

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR SESSION
JUNE 23, 2003
MINUTES**

Call to Order

The Board of Selectmen convened at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of the Town Hall. All members were present.

Questions from Town Residents

There were none.

Action by Appointment

*Update on Grove Street, Washington Street, Bright Road and Blanchard Road
Intersection*

The Board met with a couple of residents, a member of the Traffic Advisory Committee and the Town Engineer regarding potential improvements to the intersection of Grove Street, Washington Street, Bright Road and Blanchard Road.

Mrs. Ogilby indicated a desire to make the intersection safer by the installation of a stop sign.

Mr. Gatzunis explained that five plans were developed for the redesign of the intersection and the costs associated with each, ranging from \$250,000 to \$450,000. He noted that the cost to reconstruct the intersection is equivalent to reconstructing a significant portion of a roadway.

Mr. Brownsberger inquired about the possibility of seeking \$50,000 in funding from Cambridge and to supplement the remainder from the Town's Pavement Management Program.

Mrs. Mahoney inquired about the timing of this project.

Mr. Gatzunis indicated that it was unlikely that the Town would begin reconstruction of the intersection before next spring, because of the Town's need to develop a plan for the intersection that is acceptable to residents and abutters and to also receive funding from Cambridge.

The Board requested that the Traffic Advisory Committee work with Mr. Gatzunis on including the reconstruction of this intersection in the FY05 Pavement Management Program.

The Board moved: to request that the Traffic Advisory Committee develop a cost effective approach for the reconstruction of this intersection and to seek funding support from Cambridge to develop a project for consideration in the FY05 Pavement Management Program.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Update from Public Information and Communications Planning Group

The Board met with members of the Public Information and Communications Planning Group regarding the progress they have made to date and to seek additional feedback and input from the Board of Selectmen. The planning group indicated their intention to meet with various constituencies to develop recommendations to enhance communication between the Town and its citizens.

Dr. Solomon noted his interest in the concept of “reciprocal information”—how residents express their interests and needs to the Town.

The Board encouraged the group’s continued efforts on this issue.

Update on Energy Savings Initiative

Dr. Solomon provided an update to the Board on his work with key Town department heads related to cost savings through energy savings renovations in the Town’s public buildings. He noted that an energy savings company (ESCO) suggested that the Town could generate significant savings by focusing its efforts on the Town’s two largest buildings—the high school and the middle school. He recommended the Town develop a Request for Proposals to seek other ESCO’s to provide these services to the Town.

Mrs. Mahoney noted that the Chenery Middle School was designed and built as energy efficient as possible within their designated budget. Mrs. Mahoney encouraged the group to involve not only the School Department and School Committee in these issues, but also building committees affiliated with affected facilities.

Discussion of Capital Planning Process

It was agreed that Mr. Brownsberger will continue to engage with other leaders in the capital planning process to formulate a mechanism for funding major capital projects.

Discussion of Memorandum of Agreement with Board of Water Commissioners

Mr. Brownsberger communicated the Board of Water Commissioners' desire to delegate its authority to the Board of Selectmen as soon as possible and intend to vote on this delegation at their meeting this Wednesday night.

He noted the Board of Cemetery Commissioners' reluctance to delegate authority and wish to wait until the state legislature approves the home rule petition legislation.

The Board moved: to accept the Board of Water Commissioners' delegation of authority of all powers and duties of the Board of Water Commissioners to the Board of Selectmen, when such vote is taken by the Water Commissioners.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: that Peter Castanino be promoted to the position of Director of Public Works effective July 1, 2003, and that increases in classification and compensation resulting from an analysis of additional duties and responsibilities be made retroactive to that date; further that he shall have full authority over existing Highway, Water and Grounds staff as of that date.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Extension of Solid Waste Disposal Agreement

The Town Administrator reviewed with the Board the proposed extension of the Town's Solid Waste Disposal Agreement with Wheelabrator through NESWC that would significantly improve the current agreement between the Town and Wheelabrator. He indicated this agreement would eliminate the minimum tonnage requirement the Town has in its current contract. He recommended the Town support the approval of this contract for a five-year period, based upon an independent analysis by the consulting firm of Camp, Dresser, and McGee.

The Board moved: to enter into an agreement for solid waste disposal services with Wheelabrator North Andover for a term commencing on September 26, 2005 and ending June 30, 2010 in substantially the same form as referenced in the Letter of Agreement dated April 17, 2003 between the North East Solid Waste Committee and Wheelabrator North Andover, Inc.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Committee and Commission Appointments

The Board met with the Human Resources Director to discuss the reactivation of the Personnel Board and its charge. The Board discussed limiting the scope of the Personnel Board to be advisory to the Board of Selectmen on matters related to non-union and management personnel issues.

The Board instructed the Human Resources Director to develop a formal recommendation related to the reconstitution of the Personnel Board for consideration at its meeting next Monday.

The Board discussed and took action on committee appointments.

The Board moved: to make the following appointments to various Town committees, commissions and appointed positions

Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee

Maryann Scali, reappointment

Andrew Levin, 100 Long Avenue, appointment

Belmont Housing Trust

Nancy Marsh, reappointment

Ann Silverman, 69 Oak Avenue, appointment

Belmont Vision 21 Implementation Committee

Jennifer Page, reappointment

Victoria Haase, 346 Concord Avenue, appointment

Cable Television Advisory Committee

Richard Pew, reappointment

Conservation Commission

Kathleen Baskin, reappointment

Joseph Curro, reappointment

Nancy Davis, associate member, reappointment

Stewart Sanders, associate member, reappointment

Margaret Velie, associate member, reappointment

Council on Aging

Anne Lougee, 34 Warwick Road, appointment

Neil Hagerty, 11 Louise Road, appointment

Joseph Horner, reappointment

Cultural Council

Nan Rogers, reappointment

Disability Access Commission

Art Heron, associate member, appointed

Fran Williams, associate member, appointed

Insurance Advisory Committee

John Borelli, reappointment

MWRA Advisory Board

Peter Castanino, Public Works Director, appointment

Shade Tree Committee

Martha Moore, reappointment

Nancy Forbes, reappointment

Laura Simmons, reappointment

Tree Warden

Tom Walsh, reappointment

Youth Commission

Catherine Caruso, youth member, reappointment

Anna Winston, youth member, reappointment

Brenna Feeley, youth member, reappointment

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Dr. Solomon expressed his interest in exploring the possibility of recommending the appointment of additional associate members to the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Brownsberger indicated his desire to meet with the Historic District Commission to discuss concerns the Board has with respect to flexibility. He encouraged the Board to wait on reappointment decisions until the Board can have a discussion with the Historic District Commission. The Board agreed to meet with the Historic District Commission at their meeting next week.

Mr. Brownsberger recommended that the three existing members of the Recreation Commission with expiring terms be reappointed and that the Board appoint an ad hoc committee to explore issues related to revenue generation. Mrs. Mahoney expressed reluctance to create another committee to tackle issues the Recreation Commission should be taking on itself. The Board agreed to defer action on these reappointments at this time.

The Board discussed the constitution of the Town's Traffic Advisory Committee. Mr. Brownsberger suggested that the Board may not want to appoint any individuals to replace the three expiring terms on the committee, such that the committee's size may be reduced by three.

The Board moved: to make no appointments to the Traffic Advisory Committee at this time.

The motion passed (3-0).

Action by Writing

Letter from Fire Chief re: Request to Hire Firefighter

The Board reviewed a letter from the Fire Chief requesting an exemption from the Town's hiring freeze to hire a firefighter.

The Board moved: to approve the request to hire a firefighter.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Selectmen's Issues List

The Board deferred discussion of this matter.

Minutes (6/16/03)

The Board reviewed the minutes of June 16, 2003.

The Board moved: to approve the minutes of June 16, 2003 as written.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Other

Mr. Brownsberger noted a resident's request to self-fund curb rounds at his particular driveway.

Mr. Gatzunis stated that this is a matter of aesthetics not engineering.

Mrs. Mahoney expressed concern for the precedent that may be set from allowing these types of changes for people who are able to afford it.

She suggested that if the Board were to allow this that the Town should advertise this general policy of allowing people to purchase this alternative curbing themselves to ensure everyone knows of their ability to make the change.

Mr. Brownsberger agreed that the process issue is sufficient to deny the request but to propose this issue for future Pavement Management projects that allows for adequate public notice.

Mr. Brownsberger inquired about the Town's stormwater management plan and the deadline for the submission of the plan.

The Board agreed to hold a public meeting on this plan at their meeting on July 14, 2003.

The Board discussed with the Highway Superintendent the need for flexibility with respect to the implementation of the international crosswalks in the Town's roadways. Mr. Castanino explained that the implementation of these new crosswalks requires measuring their placement and that it may be difficult to implement this fully in all areas of Town immediately. He indicated that the Town's major centers would have the international crosswalks installed, but that if time does not allow, it may be necessary to install the former style of crosswalks in other areas of town (e.g., school crosswalks) to ensure that pedestrian safety is maintained.

The Board requested that the Town Administrator contact representatives of O'Neill properties inviting them to meet with the Board to discuss any alternative proposed development for the Belmont Uplands site.

Mr. Brownsberger updated the Board on his efforts with Ellen Cushman-O'Brien and representatives of McLean Hospital to negotiate the transfer of land from McLean to the Town.

Action by Appointment (Continued)

Discussion Collective Bargaining (Executive Session)

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining, litigation and land acquisition and negotiations with non-union personnel; and further that the Board shall not return to open session.

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

The regular session adjourned at approximately 10:15 p.m.

Administrator

Melvin A. Kleckner, Town
Clerk, Board of Selectmen