

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of August 18, 2008

Clerk Gandt called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present in addition to Clerk Gandt, were Martha Morrison and Nancy Luther. Chairman Jackson was absent. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder, and Board Secretary Donna Rich, were in attendance. Other persons present were Evelyn Hammond of the Topsfield Cable, Brendan Lewis of the Tri-Town Transcript, Faye Raynard of the Village Reporter, Joe Geller, Rail Trail Committee Chair, Katherine Carlson and Roy Baessler, candidates for the Rail Trail Committee, Mary Fletcher Ferrill, candidate for Historical Commission as an Alternate, Terri Lee Carabillo and Elizabeth Mulholland, owners of New Meadows Market.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Clerk Gandt announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session at the end of the Regular Session to discuss collective bargaining relative to the dispatcher's union and would not be returning to Open Session.

Clerk Gandt read the following announcement from the Town Clerk: Nomination papers to fill the vacancy in the board of selectmen are available in the Office of the Town Clerk. Papers must be returned for certification on or before Wednesday, August 27, 2008 by 5:00PM to that office, with 42 certifiable signatures. Certified candidate names will appear on the November 4, 2008 state ballot for election to the office of selectmen. If you have any questions regarding this election please contact the Town Clerk.

Selectman Morrison announced that the Graphic Design Program at MASCO is seeking non-profit organizations with real world problems to solve as part of their upcoming curriculum. Stacy Mannhiem is the contact at MASCO for the applications which will be posted on the Town website.

Selectmen Minutes: Selectman Luther made the motion to accept the amended minutes of the August 4, 2008; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 3-0.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30 PM: Rail Trail Candidates: Katherine Carlson stated her interest in the Rail Trail is due primarily to the difficulty and danger of riding bicycles on Town streets. When asked how she feels about the abutters and their concerns, Katherine answered that she is responsive to that concern and feels that communication is the best way to inform all citizens. She feels she could assist in achieving that communication goal.

Roy Baessler stated his interest lies in the ability to take his grandchildren for a bicycle ride in a safe environment. When asked how he feels about the concerns of the abutters, he stated that privacy is a concern; and, the Committee will have to work on a solution together with the abutters involved to solve those concerns.

Historical Commission Candidate: Mary Fletcher Ferrill stated that her interest in the Commission is primarily due to her professional background as an architect and her ability to assist in that capacity.

8:00 PM: Terri Lee Carabillo & Liz Mulholland stated their primary reason for addressing the Board was to request approval to close their store, New Meadows Market LLC, during

demolition and construction of a new building at the store's location. In accordance with the Town's "Rule and Regulations Relative to Alcohol Beverage Licenses" section VI-R (Permission to Close Premises Required), the owners delivered a letter dated August 17, 2008 to the Board requesting closure on September 30, 2008 with re-opening on or before April 30, 2009. A discussion of length of closure and impact on the liquor license followed. Selectman Gandt requested a copy of the project's construction schedule (showing activities and dates) to afford the Board a level confidence in the requested period of closure. He also requested confirmation of project financing, but later agreed to seek this through the ZBA. Ms. Carabillo and Mulholland were reminded that changes, if any, to their plan of operation, such as the floor or shelf space plan, should be filed with the Board for approval. Selectman Luther made a motion to approve the closure of New Meadows Market LLC as requested in the August 17, 2008 letter, seconded by Selectmen Morrison; so voted: 3-0.

GENERAL BUISINESS

New Business

Alcohol Licensing Advisory Committee: Selectman Luther made a motion to appoint Bruce Spaulding to the Alcohol Licensing Advisory Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2009; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 3-0.

Rail Trail Committee Chairman Joe Geller introduced three examples of signs that could be used along the Rail Trail prohibiting motorized vehicles on the Topsfield Linear Common. Mr. Geller stated that the MBTA Lease prohibits the use of motorized vehicles. Selectman Morrison noted that the Town bylaw states that signs directing traffic be approved by the Board upon recommendation of the Public Safety Committee. Ms. Wilder will take the descriptions of the signs to the Public Safety Group for their input and bring back their recommendation to the Board. There is a scheduled meeting of the Public Safety Committee at the end of August.

Recreation Committee Topsfield Circuit Bicycle Race: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve the fourth annual Bike Race to be held on September 6 from 7:45AM-1:00PM for multiple loops along a 4.5 mile course beginning on River Road to Rowley Bridge Rd to Hill Street to Salem Rd and back to River Rd, seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted: 3-0.

Scleroderma Foundation Banner Request: Selectman Morrison made a motion to permit the Scleroderma Foundation to hang a banner between Proctor School and Town Hall from September 4 to September 15 for their fourth annual Walk-A-Thon to be held on Sept.14, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 3-0.

Veteran Day Banner Request: Selectman Luther made a motion to permit Robert Shamroth to hang a banner between Proctor School and Town Hall from October 22 to November 2 for a Veterans Day Parade planned for Nov.1, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 3-0. Selectman Morrison stated that there would be a dedication of the Vietnam War Monument during the parade and encouraged citizens to attend the parade.

Town Administrator's Report:

Please see attached report.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

Resignation of Board of Health Member: Michael Waltermire has tendered his resignation. Selectman Gandt stated that Michael was an engineer and it would be

great to fill the position with an engineer. Interested residents should contact the Board of Health.

Resignation of Police Dispatcher: Cynthia Hayward has tendered her resignation as a full time dispatcher.

Shrub & Screen Options on Rail Trail: Mike & Sue DeAmario have submitted some options for screening along the Trail by their home.

FEMA Certification: Town Clerk has completed MA Emergency Management Agency FEMA courses.

Fence at Asbury Bridge: Bob Smales has sent a letter to the Highway Department with concerns about the proposed fence on the Ipswich River bridge replacement at Asbury Street.

Water at 38 Coppermine Road: Kim Costas has submitted a letter regarding events that have taken place on the easement by her home.

Vegetation Growth at Routes 1 & 97: Aileen Waite has sent an email stating her concern regarding the growth of vegetation that has popped up recently. It was stated that the project is still under the jurisdiction of the contractor.

Reports

Planning Board – Minutes submitted of June 3 and July 1, 2008 and Legal Notices of 426 Boston St and 94 South Main St.

Web Site Committee – Minutes submitted May 28, 2008

Zoning Board of Appeals – Legal Notices of 7 Grove St, 86 Central St and 13 Arrowhead Rd.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ **277,475.66**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant #FY09:	
015T	\$ 81,425.49
016	\$ 196,050.17

At 9:19 PM, Clerk Gandt made a motion to go into executive session to discuss collective bargaining relative to the dispatcher's union, Selectman Morrison seconded motion. A yes vote was recorded for Selectmen Luther, Selectmen Morrison, and Selectmen Gandt. The Board would not return to regular session. Virginia Wilder and Donna Rich were present also.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the September 2, 2008 Board of Selectmen's meeting.