



**SELECTMEN'S MINUTES  
August 18, 1998**

**Present:** Wayne L. Friedrichs, Herman Kabakoff, F. Dore' Hunter , Peter Ashton, Nancy Tavernier, Town Manager Don Johnson and Assistant Mgr. Murray. (The meeting was televised by cable)

**CITIZEN'S CONCERNS**

None Expressed.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND APPOINTMENTS**

**STREAM TEAM  
MARY MICHELMAN**

Mary Michelman stated that Acton Stream Team Inspection Team is a cooperative venture between the Town of Acton and OAR (Organization for Assabet River). The goal of the organization is to inventory the condition of local streams and rivers which include visual surveys, completion of data sheets, check stream conditions, and input data. Assets of Acton rivers include an abundance of wildlife, historic sites, and recreational opportunities. Some of the problems are trash, pipes and culverts that need cleaning, sheen buildup, not enough buffer and runoff concerns. The volunteers have put together an action plan which recommends information sharing with all the appropriate town departments. Achievements of the Stream Team include public awareness, photograph inventory, provided data to Acton's environmental consultant, draft final report, water testing, formation of task forces, and they have submitted an article to the EPA for possible publication. The Stream Team have created four task forces, which include cleanup, stewardship, website, rail trail and development/linkage task forces. Ms. Michelman asked the Board to advise and assist with litter cleanup on September 12., allow the health department to review stewardship articles and distribute stewardship information, and also include an article in the Municipal Quarterly if possible. Wayne commended Stream Team on behalf of the Board. Wayne stated that the Board should appoint a liaison to Stream Team. Nancy has been volunteering from the start and volunteered to be the liaison. Nancy stated that thanks go to Mary for organizing and preparing literature to increase the awareness of the streams. Letters were sent to approximately 750 abutters and awareness was made to some homeowners. Peter stated his amazement with all streams in Acton, and suggested that they make streams more recreational friendly for exploration. NANCY TAVERNIER - Move to endorse the cleanup activities of the Stream Team and to make the cleanup as feasible as possible and also to endorse any educational campaigns. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE. Nancy also stated that getting to some of these streams will be difficult since they are on private property. Dore' suggested that the Stream Team use the Special Town meeting in October to create public awareness.

## **SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS**

### **COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENTS**

Wayne discussed the sunset policy which includes allowing a committee member only to serve on two terms. Michaela Moran would like to be reappointed for her third time in order to keep a full Board which currently has one full committee member who would like to step down and one alternate that would like to step up. Anne Forbes stated that the Committees recommendation is to keep 6 full members and 2 alternate members that they currently have. Anne suggested that since the year has started, and Michaela is the current chairman, the Committee would like to keep her as a full member. Dore' asked if the potential vacancy had been advertised. This has not been done. Dore' stated that the policy is clear, indicating that if no one is waiting we could let Michaela continue either for a full term or at least for a year. Robert McCall has indicated that he would like to step down to alternate and Ken Guditz would like to step up to full, however, the Board asked to see a letter indicating this change from Mr. Guditz and McCall. This request will then be processed at a future Board meeting under the consent calendar. NANCY TAVERNIER - Move to appoint Michaela Moran as a full member of Historic District Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2001. DORE HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE. Anne Forbes suggested that maybe the VCC could move up their reappointment recommendation list to possibly January instead of June in order to avoid time constraint problems.

Board of Health reappointment of William McInnis. The Board of Health is currently short one member. Currently there are three applicants that have expressed interest in the Board. NANCY TAVERNIER - Move to appoint William McInnis to the Board of Health with a term to expire June 30, 2001. DORE HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Planning Board - Gregory Niemyski . Mr. Niemyski has currently served 10 years on the Planning Board and has reached the maximum amount he can serve. The Planning Board currently has a alternate member, Kenneth Sghia-Hughes that would like to move up to full member. WAYNE FRIEDRICHS - Move to appoint Kenneth Sghia Hughes as a full member to the Planning Board with a term to expire 6/30/2003. DORE HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE. Nancy suggested that the Chairman send a letter to Greg thanking him for his years of service and offering an alternate position to him.

### **BOARD OF APPEALS APPOINTMENT**

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to appoint Thomas Lemire to the Board of Appeals to fill the unexpired term of Janet Clark. - NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

Peter volunteered to take all the Planning articles.

## **YOUTH SOFTBALL LEAGUE DONATION**

The Youth Softball League has offered the Town a donation to build more ballfields at NARA , however, NARA might not be the best place for the fields so staff would like more time to speak with the Softball organization prior to the Board's acceptance. Tom Tidman has indicated that this organization is willing to work with us. Don indicated that they have been in contact with us in looking for alternate locations. Dore' indicated that the proposed new fields would benefit the whole town and not just certain organizations. Dore' stated that he felt strongly that public lands are for the benefit of the citizenry as a whole, and that any gift which seeks to restrict usage to less than all the citizens should be rejected. This gift will need to go to the Recreation Commission for their recommendation.

## **ACTON BOXBOROUGH YOUTH SOCCER DONATION**

This gift needs the same clarification as the Softball League donation which Tom Tidman will work on.

## **EDC**

Wayne indicated that this Board is an advisory committee to the Board of Selectmen. Membership has grown quickly to include, two Selectmen, two Planning Board, Fincom, two Citizens at large, business members, and a Chambers of Commerce member. The EDC has always wanted two members of the Chamber and by allowing this now it would increase the membership to 10, however, the Board feels an odd number is more viable and has recommended increasing the membership to 11. Nancy Tavernier stated that the Board initially voted up to nine members. DORE HUNTER - Move to amend the membership of the EDC to up to 11 members. PETER ASHTON - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

## **ROUTE 2 IMPROVEMENTS**

The Route 2 Corridor Advisory Committee has been working on improving Route 2. There are a number of communities on the committee and they have recommended two Route 2 improvements for Acton. One of these projects include the remove the light at Route 2/Piper. The Committee has recommended that there be a grade separation/overpass prior to removal of light. Representative Resor was present to state that a Selectmen from Concord has called her asking why the Crosby Corner project is not on the Tip list. There has been some indication that a historic house is causing hold ups. Rep. Resor's has set up a meeting for Monday at 3:00 PM in the Transportation Building in Boston and asked for volunteers to attend. The Board expressed their frustration that Acton's projects are also not on the Tip list. Don indicated that Mass Highway has not included any Acton projects on their 5 year Capital Plan. Nancy suggested that another meeting be set up to discuss Acton issues only.

## **SIDEWALK PROGRAM**

Nancy stated that it is appalling to find cars parking on sidewalks. The Board suggested that enforcement by the Police along with public awareness be implemented. Nancy also stated that she would like the public to know that the new Main Street sidewalks were paid for by Boston Gas.

## **NESWC**

Rep. Resor is leading the fight to get the NESWC monies back on the table. Nancy suggested that Wayne and Don create a strong worded letter to Senator Durand to urge the Senate to come back into session, in order to override the Governor's veto of additional State Aid for providing rate relief for the NESWC Communities.

## **SEWER ACTION COMMITTEE**

Staff has indicated that pump stations for sewers would be classified under the zoning bylaw as "structures". The Board stated that adhering to the Zoning Bylaw as currently written would require a pump station to be located on a building lot with applicable setbacks. Dore' suggested that we seek an article at the Special Town Meeting to refine the definition of the word "Structure" in the Zoning Bylaw, the revised definition would exclude pump stations. DORE HUNTER - Move to authorize a Special Town Meeting article to amend the Zoning Bylaws to exempt pump stations from the definition of structures. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

## **DRAFT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Peter stated that he has concerns with the "final report" and would like a chance to comment prior to the draft being finalized. Wayne commented that the plan was mislabeled, and in fact was a draft report. The Chairman stated he would like to have the Board read and comment on the draft..

## **ETHAN ALLEN DRIVE**

Peter indicated that the Stow Planning Board seems to be moving in the right direction by not allowing the developer to use Ethan Allen as a connection road. Peter indicated that Stow seems to be very receptive to Acton's concerns.

## **PUTNAM ROAD DISTURBANCE**

Dore' indicated that the Police Department handled this large party with underage drinking very well. Dore' commended the Police Department along with the surrounding towns police department in handling this large party..

## CONSENT AGENDA

DORE HUNTER - Move to approve Consent Calendar as printed. PETER ASHTON - Second- UNANIMOUS VOTE.

## TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

**SCHOOL/TOWN COMPUTER INTEGRATION** - The schools have given us a renewed commitment. The account structure is finally completed and the schools accounts payable will be put on line as soon as possible. The next phase will be putting the payroll on line which is scheduled for January 1, 1999. Don stated that the schools are moving slowly and this is consuming huge amounts of the Town Accountants time. Dore' asked the Town Manager for continued progress reports.

## CHERRY SHEET

John Murray informed the Board that the legislature has appropriated \$108,000 of additional aid, above and beyond the amounts noted on the Cherry Sheets. John also indicated that some of this money was factored into the town budget already.

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to adjourn at 9:45 PM. PETER ASHTON - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Nancy E. Zwick  
Clerk  
9/28/98  
Date

Sheryl Ball  
Sheryl Ball  
Recording Secty.  
Doc:Min8/18/98

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August 14, 1998

**TO:** Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** Wayne Friedrichs, Chairman

**SUBJECT:** Selectmen's Report

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**AGENDA**  
**Room 204**  
**August 18, 1998**  
**7:30 P.M.**

**I. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS**

**II. PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPOINTMENTS**

**1. 7:35 STREAM TEAM - MARY MICHELMAN, O.A.R.** - Enclosed please find materials that Ms. Michelman will discuss with the Board.

**III. SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS**

**2. COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENTS-** Enclosed please find background materials for the Board's reference.

**3. BOARD OF APPEALS APPOINTMENT** - Enclosed please find the VCC's recommendation to move Thomas Lemire from alternate to a full appointment to the Board of Appeals, for Board action.

**4. SPECIAL TOWN MEETING** - Enclosed please find draft articles submitted by the Planning Board for review.

**5. YOUTH SOFTBALL LEAGUE DONATION** - Enclosed please find a request for acceptance of a gift of funds from the Youth Softball League to be used at NARA, along with staff comments, for Board consideration.

**6. ACTON BOXBORO YOUTH SOCCER DONATION** - Enclosed please find a request for acceptance of the gift of a bedrock artesian well to be installed at NARA, along with staff comments, for Board consideration.

**7. EDC** - Request to increase membership from 9 to 11 for Board discussion.

**8. ROUTE 2 IMPROVEMENTS** - Enclosed please find comments and recommendations from the Town Manager regarding Route 2 improvements.

**9. SIDEWALK PROGRAM** - Enclosed please find correspondence form Selectmen Tavernier for Board discussion.

**10. OTHER**

#### **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

**11. ACCEPT MINUTES** - Enclosed please find minutes of July 21, 1998 for Board acceptance.

**12. ACCEPT GIFT** - Enclosed please a request to accept funds donated by Berlin Auto Parts to the DARE Program for Board action.

**13. ACCEPT GIFT** - Enclose please find a gift from Siegfried Mayr for Board acceptance.

**14. SURPLUS POLICE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT** - Enclosed please find a request to declare computer equipment from the Police Department as surplus.

**15. SURPLUS LIBRARY EQUIPMENT** - Enclosed please find a request to declare computer equipment from the Memorial Library as surplus.

**16. ELECTION WORKERS**- Enclosed please find a recommendation from the Town Clerk for the appointment of Election Workers for Board action.

**17. CABLE TELEVISION LICENSE** - Enclosed please find a second "Short Term Renewal License" for Board consideration and action.

#### **V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**18. SCHOOL/TOWN COMPUTER INTEGRATION** - Enclosed please find copies of e-mail for the Board's information. The Town Manger will update the Board on the status of this project, per the request of Selectman Hunter.

#### **VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

##### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Enclosed please find additional correspondence that is strictly informational and requires no Board action.

##### **FUTURE AGENDAS**

To facilitate scheduling for interested parties, the following items are scheduled for discussion on future agendas. This IS NOT a complete Agenda.

**Sept. 1**

**September 15 - Coles Brook Site Plan (cont)      September 28**

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