

MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2007  
REGULAR SESSION  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL  
7:00PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:00 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall. All members were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

II. QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were no questions.

III. ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Waverley Trails Update - Jim Levitt

Jim Levitt appeared for the Waverley Trails Advisory Committee. The Committee's aim is to dedicate the trail on April 27 which is Arbor Day, in a combined celebration involving the town, state officials, and possibly students from the Butler School. A design firm has been engaged and work is underway on the three kiosks that will be on the trail. NECN is interested in doing a story on the project. \$40,000 in private money has been raised to support construction of the project. There is no cost to the town involved.

State legislative agenda

There was discussion of an outline prepared by Selectman Brownsberger of legislative issue areas the Town may wish to pursue. The chief issue is local aid and how to ensure that Belmont receives its fair share. In FY07 Belmont saw an increase of 11.7% in Chapter 70 education aid based on a change to the aid formula. Selectman Brownsberger will work to maintain this. He will co-sponsor changes in the special education formula that would bring additional funds to Belmont. He also agreed to look at the formula for vocational schools and the possibility of consolidation of funding at the state level at the suggestion of Selectman Firenze.

The Board discussed the state's property tax circuit breaker program and ways to expand the program to make more people eligible.

Selectman Brownsberger said his top priority is legislation to allow the Town to join the state's GIC health plan. The Board agreed this should be a goal. He also wants to file a bill to ensure that utilities fix the roads to status quo ante when they dig them up.

Finally, Selectman Brownsberger will file a bill to have the state acquire the Uplands property, though it may be a long shot.

Farmers' Market 2006 review

Heli Tomford appeared for the Farmer's Market. She talked about the newsletters that were done to publicize the market. The market also had its own web site. A slide presentation was shown of the many foods and events that were offered at the market and the people who visited. Some visitors had asked if the market could open earlier in the day. There was much positive feedback

from town officials and residents including abutters, and business owners who said the market brought new shoppers into the center.

Mr. Younger said the impact on parking was less than had been anticipated and neighbors felt the market left the area cleaner than when they found it.

Ms. Tomford said the parking lot location worked out well. Selectman Firenze said the market did a great job of working cooperatively and helping to promote local businesses.

The Board moved: To approve the continued use of the town parking lot by the Farmer's Market on Thursdays in 2007, with dates and hours to be chosen at the discretion of the Farmer's Market.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

#### Regional Emergency Planning Committee - Angus Davison

Assistant Fire Chief Angus Davison explained that a number of communities have formed a regional emergency planning committee. Belmont's local emergency planning would be incorporated into the regional plan. The Board needs to sign a letter authorizing Belmont's participation. Mr. Davison will represent the Town at the meetings. Participation will increase the Town's chances for grants and funding that would not be available to the Town on its own. Participation requires no additional funding by the Town.

The Board moved: To join the Battle Road Regional Emergency Planning Committee.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

#### Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- " Committee chairs have been asked to notify the Selectmen if a member misses three consecutive meetings, as to whether they wish to remove the member.
- " New directional signage for Concord Avenue in the bridge area will be up by the end of January.
- " Larry McCormick has resigned as a Library Trustee due to his appointment as a Boston District Court judge. The Trustees will decide whether they wish someone to be appointed to fill his term until the April election.
- " Woodfall Road: The Belmont Country Club has signed the land exchange agreement and all paperwork should be done by the first week of February, allowing the Town to proceed with the RFP for the land sale.
- " The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners is seeking legislation, which Selectman Brownsberger will co-sponsor, to increase funding for library construction. Belmont is #10 on the waiting list for funding. The proposed change would increase funding for Belmont's project by \$700,000.
- " A Town quilt created by Belmont seniors will be on display in the Town Clerk's office.
- " MUNIS software implementation began January 1 and there have been no glitches so far.
- " The Security Committee draft report is being reviewed and will be presented to the Board later this month.
- " Closing on the sale of property to Habitat for Humanity has been delayed from January 10. Mr. Younger recommended the Selectmen insist that the matter be resolved within 30 days.

The Board moved: That Habitat for Humanity must close on the conveyed land by February 9 or be in default.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

" The ice rink had to be closed this past weekend due to warm weather. One hockey game had to be rescheduled. It is now up and running again.

" There was discussion of doing a study on the feasibility of 4-way stop signs at the intersection of Fairview Avenue and School Street.

The Board moved: To authorize such a study.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

" Belmont had the second largest number of hits last year of any town's web site.

" The purchase and sale agreement for the Harvard Lawn fire station should be complete within a couple of weeks.

" The target date for the completion of Pleasant Street construction is September 2007, but that date may or may not be realistic.

" The holiday party for Town employees was successfully held last month for less than it had cost the previous year.

Trapelo Road non-participating issues-BSC Group

Community Development Director Glenn Clancy and BSC Group came before the Board to discuss items related to the Trapelo Road project which the state will not fund. BSC Group noted that streetscape improvements can have a significant positive impact on local business. Ornamental lighting, banners and flags, bike racks, benches and trash receptacles are some items which the Town would fund itself. To add these site amenities in 4 areas - Waverley Square, Central Square, Cushing Square, and School Street, would cost about \$1.88 million including inflation projections. Lighting makes up the bulk of the cost.

It was clarified that this is a capital budget and municipal light board issue. There are state grants for transportation enhancements that could be pursued to assist with the cost of this. The Board agreed that this should be pursued further.

The Board moved: To enter into executive session to consider the purchase of real property, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, and subsequently to return to open session.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0). The Board entered executive session at 9:25 PM.

(During executive session, one substantive motion was made and passed unanimously.)

The Board returned to open session at 10:28 PM.

#### IV. ACTION BY CONSENT

Application for Licenses - Common Victualler's and Livery - Renewals

Approval of Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes -  
November 27, 2006 Regular and Executive Session Minutes

The Board moved: To approve these items.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

#### V. OTHER

The Channing Road parking situation is still being analyzed by the Parking Group.

There was discussion of a letter from the Arlington Selectmen to the Zoning Board (ZBA) regarding the Uplands project. The Board agreed to send a letter to the ZBA to:

- 1) remind the ZBA that they have the option to ask Town Counsel to review the draft statement of conditions referenced in the letter;
- 2) express that the Selectmen are disappointed that the number of units has not been scaled back and reiterate that the overall size of the project is too great for comfort and the Board would be in favor of restricting the size.
- 3) state that all environmental issues should be dealt with to the satisfaction of all relevant environmental agencies including MEPA reviews.
- 4) agree with Arlington's request to have the Town's traffic consultant review nearby intersections in Arlington at the developer's expense.

The Board moved: To delegate to Chair Solomon the authority to sign such a letter on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and negotiations with non-union personnel and not to return to open session.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0). The Board entered executive session at 11:03 PM.

(During executive session, one substantive motion was made and passed unanimously. The Board adjourned at 11:30 PM.)

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Thomas Younger, Town Administrator