

TOWN FORUM
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1987

Present: Chairman Anne W. Donald, David A. Wallace and John C. Drobinski.

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman Donald convened the 174th Session of the Town Forum.

350th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Committee Chairman Beverly Bentley reported that the Committee was the recipient of a \$1,000 donation from the West Newton Savings Bank for the purposes of the Town's 350th Anniversary celebration. The bank is also donating an additional \$1,000 in 1988 for this event. Mrs. Bentley further reported that Guaranty First Bank has indicated that they will make a substantial contribution by making a selection from a list compiled by the Committee of projects or items needed for the celebration. It is her understanding that BayBank has expressed an interest in doing this, too.

Mrs. Bentley reports that plans for the Celebration are going along smoothly, and was pleased to announce that the sweatshirts are in and available in either red or green for the price of \$15 each. Specific discussion about the celebration will commence within the next couple of months, but Mrs. Bentley stated the Committee is still looking for volunteers for the various subcommittees. The Committee has tentatively planned to commence the 350th Anniversary celebration the weekend before Town Meeting 1989. The Sudbury Community Arts Center is planning an original production entitled "Town Meeting Tonight". Mrs. Bentley concluded her report with a request that she would appreciate hearing from anyone connected with a Laser Light Show company. Her initial investigation into even a small laser display revealed a prohibitively high cost.

Veterans Advisory Committee

Mary Jane Hillery reported that the Committee stands ready to assist the Director of Veterans Services when needed.

Town Engineer

Town Engineer I. William Place reported that he has met with representatives from the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Quality Engineering to discuss the operation of the landfill at the northeast corner. Other topics discussed were how to resolve past violations (since 1974), and the proposed vertical expansion.

Mr. Place further reported that he, Ed Thompson, and the Route 20 Task Force had met with the Department of Public Works, including Edward Lang from the Traffic Division, to see what the status was of the reports prepared by Anderson-Nichols. He is hopeful the project will be put up for bidding in the spring. There is a coordination problem with improvement of one of the railroad crossings to resolve.

The preparation and review of a proposed site plan for the Senior Citizens Center on Goodnow Library requested by the Council On Aging and the Board of Selectmen will be completed by next week.

The plan for the parking at Fairbank School has been changed for the third time. There has been a further reduction of spaces to sixty-eight, with expansion available, if needed.

The Goodman's Hill walkway project is awaiting an abutter's response to the revised plans. Although the surveys have been completed on the Fairbank and Landham Roads walkways, there is a backlog of drafting to do which will mean delay. The Route 20 survey has begun.

The Highway Department has begun work on the intersection of Peakham/Hudson Roads. As a result of a letter from a resident concerning the Pantry/Dakin Roads intersection, a plan to improve sight distance has been prepared and work has begun to remove some trees and other obstructions.

Long Range Planning Committee

Theodore Barten reported that out of approximately forty-four requests for updates of capital improvements plans, the Committee has only received seven. He is hopeful that this figure will improve, as this is the last week for submission. To date, the money requested from the Police Department is \$100,000, \$50,000 of which is for a computer, which will facilitate the everyday tasks of the department. The remaining amount is for the annual equipment replacement program. The Historical Commission is requesting monies for repairs to the Hosmer House in the amount of \$16,000.

One of the other things the Committee has been involved with is the space study with the School Committee.

Concerning the Long Range Planning Committee's own space study, Mr. Barten reported that approximately 75% of the information is completed. The Committee is planning an open forum around December 18, 1987. At present, the Committee is looking at three alternatives: (1) to convert the existing Town Hall into a town hall; (2) if the building is available, to move the offices to Horse Pond Road; or (3) to readapt and renovate the existing building spaces. It is the Committee's opinion that the Fire Department central station needs extensive repairs, as does the Highway Department barn.

In conclusion, it was reported that the Committee is working with a demographer, who will provide a demographic study of school-age children as Phase One, and the older generation as his Phase Two report.

Park and Recreation Committee

Donald Soule expressed his thanks to the Personnel Board, as well as the Finance Committee and Budget Analyst Terri Ackerman, for development of job descriptions and ratings for the various people.

The Committee is concerned about the loss of a Commissioner and hopes that an applicant will respond to its advertising for replacement.

Another concern is the management of the ski area/driving range proposed for the Davis land. The biggest concern is not capital financing, but a decision as to who will manage the facilities.

In conclusion, Mr. Soule reported that the Committee is losing its secretary simply because the job is getting to big for a part-time position.

Resource Recovery Committee

Neal M. Drawas reported that the Committee is working with Town Engineer I. William Place to address the landfill problems and expansion. The Committee is also working on updating the paper recycling program, and in the spring the Committee hopes to obtain authorization to proceed with a composting project.

The Committee is also looking at long-term alternatives to the landfill. Mr. Drawas reports that DEQE will have to approve the landfill expansion or Sudbury will have to look at some hefty expenditures.

In conclusion, Mr. Drawas reported that the Committee is looking at the fee structure currently employed with regard to the landfill to see if it is compatible with others in the surrounding areas.

Historical Commission

Marilyn A. MacLean reported that the Commission has upgraded its five-year plan, including long-range planning for Hosmer House. She reported further improvements to Hosmer House and purchases made.

Mrs. MacLean reported she and Harriett T. Ritchie attended the Massachusetts Historical Commission's convention and there were representatives from every city in Massachusetts giving a report. She was pleased to report that out of all the communities, Sudbury was second place in having prepared its five-year plan and having the support of the various town departments for its projects.

The Commission is considering increasing its members to seven, as the workload is becoming overburdensome for the current five.

Building Inspector

Joseph E. Scammon reported various projects currently underway.

Board of Health

Michael W. Guernsey wanted to make note of the fact that the parking situation behind the Flynn Building has worsened since the new blocks have cut out four or five parking spaces. People are parking in the aisles when there are no spaces available. He suggested contacting the school department to eliminate school personnel from the lot.

Regarding the landfill, Mr. Guernsey pointed out that the Highway Department will be requesting additional funds for cover, and he stated it is important to appropriate the monies for maintenance as required by the State, as the State has been shutting down community landfills that do not comply.

The Community Outreach Worker is now on board and the Board was pleased to welcome Karen Rubin.

Residential Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Committee

William W. Cooper reported the Committee requests that any Boards or Departments that have plans concerning wastewater treatment facilities continue on, especially if they require a town meeting article, as the newly-formed Committee is not in a position at present to present any comprehensive recommendations.

Finance Committee

David Wilson reported that the budget packages have been sent out and, if there are any questions, departments contact their liaison or Budget Analyst Terri Ackerman.

Town Treasurer

Chester Hamilton reported that only five to ten percent of the taxes have been collected to date, and he anticipates that with a deadline of November 9, 1987, the remaining ninety to ninety-five percent will arrive next week.

Fire Department

Chief Michael Dunne expressed his thanks to the Newcomers Club for the purchase of five hundred telephone stickers indicating the emergency telephone number for Sudbury. These will be given to new residents by Welcome Wagon and are available at various locations and Fire Department. Although the universal "911" number is not in use in Sudbury as yet, he does predict it will come into use here soon.

The new ambulance is on order and is expected around Christmas. A set of specifications has been sent out for a "Jaws of Life" tool.

Chief Dunne reported one case of arson at Lincoln-Sudbury West. He suggested the fire alarm systems be updated to avoid a future tragedy.

The Department has been kept busy with the Superfund Authorization Recovery Act ("SARA"), which will generate reams of hazardous waste reports by local concerns to the Town. By October of 1988, the Town must have a full evacuation plan on how it will evacuate the Town if a hazardous waste spill occurs.

Council On Aging

Dr. Donald Oasis reported a good month for the Council. The Outreach Worker, Martha Curran, has been active and she will not only be available at the Center but will go right to the person's home if needed.

A mammographic diagnostic program is being offered on December 3, 1987, at a cost of \$65 for a screening. This amount is considerably less than the fees charged at local hospitals and with recently-passed legislation, the amount will be covered not only by Medicaid but all health-insurance plans.

There is also a diabetic screening planned for November 9, 1987.

Cable Television Committee

Jeffrey Winston reported that the Committee has completed an intensive review of the cable services. He reminded the Forum that there will be an open meeting with Cablevision concerning its application for transfer of the Adams-Russell franchise on Monday, November 16, 1987, at 8:30 p.m.

Community Outreach Worker

Karen Rubin expressed her pleasure with the support she is receiving from all departments and committees in the Town and is impressed with the spirit of cooperation throughout the Town.

Selectmen's Summary

Highlights of the Board's actions since the last Forum were summarized by Chairman Donald as follows.

The Fiscal Year 1988 tax rate was set, after public hearing, at \$17.26 per \$1,000 evaluation for residential property and \$26.35 per \$1,000 evaluation for commercial, industrial, and personal property;

An all alcoholic beverages license was approved for the Coach House Inn with concurrent modification of the site plan and Innholder's (victualler's) license to allow full food and beverage service, subject to Board of Health approval relative to septic system requirements;

The Board appointed Darlene Caldwell to the Personnel Board, Town Historian Laura Scott to the 350th Anniversary Celebration Committee, Richard MacLean as a Special Police Officer, and, in joint session with the Sudbury Housing Authority appointed Stephen Garabedian to that Authority;

An agreement was signed providing for psychological screening of Police Officer candidates and it has been sent to the Department of Personnel Administration for approval; the Town has also requested inclusion in the April Civil Service Sergeant's Examination;

The Board accepted a \$500 gift given by his widow in memory of Paul Cavicchio for ambulance medial equipment, and miscellaneous donations totalling \$227.50 for the Council on Aging van transportation program;

Subject to comment from the Historical Districts Commission, the Board approved a Boston Edison phased replacement plan to convert existing street lights to high pressure sodium lights with are more cost effective and also provide more illumination;

A joint meeting with the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission was also well attended by abutters to hear a presentation by Longwood Retirement Associates relative to the proposed development of the Peirce Rose property off Maple Avenue, a portion of which has received tax benefits under Chapter 61A and on which the Town has been given right of first refusal to purchase.

And lastly, the Board joined members of the Merloni family and friends for dedication of the plaque erected in the Flynn Building in memory of the late Town Engineer.

Board of Assessors

Chairman Donald read the following report, submitted by the Board of Assessors for Town Forum.

The Fiscal 1988 tax bills were issued on October 9, 1987, with first-half tax payment due on or before November 9, 1987. Despite the nine-day-late status, this year's bills are the earliest in eight years. The Board looks forward to October 1 mailing dates in future years.

The Assessors in conjunction with the Tax Collector's Office, the Treasurer, and the Town Accountant are now exploring the feasibility of in-house tax billing for fiscal 1990. In-house printing of the tax bills should reduce costs and various file conversion problems now experienced with service bureaus.

The Board of Assessors recently received notification from the Department of Revenue that its plan for the Fiscal 1989 townwide reassessment has been accepted and meets the Department's minimum requirements.

The house-to-house inspection program for the 1989 reassessment continues on schedule. Project completion date for the inspection of 4,500 homes is November 1, 1988. Project completion at this point in time is estimated at fifty percent.

Historic Districts Commission

Chairman Donald read the following report filed by Burton H. Holmes, Chairman, for Town Forum.

Since the Historic Districts Commission's report for the last Town Forum, September 28, 1987, the Commission has held two public hearings, issued three Certificates of Appropriateness and attended a Planning Board public hearing to consider a subdivision for Concord Road (as well as walked the property with members of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and the developer and his civil engineer). All certificates have been filed with the Building Department and the Town Clerk.

There being no further reports to be present, the Forum was adjourned.

Attest: _____
Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary-Clerk