'Brien returned to the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Board did their annual review of their other assignment.

**1. Other Board Assignments:**

1. Earth Removal Board – Mr. Quist will remain
2. TWPC – Mr. Phillips will remain
3. Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District (alternate) – Mr. Phillips will remain
4. MBTA – Mr. McCormick will remain
5. Parks Facilities Committee – Messrs. Rucho & O'Brien both will remain
6. MWRA – alternate Mr. McCormick will remain
7. Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees Mr. Quist will remain
8. CMRPC alternate – Mr. Quist will remain
9. Shared Services Committee – Mr. Phillips. Mr. O'Brien is interested in this assignment. Mr. Phillips suggested having both serve, however, if it is a Selectmen's position, he is fine with Mr. O'Brien taking the slot.
10. Municipal Buildings Advisory Committee – Mr. Quist & Mr. Rucho both will remain
11. Bylaws Committee – the Chairman at the time serves on this committee - Mr. McCormick. Mr. Phillips will take over this assignment.
12. Economic Development Committee – Mr. Rucho will remain
13. Municipal Buildings Committee – Mr. McCormick will remain
14. Source Water Protection Committee – Mr. O'Brien will remain
15. Transportation Cmte. ex officio – Mr. McCormick will remain
16. Designer Selection Committee for school green project – Mr. Phillips will remain
17. School Budget Working Group - Mr. McCormick will remain

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the other board assignments with the change in Shared Services to Mr. O'Brien and Bylaws to Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. McCormick, all in favor.

**2. Discussion on the need for DPW liaisons**

Mr. Phillips explained that the liaisons were established a number of years back when we had projects that might not have been done in a timely manner so we appointed two members to serve as liaisons to work with the department head and ask questions. Now that we have a new Director, Mr. Phillips is not sure that the liaisons are needed. Mr. McCormick suggested allowing the new Director to do his job as it is Mr. Gaumond's job to watch him. If needed, the Board could do something later on. Mr. Rucho felt that the liaisons could help the new Director and noted that there has always been a question if those meetings are public meetings or not. Mr. Philip suggested replacing the DPW liaison with a Board of Selectmen point person.

Mr. Gaumond explained the reason this is on the agenda is two years ago we had a goal to improve the DPW and the former DPW Director thought it was good to have a close working relationship. Mr. Phillips would rather give the new Director an opportunity to do his job. Mr. McCormick noted that we do not have a liaison for the Police or Fire Chief if we have an issue we bring it to the Town Administrator.

Motion Mr. McCormick to eliminate the DPW liaisons and filter concerns through Mr. Gaumond and we could reestablish at a later time if needed or if Mr. Baruzzi would like a liaison we could, seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Gaumond clarified that the liaison was a request of Mr. Westerling who sought direct communication with the Board of Selectmen. Vote on the motion - all in favor.

**3. Consider Request for Intradepartmental Transfer for the Office of the Treasurer/Collector in the amount of \$700 from Purchased Services to Salaries**

Mr. Gaumond explained that at the October 2008 town meeting under Article 18 the town voted to accept MGL Chapter 108P, Section 41 which allowed for stipends for municipal treasurer/collector certifications. This request will not fully fund the \$1,000 stipend, however, funds for the stipend have been included in the budget for next year. Mr. McCormick thinks the full stipend should be paid. Mr. Gaumond noted that there is not a funding source within the budget for the full amount. Mr. O'Brien questioned the type of certification. Mr. Gaumond explained that it is certification as a treasurer and she instructs at the annual meeting.

Motion Mr. McCormick to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

**4. Review list of Surplus items and vote to go forward with auction**

This is an annual exercise to dispose of surplus items. This year we have a 1998 Ford Expedition, approximate value \$300, a 1996 Ford F-150 pickup, approximate value of \$300, a hale fire pump and a monarch industries portable pump both worth \$50 for parts only.

Mr. McCormick suggested scrapping the items rather than paying for an advertisement.

Motion Mr. McCormick to scrap the surplus items for this year, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

**5. Notification from Mass State Lottery Commission of request for Keno To Go from Choice Smoke Shop, 244 West Boylston Street**

Mr. McCormick recused himself.

The Board did not indicate having an objection to the request.

Motion Mr. O'Brien not to offer an objection to the request, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

6. Consider appointment of Marc Frieden, 8 Pinewood Drive to the Affordable Housing Trust effective July 6, 2011 for a term to expire on June 30, 2013

Motion Mr. Rucho to concur with the appointment, seconded by Mr. McCormick, all in favor.

7. Budget discussion 2012 (KM)

Mr. McCormick explained that he requested this agenda item as a result of the actions which took place at the May town meeting. He gets frustrated when the Selectmen got blamed on two occasions from the schools that we did not offer them an additional funding alternative. We have increased taxes for meals and hotels, instituted pay as you throw and we have done everything we can to keep the town afloat. The only other method of funding the schools is to have an override. We have a structural deficit right now based on last year's town meeting which took non-reoccurring money from Stabilization for the school department budget. We have fiscal policies to make sure this does not happen and it is a mockery of our policies. He would like to make a motion very soon on an override to avoid getting blamed that they do not have enough time to educate the towns' people. He would like to say the alternative to fund the schools budget is an override. He noted that the Board schedule a meeting last year for the School Committee to request an override, they never came forward and we cancelled the meeting. He would like to get it out there and let the people decide. We need money for huge capital projects we have no money to do them and we will be in the same position next year with the schools. Mr. Rucho agrees we should do something and suggested during September. He does not know if the School Committee meets in the summer. Mr. McCormick would like them to come up with a number that they need.

Mr. O'Brien agrees with Mr. McCormick. He disagrees that the first option should be a Proposition 2-1/2 override. We raised taxes, the trash bag money went to the schools and we have a CPA tax. He does not know if there has been enough cutting at the school end and he likes the idea of coming in for a special meeting. Instead of saying we are going to cut boys tennis or another sport maybe we should talk about net school spending and have Finance Director Michael Daley in. We are spending more than any community around us. Maybe discuss ways we can reduce expenses and then if the School Committee wants to go with a 2-1/2 override they can fight for it. Mr. McCormick does not want to go to town meeting and get blamed for not giving them another revenue source and he does not want to wait for December as they will say it is too late. The first year it was an emergency.

Mr. Phillips stated that it is not that we didn't do anything, we did offer that if the School Committee wanted an override to let us know. He would strongly suggest to make the offer again if they would like an override. He added that for some people it is a lot easier to get things slipped by the town meeting and an override is the entire town can vote and maybe that is why some people shied away from putting on an override. He also agreed we have asked the town to pay an awful lot. Mr. O'Brien feels it is the towns' choice and we have to think of the homeowners who are struggling to pay the taxes. Mr. Rucho feels their answer should not be just go to town meeting and take money from Stabilization. Mr. Phillips would like a letter sent to the School Committee asking them their intention on the budget and do they need an override. Mr. Rucho is constantly hearing that the town side of government, police and DPW, get a bigger percentage of an increase in the budget. Everyone agrees to first send a letter signed by all five members of the board. Mr. Gaumond noted that we have a new School Superintendent and it will be a good opportunity for her. Mr. Phillips would like the letter to ask for their intention is it an override or do they have another appropriation. McCormick does not want the Board of Selectmen to be blamed on town meeting floor next year. Mr. Rucho does not want this to be viewed as the Board of Selectmen against the School Committee as we have to live within our means. Mr. Phillips noted that they are concerned with one piece of the pie and our concern is the

entire pie. Mr. Rucho would like a full discussion including the school's concerns about other budgets being increase more than theirs and we should be provide an explanation.

**MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Mr. Gaumond announced that the Town of West Boylston will be receiving \$12,006 in MIIA Rewards

Mr. Gaumond explained that each year the town adopts certain policies and best practices and we have done outstanding for the town. He is very proud of the work we have done and commended his department heads and thanked Nancy Lucier for her work in preparing the final package submittal. These rewards are critical at time when we have limited resources. Mr. Phillips would like to know some of the things that were done and by whom. Mr. Gaumond offered to prepare a report and will include it on the next agenda under Old Business.

**SELECTMEN REPORTS**

1. Selectmen's Listening Tour – Input on town properties (KM)

Mr. McCormick reported on the first listening tour held on June 4<sup>th</sup> here at town hall with about 35-50 people in attendance. We discussed town properties and everyone had something to contribute to the discussion. Copies of the minutes are in the agenda package. At the beginning of the meeting he thought people were nervous and they were told that we are just here to listen. He hopes more people come out for the next session. Mr. Rucho noted that some of the things we did talk about that we should look into such as a crosswalk on Newton Street and house numbering. Mr. Gaumond noted that the second session is scheduled for Hillside Village during September as our goal was for different locations and times of the day. Hillside Village has offered their Community Center for September 13 or 20 10-12 or 1-3. The Board is comfortable with either date and the preference is the 1-3 times lot. Mr. Gaumond will do a blog and he asked The Banner to get the word out.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Quist would like to schedule a meeting with the new Sewer Director to review the sewer policies.

If possible, Mr. Rucho would like to hold only one Board meeting in August. Mr. Gaumond informed the Board that we may need an emergency meeting next week for year-end budget transfers.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. McCormick at 8:40 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: July 20, 2011

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Nancy E. Lucier, Municipal Assistant

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Allen R. Phillips, Chairman

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Steven J. Quist, Selectman

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John J. O'Brien, Vice Chairman

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Kevin M. McCormick, Selectman

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Christopher A. Rucho, Clerk