

MINUTES JANUARY 25, 2005 MEETING

The regular meeting was called to order at 10:45 A.M. Present were Commissioners Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Alexander E. Corbett, III, Charles R. Johnson, Superintendent Robert P. Gardiner, DPW Director Peter J. Castanino, Nancy T. Fay, and League of Women Voters Observer Carolyn Bishop.

The Minutes of the September 15, 2004, September 24, 2004 and December 9, 2004 meetings were unanimously approved.

McLean Land Update: Chairman Cushman reported that the Land Court Decision concerning ARC Affordable Housing was received. The Court remanded to the Planning Board finding that the Planning Board had overstepped their bounds with several categories:

- The McLean documents originally said affordable housing up to 120% of the median income, but the Site plan approval attempted to get most affordable housing based on the medium income up to 80%. Court upheld the original documents up to 120%.
- Rental vs. ownership issues. The original mentioned no requirements and the Court agreed.

The Planning Board has 90 days from receipt of the printed form of Decision to come up with a reasonable solution. ARC must file a response to the Decision within 30 days of the Decision.

She also reported that the Junction Brook Decision is in the works (we are currently in round 5 of this suit).

Northland is close to getting their agreements. Once building permits are issued, we assume they will conduct their financial close with McLean and land will be forthcoming.

McLean needs to locate a site for ash disposal that was found on the McLean property. They are trying to work out an agreement with Wheelabrator/NESWC for disposal. DEP has already tested the material and according to the Memorandum of Agreement the debris area will be removed by McLean. The finger debris piles remaining have also been tested and McLean has filed a post closure permit with DEP. Whatever action DEP requires will be performed.

Director Peter J. Castanino explained that perhaps McLean could contact Wheelabrator directly without the need of going through NESWC (the 23 communities which joined together to work with Wheelabrator). He also informed the Board that NESWC will be dissolved on September 25, 2005.

The time frame for getting our active cemetery land depends on when all the above items are resolved. After that, Northland can obtain permits, 9.9 acres of land will be turned over to the Town, ARC reaches an agreement and then we obtain the active portion of the cemetery site. Chairman Cushman optimistically anticipates a land transfer sometime this spring with opening of Highland Meadow during FY06.

Operations and Budget: Superintendent Gardiner reported that one of the families of a deceased recently buried in Belmont Cemetery issued a check that was returned for insufficient funds. Town Counsel has written to the attorney handling the estate reminding him we expect payment when the house is sold. The attorney agreed.

Superintendent Gardiner received a letter from an abutting neighbor requesting replacement of the dying Hemlocks with some similar screening such as large evergreens, should we be forced to remove the trees.

Commissioner Corbett informed the board that a resident has requested that we reconsider our policy and allow artificial flowers/decorations particularly in the winter. After discussion the Board of Cemetery Commissioners decided to uphold the original policy in our Rules & Regulations.

The Budget meeting will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2005. The version being presented by the Town Accountant includes one additional full time employee for the Cemetery Division, but not the three part time/on call positions requested.

Director Castanino stated that as far as the capital budget was concerned we are requesting a small dump truck and planning to keep the 1992 dump truck for use at the new cemetery. His goal is to see equipment shared better in the future.

Director Castanino agreed to contact Glenn Clancy concerning funding put aside by former OCD director Tom Gatzunis in the Community Development budget to have a structural engineer examine and evaluate the barn on McLean farmland that will be used for storage of cemetery equipment.

Director Castanino left the meeting to attend a NESWC meeting.

Chairman Cushman agreed to contact the Selectmen/Town Counsel to determine if the Cemetery Construction Contract could remain with David Hawkins who has already approved the form of contract. She also agreed to contact Halvorson Design to get them back on track with the specifications in the near future.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 16, 2005. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Alexander E. Corbett, III, Clerk