

# SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

## June 6, 2000

**Present:** F. Dore' Hunter, Peter Ashton, Herman Kabakoff, Trey Shupert, Pam Harting-Barrat, and the Town Manager and Asst. Town Manager.  
(The meeting was televised)

### CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Joe Lawton and Rick Stewart – T.J Grady Memorial Skate Park representatives were present to discuss Skate Park status. They are asking for an appropriation at the upcoming Special Town Meeting.

#### AMENDMENT TO THE TRAFFIC RULES AND ORDERS – LEDGE ROCK WAY AND WACHUSETT DRIVE

Mr. Wagner suggest that the State put a blinking light in instead of Stop Signs at the Ledge Rock Way intersection with Route 27, he feels it will make it safer. He cautioned that the cars and trucks are traveling on the road too fast.

Beth Petr – 26 Nashoba- asked about four way stop at this location —why is it not being considered for a four way stop.

Peter asked about status of sidewalk to NARA? Staff is in the process, the culvert needs to be repaired and it should progress shortly.

Nashoba/Wachusett– Peter asked about procedure. They must meet a warrant and it must meet the criteria, and this does not meet it at this location, they cannot put a light or four way stop, it just doesn't meet the warrant criteria as established under the warrant.

Don said he is in the process of obtaining a study for Indian Village. Engineering has been pulling together our needs/observations.

Pam feels they have a neighborhood of adolescents and they are now driving faster in the neighborhood. She feels it is dangerous, cars are coming out of Mohawk and turning left and not treating it like an intersection.

Dore' asked about the flashing light on State road. He feels that even if you have a flashing light you need a stop sign.

Trey asked that we make sure we follow-up on a timely basis. Don said that the question was addressed in 1993, he responded and asked the proponent for a copy of his reply as we have a different computer system now.

Herman looked at the intersections and the need is there. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Moved we vote to install stop signs and Wachusett/Nashoba Road and Ledge Rock Way as outlined in the report of the Engineer. TREY SHUPERT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION OVERSIGHT MEETING**

Matt Liebman, Chairman, outlined the members and their backgrounds. He gave an overview of the duties of the ConsCom. They are working on updating the open space report. They monitor wetland filling. They review plans to build and they suggest ways of avoiding the wet lands. They issue permits and monitor the work when possible.

They work closely with Engineering and Board of Health and lesser with Planning.

They need to up date and strengthen their bylaws to better conform with the State regulations. They noted that they have small violations, which they do not have the time to follow-up on and wanted to improve inter-board communication.

Dore' updated them on the bringing in the list of current and future Land Stewardship membership committee members into the regular process of appointment by the Board of Selectmen.

Pam asked about the impact of Title 5 and wetland encroachment. They are exempted from the Bylaw for replacement, but have to follow the State Act.

Herman asked about any requests you have that the Board could aid them in. Matt said GIS system is needed and feels that town needs to have this.

Peter commented on the overview materials he felt it should be given to the public. He wanted to know how often they have appeals. They felt it was 3-4 in the last three years

Linda MacElroy – The Land Steward Committee is a sub-committee of the Conservation Commission. Under the recommendation of the open space plan. They want safe trails but they do not want to encroach too much into the land. They have a committee of 12. She asked for any extra money to produce the maps. Dore' asked that she get her request into the Town Manager. They are pursuing grants when they can.

### **CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – UNDERGROUND WIRE PLACEMENT**

David Green Director of Community Affairs. They are requesting permits to upgrade the underground system to improve the system and offerings. They will be putting new cable underground on about 14 miles of roadways and the rest of the connections will be on poles. They have agreed to the outlined items suggested by the Engineering.

Don said he was confident that they had met all requirements. Dore' asked about trenching on private lands. They will only be involved with the ones on public ways.

Herman asked if this would get into the way of sewers? He asked about any work overhead concurrent with the sewer installation. They will not be in the way of the sewer project, and plan to be complete by end of July.

Peter asked if they would be using any town resources. They will hire police details at their cost. The town will have to inspect their work.

Pope Road Resident was concerned that the trees would be affected. And asked about how they are documented. The license required providing the town with location maps on grid. They will most likely boar under and come out the other side of the trees if they are in the way.

Farmstead way wanted to know about the underground sprinklers. He wanted to be sure they are bonded. Cable vision is bonded and insured and the town is indemnfied.

Johna Laufer – Marshall Path – asked about dig safe markings. They are required to contact Dig Safe and wait 72 hours before work commences.

Steve Davidson - North Briar. Concerned about open trenches. The contractor said they do not leave open trenches. They will use good grass seed or hydro seed.

In addition, before work begins on a street, they will put door hangers on 48 hours in advance and they will post 48 hours on the cable channel.

PAM HARTING-BARRAT Moved to grant the permit to dig on the streets as outlined in the documents presented by Cablevision. HERMAN KABAKOFF – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

SHORT TERM BRIDGE LICENSE – HERMAN KABAKOFF – Moved to extend the license until Midnight on June 20<sup>th</sup>. – PETER ASHTON - Second. UNANIMOUS

### **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

MaryAnne Ashton was present to discuss the request to have a Special Town Meeting on November 13 and Special Election on November 20. Herman said that his personal opinion that they should reassess the one week ballot turnaround. He suggested more like 30-40 days,

Pam said the sooner the better and had faith that the school committee made this decision properly. SBA requires submission of drawings and they need the additional time. Maryanne agreed that we wanted an educated electorate. She said the PR work is not the issue, she said that the BOS and Fincom would like the time to research and react. The issue will be discussed at next ALG. She said they need at least 8 weeks. Herman still felt that they would have time to disseminate educational materials.

They will continue this at ALG and June 20<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting.

## POLICE AND FIRE CHIEF REPORTS RELATED TO THE BENNETT ASSOCIATES STUDY.

Acting Chief Widmayer has made an effort to comply with all suggestions and has already been implementing them. They are trying to continue with moving toward more community policing activities. Time is spent at the senior center and library as well as the safety officer running radar in response to citizen complaints.

Indian Village is a hot area for calls for service. He noted that the only real problem with the report was the statement status quo and he strongly disagrees and believes that the amount of training has increased from the past administration. Dispatch has been brought into line with no money spent. He would like to rewrite the manual so that it is easier to use. He is unfortunately struggling with low manpower.

Dore' noted that all the events that have occurred has made him defend an organization that he did not make, and urged him to pursue the smaller manual.

Dore' suggested that he give Don any money requests. Dore' wanted us to hold some sort of accreditation status.

Trey commented that he supports what Dore' stated. He was impressed with this response. He noted that his comments pro/con be expanded to include why you can implement or and why not.

Peter agreed and said it was a very impressive response. He wanted to see additional data on accidents. He wanted to be sure they are moving toward an accreditation,

Herman was impressed with the data that goes into the police activities and what went into the response.

Pam noted that his response was much written than what the consultant delivered. She was unsure how they operate in that building. She had recent conversation with Martha Coakley and noted that she was very impressed with his response in recent involvement with the DA's office. Frank said that he had begun to foster a relationship with the DA's office as well as other groups since he took over in September.

Dore' noted the physical plant situation. He wanted to work out a schedule so we can broaden the community's review of the station.

Charlie Kadlec suggested videotape of the conditions and run it on the local cable network.

Chief Craig gave an overview of his memo. He addressed the points noted by the report. He is currently trying to coordinate ways to make suggested changes.

Dore' said it was a very good response. He noted that this facility would be improved if it were voted.

He wanted to discuss the future of the two entities coming together. He is still unhappy with sick time usage.

Pam asked about EMS.

Herman noted that he did not have any questions at this time.

Peter said the matrix was very helpful. And will delve into this at a later date.

Trey suggested that both Frank and Bob have put diligent efforts into implementing the suggested changes. He wanted to see the consultant's back to have a more meaningful exchange on the recommendations and responses.

## **SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS**

### **LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Will be discussed at a latter meeting

**RECREATION FEES** – Dore' asked about the pro former status, Herman is reviewing. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Moved to take Nancy's structure for pricing and reduce by 45% and Fund the concerts for free to citizens of Acton as a thank you for funding this facility. No Second. Motion fails.

Dore', Trey and Peter felt that we could offer the last one for free if the first 6 are a success. Don cautioned that they are to be self-supporting. We need to get a track record on this before we offer free events that cost us money to produce.

PETER ASHTON – Moved to approve the original fees as laid out in Nancy's memo with the proviso of looking at it again after series 5 to see if we can reduce the fee. PAMELA HARTING-BARRAT – Second. 4-1 Herman NO.

**POLICY SPONSORSHIP AND ADVERTISING ON FIELDS.** – Peter tightened up the language significantly. He also made it very clear the BOS were the final control. He also got feedback about the leagues sponsorship. TREY SHUPERT - Moved to approve it in principal and make word changes, and live with it for a while, HERMAN KABAKOFF – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Chairman Hunter asked staff to put this on a fall meeting for review.

**ROBBINS MILL** – Dore' discussed the property and Fin com suggestions. Don was asked to share his thoughts. He has reviewed the writings and spoken with several people. He noted that the owner is in the subdivision process. To negotiate against a 120 sub division would not be fruitful. He said the FinCom memo suggested we go into the development business and he did not see that happening. Dore' asked about the appraisal.

Herman said he thought it was premature to act now, he wanted to wait and proceed in the future.

Peter said it is premature to get the appraisal. The planning board could make

decisions that would affect the assumptions. We could get the Appraisal when we know where we are going. He felt that Don should be authorized to contact the owner to see what sense or options we have.

Dore' suggested to encourage the Manager to chat with the landowner.

John Prendiville said we should wait to see how it turns out and agrees with Herman's opinion on how to proceed.

Pam felt we needed to proceed to have Don make contact.

Trey said we should go forward and ask the question and ask what's the status and where do we stand.

Bill Mullin said that the Conservation Trust letter outlined their thoughts, and felt a process of due diligence had been, and will continue to be followed.

**ABYS SPORTS TURF MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

Don said this a very generous offer but takes our staff away for a while. He suggested we accept it and look at it closer.

HERMAN KABAKOFF – Moved to accept the gift. PETER ASHTON – Second.  
UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**SRF BONDS** TREY SHUPERT – Moved to approve with the conditions noted in the bond package. PAM HARTING-BARRAT, Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**CONSENT**

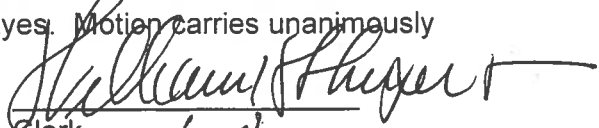
TREY SHUPERT - Moved to approve – PAM HARTING-BARRAT - Second.  
UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Don reported that Sharon (Tess) Summers is leaving to go to the Regional Schools as Finance Director

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

TREY SHUPERT – Moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Salary negotiations with the board adjourning at the conclusion of such Executive Session.  
PETER ASHTON – Second. Roll Call Taken, All Ayes. Motion carries unanimously

  
Clerk

8/15/00  
Date

June 2, 2000

**TO:** Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** F. Dore' Hunter, Chairman

**SUBJECT:** Selectmen's Report

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## **AGENDA**

**June 6, 2000**

**7:30 P.M. - Room 204**

### **I. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS**

### **II. PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPOINTMENTS**

1. **7:33 AMENDMENT TO TRAFFIC RULES AND ORDERS - Stop Signs for Ledge Rock Way and Wachusett Drive** - Enclosed please find materials in the subject regard for Board action.
2. **7:35 CONSERVATION COMMISSION - OVERSIGHT MEETING**
3. **8:00 CABLEVISION UNDERGROUND HEARING-** Representatives of Cablevison will be in to describe proposed upgrade activities.
4. **8:15 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING** – Enclosed please find a request from the School Committee for a November 2000 Special Town Meeting.
5. **8:25 POLICE AND FIRE CHIEF REPORTS RELATED TO THE BENNETT ASSOCIATES STUDY** - Enclosed please find materials in the subject regard.

### **III. SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS**

6. **LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE** – Discussion continued from May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
7. **RECREATION FEES AND POLICY** – Discussion continued from May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
8. **ROBBINS MILL** – Discussion continued from May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
9. **ABYS SPORTS TURF MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP** – Enclosed please find correspondence from the A/B Youth Soccer offering a donation of a Sports Turf Management scholarship to the Recreation Department.
10. **SRF BONDS** – Enclosed please find Bond Documents materials for Board review and approval.
11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

## IV CONSENT AGENDA

12. **ACCEPT MINUTES** – Enclosed please find minutes of April 25 and May 9 for Board acceptance.
13. **ACCEPT GIFT** – Enclosed please find a request from the Police Chief for acceptance of a gift from the Acton Boxborough Celebration Committee for use in the DARE program.
14. **COMMISSION ON DISABILITY** – Enclosed please find a request to accept a start up grant for a Video/Audio taping Project at the Arboretum.

## V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

15. **STATUS OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT STAFF AND COMPUTER EXPERTISE ON STAFF.**

## 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.

- June 20-** Personnel Bd. Oversight Mtg., Bd. Of Assessor's Oversight, Cable Television Oversight Mtg.
- July 18 -** VCC Oversight Meeting
- August 15**
- Sept 12 –** HDC /HC – Possible Merge

### GOALS 2000-2001

1. HDC Bylaw review. (Dore'/Herman)
2. To obtain facilities plan and bring to Fall Town Meeting. (Dore')
3. Develop a policy regarding appointments. Get the non-groups organized and regularization of non-charter committees. (Dore').
4. Determine future of Vaillancourt House - 17 Woodbury Lane. (Herman)
5. Expect Board to follow school construction. Dore' will continue the oversight of the building (Dore')
6. Robbins Mills - Contingent on override is affirmation that the Manager will have review. (Trey)
7. Implementation of the Bennett report, that it should be reviewed and implemented. (Dore')
8. Revisit the 2020 process and review make-up and consider expand or reduce the membership. (Peter)
9. Provide looking at salary levels in the organization, include liaison with Personnel Board (Trey /Peter)
10. Review Board of Health duties to expand its role h so it becomes a more visible department. (Pam)
11. Formulate charge and suggested membership list for a "Long Range Planning Committee" (Ashton):

### FY 2000 GOALS carried forward

12. Resolve the Audubon Hill problem/issues (Trey)
13. Establish or reconstitute a Computer Advisory Committee for Municipal issues (Dore')
14. Develop a comprehensive Beaver Nuisance policy (Pam)



15. Continue the forum, review, and implement greater coordination, efficiency and utilization of resources between the schools and the town (Peter)
16. Continue the work of the Senior Tax Relief task force and also investigate ways of assisting others that may need tax relief (Peter/Dore')
17. Work with the Planning Board to implement the goals, objectives and strategies of the Master Plan update (Peter/Trey)