

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2003

Present: Chairman Lawrence W. O'Brien, Selectmen Kirsten D. Roopenian and John C. Drobinski.

The statutory requirement for notice having been met, the meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m. in the Lower Town Hall, 322 Concord Road.

Opening Remarks

Chairman O'Brien announced the Annual Roadside Cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 3, and encouraged residents to participate by contacting the Selectmen's office for an assigned street.

On behalf of the Board, Chairman O'Brien congratulated the police officers who recently retired and who were honored at the Annual Policemen's Ball.

Chairman O'Brien stated 2003 Annual Town Meeting was well attended, and will reconvene on Wednesday, May 21, to address remaining items including FY04 budget. He encouraged residents to stay current on these issues by reading newspaper articles and checking the Town website.

Lastly, Chairman O'Brien read the following statement from the Board:

Statement of the Board of Selectmen regarding Article 54

"As stated in the Chairman's *State of the Town* address at the opening of Town Meeting, the Sudbury Board of Selectmen is committed to conducting a thorough examination of property tax relief alternatives for Sudbury's seniors. The Board respects that Town Meeting, by a majority vote, indicated its support of Article 54. The Board intends to convene a broad based committee to study this proposal as well as other property tax relief ideas. It is the intent of the Board of Selectmen to have this appointed committee develop and examine proposals so that a determination can be made of the best ways the Town could offer property tax relief to seniors in a constitutional and equitable manner.

The Board is very concerned about several of the specific provisions of Article 54, as well as its overall constitutionality, and the lack of any public review afforded it by duly appointed and elected committees. The Board is equally concerned that many non-senior residents were unaware that, should Article 54 be enacted into law by the State legislature, the intent of this proposal is a shift of over \$800 in property taxes away from single family home owners over 60 to younger property owners, based on an average value house.

The Board of Selectmen enthusiastically supports the idea of the entire community participating in an open public process that would facilitate a thorough and complete cost/ benefit analysis for all property owners as well as identifying any impacts on town services. The Board of Selectmen would encourage any resident who is interested in participating in a constructive dialogue to contact our office."

Citizen Petition – Article 54

Present: Phillip Mighdoll, 787 Concord Road; Ralph Tyler, One Deacon Lane.

Mr. Phillip Mighdoll stated he and his wife have lived in Sudbury for seven years and that this was the first Town Meeting they had ever attended. He expressed disappointment at the emotional way residents reacted to Article 54 debate, citing lack of information and understanding of the basic concerns.

Mr. Mighdoll described the tax rate vs. services received issue as a paradigm shift in the way communities are managed. He opined changes in demographics necessitate change and encouraged a different type of balance between young and old. He stated he has developed a website designed to showcase information and opinions on this issue: www.SudburyTaxRelief.org. The site is organized by specific issue. Mr. Mighdoll stated he can be contacted by email – phil@SudburyTaxRelief.org if residents have questions.

Selectman Drobinski thanked Mr. Mighdoll for his willingness to provide this service, distributing information to the public. Selectman Roopenian opined open dialogue is always a good thing, getting all perspectives into the open. She stated the Study Committee will assist in this as well.

Mr. Ralph Tyler, One Deacon Lane, stated a common understanding of services, benefits, financial impacts, etc. is essential to any resolution on this issue. He stated his presentation will be posted on the website. He offered to serve on the Study Committee.

Town Manager Valente stated Article 54, as voted by the Annual Town Meeting, is on the Town website. The complete original Warrant is also being added.

The Board thanked both gentlemen for their presentation and efforts on this matter.

Historical Quilt Purchase – Sudbury Historical Society

Present: Lee Ford Swanson, Curator, Peggy Fredrickson, Ursula Lyons, Sudbury Historical Society; Marion and David Spitzley, Grosse Point Park, Michigan.

Mr. Lee Ford Swanson, Curator, Sudbury Historical Society, stated Mr. and Mrs. Spitzley of Grosse Point Park, Michigan, purchased this historic quilt in Mississippi 27 years ago. A “friendship quilt”, it was constructed for someone leaving the area and signed by all who worked on it, a number of Sudbury residents whose families are still present in town, i.e., Goodnow, Hunt, Howe, Haynes, Brown, etc. The quilt is labeled “Sudbury, Mass. – 1851” and is in remarkably good condition. The Spitzleys recently contacted Sudbury officials about returning the quilt to its roots, and the sale was finalized earlier today. The quilt will be cleaned and restored as much as possible before display to the public.

UP#03-02 – Boston Post Road Pole Relocation

The Board was in receipt of a petition (#03-02) from Boston Edison Co., d/b/a NStar Electric, and Verizon New England, Inc., including the following: (1) work order #1241519 of Boston Edison, dated August 7, 2002, showing proposed pole relocation of a pole (18/140) and proposed anchor guy on Boston Post Road near Lafayette Drive; (2) report, dated April 9, 2003, from Chris Cosby, NStar, stating the work is

necessary to eliminate existing strain. The pole will be moved back 6.5 feet as it obstructs vision at a curve in the road. The guy anchor will be located approximately 8 feet behind the pole; (3) report, dated April 2, 2003, from Building Inspector and Wiring Inspector, stating no problems with this petition; and (4) report, dated April 2, 2003, from the Town Engineer, stating no objections to this petition.

The Board briefly discussed removal of the old pole after the new pole is installed.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To grant petition UP#03-02, dated March 18, 2003, to Boston Edison Co., d/b/a NSTAR Electric, and Verizon New England, Inc. for relocation of Pole 18/140, with addition of anchor guy, located on Boston Post Road, approximately 200 feet southeast of Lafayette Drive as shown on Work Order #1241519, dated August 7, 2002. This vote includes a condition that the old pole be removed within 30 days of the installation.

Minutes

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve minutes of March 25, 2003 and April 1, 2003, as drafted.

D.A.R.E. Donation

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept a donation in the amount of \$100 from Barbara Natoli for deposit into the D.A.R.E. Donation Account, authorizing expenditure for said purpose, and to send a letter of appreciation to Ms. Natoli.

The Sudbury Foundation Grant – Sudbury Nursery

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept a grant of \$12,500 from The Sudbury Foundation to be separately accounted for and expended for the purpose of obtaining negotiating assistance and an independent appraisal relative to the former Sudbury Nursery land off Maynard Road owned by the Cutting family.

The Sudbury Foundation Grant – Goodnow Library Archives

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept a grant of \$17,000 from The Sudbury Foundation to be separately accounted for and expended for the purpose of extending the scope of the Goodnow Library's archives database from 1850 to 1900.

Green Company – Springhouse Pond Improvements

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept a donation made by the Green Company in the amount of \$35,000 to be separately accounted for and used for walkway and traffic improvements in the general vicinity of the Springhouse Pond development on Nobscot Road and Boston Post Road.

Community Housing Committee Appointment

It was on motion

VOTED: To appoint Lawrence W. O'Brien to the Community Housing Committee for a term to expire April 30, 2006. (Selectmen Roopenian and Drobinski, aye, Chairman O'Brien, abstain).

Conservation Restrictions – Buddy Dog/Bosse Sports & Health Club – Boston Post Road

The Board reviewed reports, dated January 31 and April 15, 2003, from the Conservation Coordinator, stating the Conservation Restrictions on 141 and 151 Boston Post Road were required as part of an Order of Conditions related to construction of the Bosse Sports & Health Club facility and will protect the blue-spotted salamander habitat.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve and sign the following two Conservation Restrictions shown on "Plan of Land in Sudbury & Wayland, Massachusetts (Middlesex County) Prepared For: Richard J. Bosse Holdings, LLC, Scale 1" = 60', Date: November 25, 2002", by Schofield Brothers of New England, Inc., as follows: 1) Conservation Restriction granted by Bosse Sports & Health Club, LLC on approximately 2.4 and 6.2 acre portions of land located at 141 Boston Post Road (Map K11-019), and 2) Conservation Restriction granted by Buddy Dog Humane Society, Inc., on approximately 0.7 acre portion of land located at 151 Boston Post Road (Map K11-020).

Newcomers Club - Special License

The Board reviewed the following information; (1) a letter, dated April 9, 2003, from Laura Westfall Casey, Secretary, Sudbury Newcomers Club, requesting a One-Day Liquor License Permit for the Club's Spring Barn Darn and Barbecue to be held on Saturday, May 17, 2003. There is an admission fee; margaritas and beer will be served; and (2) report, dated April 15, 2003, from Jan Silva, stating the Police Department had no objections to this request if safe parking was available. Parking will be available on a field on the premises; parking attendants will direct the 75 expected guests. Insurance relative to the sale of liquor has been obtained.

Town Manager Valente stated a liquor license is required any time alcoholic beverages are sold, and in this case, the sale is part of the admission fee.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To grant a one-day Special License for the Sale of All Alcoholic Beverages to the Sudbury Newcomers Club, c/o Laura Westfall Casey, Sec'y., P. O. Box 484, Sudbury, to accommodate a Spring Barn Dance and Barbecue and exercised between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on May 17, 2003, at 96 Peakham Road, Sudbury.

“Positive Spin For ALS” Bike Ride

The Board reviewed a request, dated April 13, 2003, from Stephen Austin, asking permission to hold the “Positive Spin for ALS” Bike Ride in Sudbury on Saturday, May 18, 2003 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Longfellow Club. This is the third year the bike ride will be held in Sudbury, and will feature a 100-mile ride to Mt. Wachusett and back, as well as the 10-, 25-, and 50-mile rides of last year. Police detail officers will be located at the top of Longfellow Drive and at the Rt. 27/Water Road intersection. The Board also reviewed a report, dated April 14, 2003, from the Police Department recommending approval subject to its requirements and proof of insurance. There have been no difficulties with this bike ride in the prior two years.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To grant permission to Stephen Austin and the ALS Ride 2003 to hold their “Positive Spin for ALS” Bike Ride through Sudbury, on Saturday, May 18, 2003, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., following the same route as previous years, subject to Police Department safety requirements and proof of insurance.

2003 Annual Town Meeting Business

Town Manager Valente distributed copies of a draft mailing notice to residents to inform them of the continued Annual Town Meeting on May 21, 2003. Information about parking will be added. The Board offered various comments and minor wording changes. Ms. Valente asked the Board to forward any additional comments to her.

With regard to a possible Special Election, Town Manager Valente distributed a list of deadline dates for voting to call a Special Election and mailing a Warrant therefore. After discussion, Ms. Valente stated she would forward this information to the Finance Committee and schools so they are kept aware of these discussions.

Reorganization of the Board

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To elect Maureen G. Valente, Town Manager, as Clerk of the Board of Selectmen for 2003-2004.

It was further on motion unanimously

VOTED: To elect Kirsten D. Roopenian and John C. Drobinski as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, of the Board of Selectmen, for 2003-2004, effective with the May 5th Selectmen’s meeting. With respect to the 2003 Town Meeting on May 21, 2003, it is understood that Selectmen will continue with their current assignments until the conclusion of Town Meeting, including the liaison of Selectman O’Brien to the Finance Committee/Finance Department and on budgetary matters.

Board of Selectmen Liaison Assignments

The Board briefly discussed liaison assignments for the coming year and made minor alterations. Any additional adjustments should be forwarded to the Town Manager.

Executive Session

At 8:56 p.m. it was on motion by roll call

VOTED: To go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining matters.
(Chairman O'Brien, aye, Selectman Roopenian, aye, Selectman Drobinski, aye.)

Chairman O'Brien announced that regular session would not reconvene after executive session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Attest: _____
Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager-Clerk