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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JUNE 07, 2004
REGULAR SESSION

Call to Order

The Board convened in regular session at 7:35 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall. All members were present. Ms. Mahoney noted that Victor Gras of Belmont High School recently beat the existing state record for the 1-mile run.

Questions from Town Residents

Mr. Mercier appeared before the Board to inquire about the Board's decision to implement fees for the collection of residential CRTs and white goods.

The Board affirmed their authority to establish such fees, but noted Mr. Mercier's ability to place an alternative article on the Town Meeting warrant.

Action by Appointment

Donald Mercier re: Affordable Housing

Donald Mercier reviewed an alternative proposal for creating affordable housing by selling the Brighton Street parcel rather than constructing affordable housing on it, and then utilizing the proceeds to subsidize two or more condominium units dedicated to affordable housing.

The Senior Planner reviewed the need to have units requiring state approval for affordability, demanding high legal / "soft" costs that are not covered through Mr. Mercier's analysis.

Mr. Brownsberger felt the existing plan to create a single family home developed through Habitat for Humanity on the Brighton Street was acceptable.

The Board requested the Town Administrator to discuss with the Belmont Housing Trust Mr. Mercier's recommendation relative to giving preference to foster parents with the allocation of the affordable housing developed in the Town.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Selectmen Written Response to Belmont Uplands 40B Application

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a draft response from the Senior Planner.

Ms. Mahoney objected to the underlying statement in the letter that the Selectmen oppose housing of any type on the parcel. Mr. Brownsberger and Mr. Solomon support this statement. Ms. Mahoney felt it was important to clarify that the property owner was not supportive of the land swap when discussing the Uplands Advisory Committee's proposal. Mr. Brownsberger suggested the owner could speak for himself.

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The Board agreed that a comment relative to the isolation of the parcel is important to include in the response.

Ms. Mahoney preferred a document that references the prior development proposals. The other members disagreed, since the prior housing proposal was never supported by the Town. The Board requested the Senior Planner provide a revised version for its next meeting.

Town Moderator re: Town Meeting Process

The Board met with the Town Moderator regarding issues of the Town Meeting process.

The Town Moderator recommended that the Town Meeting members receive the language of the motions at least two weeks prior to the Town Meeting. He also recommended that, assuming all motions are distributed prior to the Town Meeting, all proposed amendments be filed in advance of the Town Meeting.

The Board agreed with this recommendation, acknowledging that this change would require a lot of discipline from Town Boards and staff to prepare the motions this far in advance.

The Board also reviewed and discussed a resident's suggestion that the Town explore new electronic ways to track the individual vote of each Town Meeting member.

The Board noted a recent report from Brookline highlighting the resources required of such a system. The Board agreed not to pursue this suggestion at this time.

Discussion of FY 2006 Budget Issues

The Board discussed the possibility of seeking an operating override from the voters in November, 2004. Mr. Brownsberger reviewed the discussion of the recent Warrant Committee meeting about FY 2006 and beyond. Mr. Brownsberger noted that a decision must be made and filed with the state not later than August 4, 2004.

Ms. Mahoney does not favor an override question in advance of the annual budget process, including a review of future capital project referenda.

The Board agreed Mrs. Mahoney would contact the Chair of the Warrant Committee to coordinate a joint meeting of these two bodies to discuss this option.

Appointments to Town Boards and Committees

The Board agreed Dr. Solomon would identify a candidate for the Cable Television Advisory Committee.

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The Board agreed that Mr. Brownsberger would identify candidates for the Cable Access Committee.

The Board discussed its appointments to the Conservation Commission.

The Board moved: to reappoint Miriam Weil to the Conservation Commission and to appoint Nancy Davis and Martha Moore as regular members of the Conservation Commission.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to appoint Carolyn Bishop an associate member of the Conservation Commission.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Margaret Velie and Stewart Sanders associate members of the Conservation Commission.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board agreed to inquire whether Ruth Foster and Monica King desire to be appointed associate members.

The Board moved: to appoint Joan Hantman to the Disability Access Commission.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Kathleen Allen, Raymond Glazier, and Laurie Graham as regular members of the Disability Access Commission; and further to reappoint Arthur Heron, William Rodi, and Fran Williams as associate members of the Disability Access Commission.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board met with Mr. Stephen Shestakofsky about his proposed charge for a Human Rights Commission. The Board agreed that the Town Administrator would take this recommendation and craft a charge for the Board's consideration.

The Board moved: to appoint Julie Meringer to the Information Technology Advisory Committee.

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The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to appoint Richard Waring to the Personnel Advisory Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Andrew McClurg and Deborah Emello to the Planning Board.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Daniel MacCauley to the Recreation Commission; and further to appoint Timothy Allen and Noreen Milane to the Recreation Commission.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board acknowledged Dante Muzzioli's recent resignation from the Recreation Commission and recognized his long term service on the Recreation Commission.

The Board also acknowledged Lee Barber's long term service on the Recreation Commission. The Board sought his continued participation on the Temporary Library Site Planning Committee.

The Board moved: to appoint Edith Netter as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The motion passed (2-1), Mrs. Mahoney opposed.

Action by Consent

Application for Renewal of Licenses and Permits

The Board moved: to approve the following license renewal applications, conditional upon the applicants for the Junk, Old Metals and Second Hand license meeting all state regulations:

- Junk, Old Metals and Second Hand Articles License:
- Belmont Antique Exchanges, 243a Belmont Street
 - The In Place, 3 Bartlett Street

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The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Memorandum from Town Treasurer re: Abatement of Ambulance Bill

The Board requested the Town Treasurer to appear at its next meeting to discuss this request.

Memorandum from Town Treasurer re: Exemption from Hiring Freeze to Fill Cashier Position

The Board reviewed Town Treasurer Susan Freiner's request for an exemption from the existing hiring freeze to fill the vacant position of Cashier/Clerk in the Treasurer's Office.

The Board moved: to approve the filling of the Cashier/Clerk position.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Action by Writing

Correspondence re: Parking Restrictions on Channing Road

The Board reviewed correspondence from Town residents (Channing Road) requesting that a two-hour parking limit be implemented on their street.

The Board moved: to refer this matter to the Police Department for their review and recommendation.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Memorandum from Town Administrator re: Proposals for Legal Services/Town Counsel

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a memorandum from the Town Administrator relative to evaluation of the response to the Requests for Proposals for Town Counsel/Legal Services.

The Board moved: to interview the two firms of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane and Kopelman & Paige.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Other

Dr. Solomon recognized Mr. Brownsberger's recent recognition by his peers for his representation of indigent individuals in the court system.

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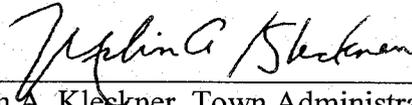
Mr. Brownsberger noted the ABC group will be finalizing a report related to flooding in the Alewife area.

Action by Appointment (continued)

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and collective bargaining and to hold a grievance hearing; and further that the Board shall not return to open session.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0), by roll call vote.

The Board adjourned their regular session at 10:40 p.m.



Melvin A. Kleckner, Town Administrator
Clerk, Board of Selectmen