

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
121ST SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1978

At 8:40 p.m. Chairman Powers convened the 121st session of the Town Fathers Forum and announced that tonight the Conservation Commission would give a special presentation of the "Open Space Plan", after which he would ask the various boards and commissions to give a summary of the past month's activities.

Open Space Plan -- Report by Kathleen M. Brown, Conservation Commission and Nancy D. Lewis, Park and Recreation Commission

Ms. Kathleen M. Brown, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, began her presentation by saying that the Open Space Plan was started by the Conservation Commission and was joined in the planning by the Park and Recreation Commission and the Planning Board. Ms. Brown distributed copies of the handbook entitled "Open Space Plan, 1978-1983, for the Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts" to the Board of Selectmen and said that ten copies will be distributed around Town for public viewing. Ms. Brown said that this handbook is the result of the work of the Open Space Subcommittee, comprised of various boards, commissions and concerned citizens of the Town of Sudbury.

The Open Space Plan, as Ms. Brown explained, is a five-year planning document prepared for the Town of Sudbury showing those areas necessary for conservation/recreational purposes to meet the needs of the growing population.

A series of maps were displayed with shaded areas showing such characteristics of the land as:

- 1) soil characteristics
- 2) restricted land (flat lands, watersheds, wetlands)
- 3) land use comparisons (shows depletion of agricultural and wetlands)
- 4) water supply (Planning Board Motts study)
- 5) publicly-owned land
- 6) goals and objectives of the Open Space Plan
- 7) parcels of land which the Conservation Commission would be interested in for water supply, flood storage, wild life, hiking potential, etc.

Ms. Brown explained that the Town of Sudbury can apply for funds through a State "Self Help Program," which allows a 50% reimbursement for conservation acquisition, and through a federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation program which allows a 50% reimbursement for acquisition and development of those lands, and that by combining the two, the Town can receive up to a 75% reimbursement.

Ms. Brown concluded by thanking all the dedicated people whose hard work and efforts contributed to the completion of this worthwhile project.

Ms. Nancy D. Lewis stated that the Park and Recreation Commission participated actively in the Open Space Plan, focusing on some long-range plans such as: swim facility, ski trails, horse-back riding facility and other recreational areas to keep pace with a growing community. Ms. Lewis said that Mr. John R. Carter, who recently resigned from the Park and Recreation Commission, completed a report on the growth of the recreational areas in the Town of Sudbury.

Chairman Powers stated that the Open Space Plan handbook is an important document, put together with a great deal of precision by a hard, dedicated, multi-board effort, and he wished that there were more copies available.

Board of Selectmen

Chairman Powers reported, on behalf of the Selectmen, the following activities and events during the past month.

- The Board signed easements for Hudson Road, Morse Road walkway and Old Lancaster Road.

- Chairman Powers noted that a Consent Calendar will be printed in the Warrant to be taken up as first order of business April 3, 1978.

- The Selectmen stated the intention to lay out streets for acceptance by 1978 Annual Town Meeting.

- The Clerical Study has been completed by the consultant.

- The Selectmen are currently studying individually-rated positions.

- The Selectmen voted to accept the County reform package adopted by the Local Government Advisory Committee.

- The Board renewed bonds for the positions of Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Assistant Town Treasurer and the Tax Collector.

- The Selectmen noted the passing of Florence Hosmer, 97 years old, saying they will miss sending the one yellow rose on October 20th.

- The Selectmen reported on "The Big Snow" - State of Emergency - February 6-16, 1978.

- The Board approved utility petitions related to the Lincoln/Concord Road intersection construction program.

- The Board assisted the Park and Recreation Commission and the Swim Facility Committee in filing notice of intent to apply for funding from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

Thomas A. Welch - Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District

Chairman Powers stated that the Board had extended an invitation to Mr. Thomas A. Welch, Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District Committee Member, and tonight wished to personally thank him for his representation at the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District Committee meetings, particularly relative to the position he took on the Minuteman School budget this year.

Mr. Welch stated that people seem to be insensitive to the reality of the decreasing enrollment and the increase of requested budgets.

Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost

Chief Frost stated that Sudbury is very fortunate because there have been no serious fires this month; and in regard to the Blizzard of 1978, expressed his

appreciation for the personal sacrifices made by the firefighters, police officers and the highway staff during the week of February 6th (Blizzard--1978); special mention was given to Explorer Post #2 and Boy Scout Troops 60 and 72 for their aid in shoveling out the elderly and clearing hydrants; congratulated the townspeople in their attitude and cooperation; special thanks to Donald Peirce for donating and driving his front-end loader for the Town and to Edmund Brown who offered the use of his three skimobiles to the Fire Department; the Town's Emergency Plan was carried out because of complete cooperation of all department heads; Sudbury received Federal aid in the amount of \$38,000 (declared disaster area 10:00 p.m. February 6th), and of the additional costs spent by the Highway and Fire Departments in the amount of \$37,156 with some reimbursement expected, the total cost to the Town will be approximately \$30,297; future storm considerations may be to update Highway Department radio equipment, Civil Defense radio communications must be established, establish a Civil Defense National Disaster plan, and compile a list of elderly and infirm.

Selectman Toomey thanked the Executive Secretary, Richard E. Thompson, for his promptness in expediting State and Federal funding necessary to clear the emergency situation in the Town of Sudbury.

Philip Felleman -- Finance Committee

Mr. Felleman stated that the Finance Committee has completed the annual review of the budgets and special articles, and that their comments have been submitted for printing in the Warrant; we are facing an unusual position: we have gone through the budget, but we do not know the bottom line yet, because bargaining is still going on with the Sudbury School Committee, Fire, Police and Highway Departments; we are looking for a budget increase of a little over 3%, and a tax increase of approximately \$3.00.

John H. Wilson -- Town Accountant

Mr. Wilson stated that he will probably have a definite report on State and Federal Revenue funding by the March Town Fathers Forum.

Oscar Harrell -- Park and Recreation Commission

Mr. Harrell said that the Park and Recreation Commission will be holding the second annual (1978) track meet in the spring, there is a great display of enthusiasm and interest in the track meet (grades 5-8), and lots of involvement with school members; there will be two awards.

Robert Savoy -- Board of Appeals

Mr. Savoy said that the Board of Appeals will be hearing four cases, one of which is the re-hearing of the Neumeier case.

Kathleen M. Brown -- Conservation Commission

Ms. Brown stated that in addition to the Open Space Plan, the Conservation Commission has been involved with several Wetlands Protection Act hearings.

Floyd Stiles, Jr. -- Committee on Town Administration

Mr. Stiles stated that the Committee recently issued a questionnaire/survey to be filled out at Annual Town Meeting, and they are studying the possibility

of combining the Historical Commission and the Historic Structures Commission.

Chairman Powers thanked Ms. Kathleen M. Brown for her presentation and he adjourned the Forum at 9:30 p.m. for a brief period for coffee and informal conversation.