

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2007
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
TOWN HALL
8:30 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 8:30 AM in the Selectmen's Boardroom 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

The Board discussed the possibility of acquiring the Purecoat North property for municipal use.

Discussion of Goals and Objectives

The Board continued its previous review of its FY07 goals and objectives.

Review Town Management of Facilities

A plan has been developed for consolidation of building maintenance between town and school departments. The Board would like to see more movement in this area and will keep this on the list of goals for the coming year.

Other accomplishments in this area include the completion of the transaction to deed the Brighton Street property for housing, the issuance of the RFP for the Senior Center project, sale of the Central Fire Station, issuance of the RFP and review of the proposal for the Harvard Lawn Fire Station, and the ongoing implementation of a security plan for town buildings.

The Board added planning for the future of the VFW building and police station as goals in this area. The Board also set a January 31 deadline for the final report of the Belmont Center Planning Group.

The Board discussed the critical role of the incinerator site re-use in affecting other potential projects and sites and stressed that this is a high priority over the next few months.

The Board moved: To enter into executive session to discuss potential litigation and subsequently to return to open session.

Motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board entered executive session at 9:55 AM.

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

The Board returned to open session at 10:10 AM.

Tree

A resident on Flett Road has requested the Town replant a tree that was removed. DPW Director Castanino said that the Town's policy is to try to plant 120% of the trees that are removed. In this particular case, there is no room next to the stump on the grass strip in front of the sidewalk to plant a new tree. Mr. Castanino will explain the situation to the homeowner and the Board expressed its support.

The Board resumed its FY07 goals review.

Assist in public/private partnership regarding development and land conservation.

The Board wants to continue reviewing underutilized public and private properties, making progress on the Trapelo Road renovation project and the bike path project, and monitoring the Pleasant Street reconstruction and the status of the Uplands Project.

Improving communications.

The Town Administrator continues to hold monthly meetings at the Senior Center. The overhaul of the Town's Web page is continuing. The Selectmen's Office placed a column in the newspaper outlining the Town's summer accomplishments. The Board stressed that this is a high priority area that needs more formal attention. There was discussion of the need to address the backlog of the minutes. Mr. Conti assured the Board that the backlog would be addressed within the next few weeks.

Address Personnel Management and Development.

Management training is being scheduled for new managers. The Selectmen's Office held seminar on the Open Meeting Law for department heads. Succession planning continues to be a major issue that needs to be addressed.

Other goals the Board would like to pursue include a structural review of Town government and the need to address the issue of a climate action plan.

The Board adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator