

Call to Order

The Board of Selectmen met in regular session on Monday, January 6, 2003 at 6:30 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Belmont Town Hall. All members were in attendance.

Discussion of Litigation (Executive Session)

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation. The Board will return to open session at approximately 7:30 pm.

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

The Board re-convened in open session at 7:30 PM.

Questions from Town Residents

There were none.

Action by Appointment

Planning Board re: Master Land Use Planning Initiative

The Board met with members of the Planning Board regarding the Board of Selectmen's desire to undertake a master land use planning initiative to foster economic development in the community.

Mr. Brownsberger stated that the Town needs an economic development plan for the Town and that the Board needs to develop a proposal for how that plan is to be developed.

Mr. Higgins, Senior Planner, suggested that the Trapelo Road corridor planning study, because it encompasses two of the Town's commercial centers will inform the Town of overall approaches it may want to take to foster economic development in other areas of the Town as well.

Dr. Solomon expressed his strong support for this type of economic development planning and for the Town to make whatever investment is necessary to make this come to fruition. He requested the Planning Board develop a prospectus for this planning process.

Mrs. Mahoney reiterated the importance of economic development efforts, but expressed reluctance to approach Town Meeting for a significant amount of money to fund consultants.

Dr. Solomon agreed with Mrs. Mahoney's comments, but urged that the need for this type of planning be communicated to Belmont's residents and Town Meeting members.

Mr. Higgins commented that by April 1, information related to the Trapelo Road corridor study would be developed to such an extent to inform the Town's approach to developing a master economic development plan.

Mr. Brownsberger requested that a proposal for the development of an economic development plan be developed for presentation to the Town Meeting in April 2003.

The Board agreed to meet in mid-February to discuss this matter further.

Application for License and Permit - OriginalUsed Car Dealer's License- Class II

Grigorian Brothers Corporation, 500 Common Street

The Board met with the Grigorian Brothers regarding their request for a Class II, Used Car Dealer's license.

The Board moved: to approve the application by Grigorian Brothers Corporation for a Class II Used Car Dealer's license.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee re: Pay as You Throw Programs

The Board met with the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee regarding its efforts to investigate "Pay as You Throw" programs for potential implementation by the Town.

Ken Siskind, Chair of the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee, reported that the Town was awarded professional assistance from the state to evaluate the feasibility of implementing a "pay as you throw" program.

The Board discussed the timing of this program with the expiration of the Town's contract with NESWC.

The Board encouraged the Committee to work diligently on this effort and that they looked forward to periodic updates.

Appointment to Affordable Housing Development Advisory Committee

Dr. Solomon recommended the appointment of Patricia Mihelich to the Affordable Housing Development Advisory Committee.

The Board moved: to appoint Patricia Mihelich to the Affordable Housing Development Advisory Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mrs. Mahoney indicated she would have a recommendation for appointment to this committee at the Board's next meeting.

Action by ConsentApplication for Licenses and Permits - RenewalsCommon Victualler's License

Brothers Pizza House, 121 Trapelo Road

Café Cakes, 105 Trapelo Road

New Asia, 93 Trapelo Road

Nikita Restaurant Group dba Kashish, 61 Leonard Street

Rancatore's Ice Cream Inc., 283 Belmont Street

Select Café, 289 Belmont Street

The Board moved: to approve the above Common Victualler's Licenses.

The motions passed unanimously (3-0).

Livery License

Bowtie Limousine, Inc., 59 Bay State Road

The Board moved: to approve the above Livery License.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Used Car Dealer's License - Class II

Belmont C & G Inc. dba Prospect Auto Body, 259 Belmont Street

Frank W. Rizzo dba Frank Rizzo Auto Sales, 18 Trapelo Road

Kelly's Auto Sales, 32 Statler Road

Waverley Auto Exchange, Inc., 134 Waverley Street

The Board moved: to approve the above Used Car Dealer's Licenses - Class II.

The motions passed unanimously (3-0).

Action by Writing

Letter from Resident re: Request for Installation of Pedestrian Crossing Traffic Signal on Brighton Street (at Medford Savings Bank)

The Board reviewed a letter from a resident requesting installation of a pedestrian traffic crossing signal on Brighton Street (at Medford Savings Bank).

The Board moved: to refer this request to the Traffic Division of the Police Department for their review and recommendation.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Letter from Cable Access Committee and Channel 8 Staff re: Audio Use at Selectmen's Meetings

The Board reviewed a letter from the Cable Access Committee and Channel 8 Staff requesting a microphone be placed in the audience for use at the Selectmen's meetings.

The Board moved: to approve the request.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Copy of Letter to Town Administrator from Town Counsel re: Process for Removal of Chief of Police from Civil Service System

The Board reviewed a copy of a letter to the Town Administrator from Town Counsel regarding process of removal of the Chief of Police from Civil Service System. The Board noted that a petition of 1,000 or 5% of registered voters is required to have the question be placed on local ballot.

The Board requested Town Counsel develop language for a petition to place a question to remove the police chief position from the Civil Service.

The Board agreed to discuss their position relative to this at their meeting on January 13.

Documentation re: Tri-Community Flooding Control

The Board reviewed documentation provided by Mr. Brownsberger relative to the establishment of a tri-community entity with joint powers relative to environmental issues in the Alewife area.

The Board requested the Town Counsel review the documentation and draft an agreement for an Arlington, Belmont, Cambridge joint environmental entity.

Selectmen's Issues List

The Board discussed the Selectmen issues list of January 1, 2003.

Mr. Brownsberger indicated his inability to meet in alternate session on February 3 and suggested instead a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Warrant Committee on Wednesday, February 5 to present recommendations relative to the potential consolidation of the Town's public works functions.

The Board agreed to meet on this alternate date.

Dr. Solomon mentioned multiple calls he has received relative to the need for a dog park in the community. He requested this item be placed on the Selectmen's agenda in the near future.

Mr. Brownsberger recommended that the Board wait until the Conservation Commission has made a final recommendation for the use and maintenance plan for Rock Meadow.

Dr. Solomon requested this issue be placed on the Selectmen's issue list.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed draft minutes of the Board's meetings of December 19, 2002.

The Board moved: to approve the minutes as drafted.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Other

The Board requested Governor Romney be invited to receive a proclamation recognizing his achievement in being elected governor.

Mrs. Mahoney commented about complaints she has received from some committee members about excessive public participation that appears to be hindering committees' ability to get tasks accomplished.

Dr. Solomon, expressed his thought that it is the chairperson's task to control a meeting.

Mrs. Mahoney clarified that the open meeting law allows for public attendance at meetings, but does not give everyone the right to participate in the meeting. It is up to the committee, and ultimately the committee chair to determine when the committee requires public input in order to accomplish its charge.

The Board agreed that the Town Administrator would send a polite letter to committee chairs reminding them of their responsibility to utilize public comment and input to forward their efforts toward accomplishing their charge, while not allowing it to subvert the committee process or to prevent the committee from accomplishing their charge in a timely manner.

Action by Appointment (Continued)

Discussion of Management Compensation

Discussion of Location of Fire Station Headquarters (Executive Session)

Discussion of Collective Bargaining (Executive Session)

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing potential acquisition of property to locate a fire station headquarters; further to discuss collective bargaining; further to discuss strategy relative to negotiations with non-union personnel; and further the Board shall not return to open session.

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

The regular session adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

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