

## MINUTES MARCH 14, 2005 MEETING

The regular meeting was called to order at 12:37 P.M. Present were Commissioners Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Alexander E. Corbett, III, Charles R. Johnson, Superintendent Robert P. Gardiner, and Nancy T. Fay. League of Women Voters Observer Carolyn Bishop and Public Works Director Peter J. Castanino were absent.

The Minutes of the January 25, 2005 meeting were unanimously approved. It was noted that there was no meeting in February.

Conservation Commission Proposed Wetland Bylaw: There was discussion about the undated, proposed bylaw and the feeling was unanimous that this would adversely affect future development of Highland Meadow Cemetery. It appears to be more restrictive than the Wetlands Protection Act.

In particular there are several areas of great concern:

- Highland Meadow Cemetery is already designed with only the final survey to be completed. There is no grandfathering in the proposal.
- The cemetery land has both a Red Maple and Vernal Pool area, which would be affected.
- The proposed bylaw offers no appeal process except through Court (no ZBA or Selectmen involved).
- The "wildlife corridor" is extremely subjective and needs to be defined.
- The proposed bylaw not only affects the Cemetery, but many other town owned parcels, i.e. Belmont High School, the main library, Underwood Pool and others.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to reject the proposed and undated Conservation Commission Wetland Bylaw Amendment. Chairman Cushman was asked to send a memo to the Conservation Commission and others involved to this affect.

McLean Land Update: The Planning Board has decided not to appeal the Land Court Decision in favor of McLean and the developers because they complied with all DEP requirements. On March 8<sup>th</sup> the financial arrangement with McLean and Northland was settled and valid building permits approved.

The Commissioners are very optimistic that we will get the cemetery land in relatively short order. Commissioner Cushman has contacted Halvorson Design to finalize their work on the specifications, contract, and nomenclature.

Superintendent Gardiner was asked to contact Chief Frizzell to see when the new telecommunication tower will be up and running and, more importantly, when the old tower will be dismantled and removed and by whom. He is also to check with Tim McCarthy to see if he can contact Verizon to speed up the removal of their lines on the old Pole # 87 on Concord Avenue.

Glenn Clancy is preparing an RFP to check on the structural integrity of the masonry barn on Mill Street that the Cemetery plans to use for storage of vehicles and equipment in addition to securing a sanitary facility for workers at the cemetery. Currently, there is no sanitary sewer connection to the site.

The Commissioners need to set the pricing for graves and lots, but have been reluctant to do so too early. They have been waiting for this site for over 5 years, and to have set prices before we know our actual costs when the cemetery is ready to open would be imprudent.

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander E. Corbett, III, Clerk