

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2005

Present: Chairman John C. Drobinski, Selectmen Lawrence W. O'Brien and William J. Keller, Jr.

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

Opening Remarks

Chairman Drobinski announced he would run for another term of office on the Board of Selectmen.

Town Manager Valente stated any resident who cannot spend the night in their home due to power outage, lack of heat or other potentially life-threatening situation should contact either the Fire Department or her office for temporary shelter. There are resources available in Town for such situations.

Town Manager Valente distributed brochures prepared by the Council on Aging on various senior tax reduction programs available to senior citizens in Town. She stated it is a very comprehensive summary of programs and encouraged all seniors to pick one up at the Fairbank Senior Center.

Conservation Commission – Appointment

Present: John C. Greeley, Candidate.

The Board met to interview candidates for appointment to the Conservation Commission to fill a vacancy occasioned by the resignation of David Molzan.

Mr. John C. Greeley, 244 Lincoln Road, stated he has been serving as an Associate Member of the Conservation Commission a year. He briefly reviewed relevant experience and interest in becoming a full member. For the past three years he has worked for a construction company managing community, government and media relations on a highway project, liaisons with Conservation Commissions in a number of communities. Relevant matters included stormwater management plans, erosion control and wetland mitigation issues.

Town Manager Valente stated she interviewed Mr. Greeley and found him to be an outstanding candidate for this position, as well as being recommended by the Conservation Commission.

After discussion, it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve appointment by the Town Manager of John C. Greeley, 244 Lincoln Road, to the Conservation Commission, as a full voting member, for a term to expire on April 30, 2008, replacing David Molzan, who resigned effective January 1, 2005.

River Stewardship Council

Present: John Drobinski, Chairman, River Stewardship Council; Lee Steppacher, National Park Service.

At this time, Chairman Drobinski turned over the gavel to Vice Chairman Lawrence W. O'Brien in order to join Ms. Lee Steppacher for a presentation on the River Stewardship Council.

Mr. Drobinski spoke briefly on what the River Stewardship Council is, what it hopes to accomplish, and events citizens can participate in to learn more about the rivers in the area.

Ms. Steppacher distributed brochures on the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers and the River Stewardship Council which included photos and information on the annual RiverFest. She reviewed various topics and how the National Park Service plans to interact with the Council. Discussion followed.

Vice Chairman O'Brien encouraged Ms. Steppacher to contact the Sudbury Day Committee in order to better publicize both the Council and the RiverFest. He suggested further they contact the local cable bulletin board to help publicize events.

The Board thanked Ms. Steppacher and Mr. Drobinski for a very informative presentation. At this time Mr. Drobinski resumed the gavel in order to step back into the role of Chairman.

Meeting with Representative Susan Pope

Present: State Representative Susan Pope, numerous residents.

Town Manager Valente explained elected state officials had been invited to speak on recent initiatives on senior tax relief. The Board welcomed State Representative Susan Pope to tonight's meeting.

Representative Susan Pope began by stating it is too soon to determine how the new Speaker of the House will support senior tax relief. She briefly reviewed pending legislation, lobbying, and other pertinent matters involving the State Taxation Committee. She stated the Governor supports local option, as he does not wish to shift the property tax burden to another segment of the citizenry. Discussion followed.

Chairman Drobinski gave Rep. Pope a copy of the Council on Aging brochure, which provides information on many local senior tax relief programs.

Mr. David Levington, 155 Nobscot Road, acknowledged that legislation may not adequately address the needs of people in different communities, i.e., the "one size fits all" effort, as income and real estate inflation differ from town to town. He opined local option would appear to work better. Ms. Pope stated she would forward information on all the different types of legislation that are in process at this time to allow comparing and contrasting for specific needs. She stated further that lobbying can make a big difference.

Mr. Paul Pakos, 231 Nobscot Road, stated some people with pensions or 401K plans get caught on different aspects of some of these plans, yet all are retirees. He opined the "one size fits all" really does not fit everyone.

Mr. Ralph Tyler, One Deacon Lane, opined the Town needs to get something formulated at the local level and submitted some suggestions of possible components. He opined the key is to have a residential exemption for only senior citizens who own their own homes.

The Board asked Rep. Pope to keep it apprised of progress on these initiatives. Chairman Drobinski thanked Rep. Pope and residents for attending and speaking out on this important issue.

Town Forum

At 8:40 p.m. Chairman Drobinski convened Town Forum, during which time various department heads presented semi-annual reports. Tonight's reports were presented by the Town Clerk, Assistant Town Manager, Veterans Agent, Assistant Dog Officer, Director of Finance, Treasurer-Collector, Technology Coordinator, DPW Director, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Building Inspector.

Town Clerk Barbara Siira updated the Board on the activities of the Town Clerk's office, including elections, voter registration and participation, marriage license changes, 2005 Census, dog licensing, the upcoming 2005 Annual Town Election, elected positions available, and preparations for the 2005 Annual Town Meeting.

Wayne Walker, **Assistant Town Manager and Personnel Director**, briefly spoke about recent recruitment efforts for open positions, continuing efforts to maintain compliance with ever-changing state laws and regulations, and consistent progress in updating the employee handbook.

Peter Harvell, **Veterans Agent**, introduced himself to the Board and spoke of his recent retirement from active military service. He declared his enthusiasm in giving something to the community and his ability to connect with military personnel, both retired and active. The Board thanked him for service to his country.

Paula Adelson, **Assistant Dog Officer**, reported on the resolution of a recent dog complaint, and the annual combined rabies clinic and licensing event to be held on February 12.

Sue Peterson, **Director of Finance/Town Accountant**, updated the Board on the activities in the financial offices of the Town. She stated she has transitioned into the position of Director of Finance with a lot of support from her staff. She praised the efforts of a few to keep all departments going, staff members helping wherever help was needed, during a time when staff vacancies were numerous. During this time all financial transactions were maintained up to date and on time.

Andrea Terkelsen, newly appointed **Treasurer-Collector**, stated she was a long-time Sudbury resident. She stated her department has reviewed tax bills, deferments, and issued past due bills, and refund checks. She announced Melinda Connor has accepted the position of Assistant Treasurer.

Ms. Peterson reported the **Technology Coordinator**, Mark Thompson, has been working on updating telephone services as much as possible, subscriber service to Park and Recreation email newsletter, a historical archive database at the library, and wireless networking in various Town buildings,

The **Assessors Office** report was presented by Ms. Peterson, who noted their input to the Council on Aging senior tax brochure, recent revaluation efforts, Community Preservation exemptions, deferrals and similar matters.

The **Director of Public Works/Town Engineer**, I. William Place, stated most of the department's budget for snow removal has been depleted already. He spoke also on recent and upcoming paving projects, new replacement street signs as necessary, attempts to control the beaver population and its impact on drainage in a couple of areas and capital expenditure requirements to replace older vehicles and equipment.

Police Chief, Peter Fadgen, updated the Board on personnel issues, the difficulty working with a limited staff in a town that continues to grow, some areas not patrolled as they should be, growing problem with speeding violations, and replacement of older vehicles.

Fire Chief, Ken MacLean, reviewed activities within the Fire Department since his appointment as Fire Chief, including numerous personnel changes, promotions and new hires. He opined the department to be functioning in top form, yet stressed the fact that an Assistant Fire Chief would be instrumental in handling various functions within the Department. Chief MacLean reviewed recent efforts in terrorism training, as well as emergency preparedness, and acknowledged much of what this department does involves situations other than fires.

Building Inspector, James Kelly, noted his efforts to continue enforcing compliance to zoning bylaws, desire to increase fees for weights and measures inspections, and stated the need for new boilers in the Fairbank Community Center. The heat savings would pay for the boilers in a short period of time. He praised Art Richard, Electrical Inspector, for maintaining boilers and other older equipment to keep systems running. He stated some “freshening” of the Park and Recreation area, i.e., pool area, locker rooms, might attract more people to the facilities. Mr. Kelly stated approximately 1,800 permits were issued last year, 31 new homes (11 tear-downs), and one home donated for fire training.

Reports concluded at 10:30 p.m. The Board thanked all participants for their input. Refreshments were served.

Minutes

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the executive session of December 21, 2004, and the regular session of January 4, 2005, as drafted, and the minutes of the regular session of December 21, 2004, as amended.

Fair Housing Committee – Resignation

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Kelley French from the Fair Housing Committee and to send her a letter of appreciation for her service to the Town.

Fair Housing Committee – Appointment

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Stephen Shugrue, 18 Briar Patch Lane, to the Fair Housing Committee to replace Kelley French, for a term to expire April 30, 2008, pursuant to nomination by the Sudbury Housing Authority on November 30, 2004.

Annual Town Meeting Action

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To acknowledge withdrawal of the Libby Property Purchase article submitted by the Conservation Commission.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To withdraw the Board of Selectmen's article entitled Amend Bylaws, Art. XXV – Capital Planning, as it is not ready at this time.

Regarding warrant reports on Selectmen articles, the Board agreed to hold this matter until their next meeting to allow sufficient time to review the text.

The Board briefly discussed the Order of the Warrant and made some adjustments to the placement of several articles.

After discussion, it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To order the Warrant for the 2005 Annual Town Meeting as discussed and amended this evening.

Naming of Town Facilities

The Board opted to hold this matter until a future meeting to allow adequate time to review all pertinent materials.

Conservation Restriction – 55 Goodnow Road

This item was tabled until processed by the Conservation Commission.

Executive Session

At 11:20 p.m. it was on roll call

VOTED: To go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and contract negotiation matters.

Chairman Drobinski announced regular session would not reconvene following Executive Session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

Attest: _____
Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager-Clerk