

MINUTES

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 24, 2005
REGULAR SESSION

Call to Order

The Board convened in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall. All members were present.

Questions from Town Residents

There were none.

Action by Appointment

Discussion of Litigation – Executive Session

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy related to litigation; and further that the Board shall return to open session at approximately 7:45 p.m.

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

The Board of Selectmen returned to open session at 7:40 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen thanked Public Works Director Peter Castanino for the speedy and efficient street plowing efforts following the blizzard of Sunday, January 23, 2005.

Police Chief O'Malley introduced new Police Department Officer Todd Benedetti before the Board.

Public Hearing: Applications for Sign Special Permit

- CVS, 62 Leonard Street
- Shaws-Osco, Pharmacy, 535 Trapelo Road

The Board convened in a public hearing on the application for a special permit on signs for CVS of 62 Leonard Street and for Shaws-Costco of 535 Trapelo Road.

No applicant representing either business was present. The Board discussed correspondence from the Director of Community Development requesting that the Board defer its decision on the Shaws-Osco application until further information is obtained relative to this application.

The Board moved: to approve the CVS special permit; and to defer taking action on the Shaws-Osco special permit application until further notice from the Community Development Director is received.

The motion was approved unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of the Western Greenway

Marc Rudnick, Waltham Land Trust Board of Directors, Roger Wrubel, Director, MA Audubon Habitat Sanctuary in Belmont, Dave Kehs, Waltham Land Trust Board of Directors, Keith Ohmart, Citizens of Lexington for Conservation, Stew Kennedy, Lexington Conservation Commission, Lesya Struz, Waltham Land Trust Board of Directors, and John Dieckmann, Vice President of the Belmont Citizens Forum appeared before the Board to request the Selectmen's support against the sale of 54 acres of prime conservation land along the Waltham Lexington border (also known as Lot 1) by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Board moved: to send a letter to the Town's State Representative and State Senator commending them for their efforts to support "smart growth" and the preservation of the Western Greenway.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Roger Wrubel will be drafting such letter, which will then be reviewed by the Acting Assistant Town Administrator before the Board signs off on it.

The Board also moved: to send a letter to Governor Mitt Romney asking for the support of the State towards "smart growth" and the preservation of the Western Greenway; and that such letter also be sent to the State Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM), the State Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and State Legislators for the Town of Lexington and the City of Waltham.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Action by Consent

Approval of Minutes (12/17/04, 12/20/04)

The Board moved: to approve all the minutes for the December 17, 2004; and December 20, 2004.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Other

The Board of Selectmen discussed scheduling a joint session with the School Committee to discuss provisional budgets for the Town and for the Schools. Dr. Solomon will contact the School Committee and schedule such session in the near future.

The Board of Selectmen requested that Acting Assistant Town Administrator Becky Vose contact members of the Insurance Advisory Committee about going to bid on new insurance for Fiscal Year 2006.

The Board announced that it received a notification from the Department of Environmental Protection indicating that a Phase V Inspection and Monitoring report documenting the extent of waste at 82 Concord Avenue is now available for public review.

The Board of Selectmen requested that the Acting Assistant Town Administrator forward a resident's letter relative to the maintenance of the Brighton Street sidewalks to the Director of Public Works for his attention and response.

The Board of Selectmen discussed a letter from Purecoat Planning Committee member Brian Iler.

The Board moved to: declare each member of the Purecoat Planning Committee to be Special Town Employees; and that the Board does not believe that residential proximity to the Purecoat North site by any of the Committee members represents an issue.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board expressed its satisfaction over Verizon's announcement that it will soon be delivering fiber optic connections to Belmont residents.

Selectman Firenze inquired about the Zoning Board of Appeals efforts to streamline the permitting process.

The Board moved: to communicate its support to the Zoning Board of Appeals and to encourage it to move forward before the April Town Meeting date.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Dr. Solomon reviewed the application process for all interested prospective Commission and Committee members.

Selectman Firenze related a conversation he had with Long Range Financial Planning Committee member Nancy Kelley over the recent disbanding of this

committee. Selectman Firenze will convey to Ms. Kelley that members of the former Committee are welcome to appear before the Board at a future meeting.

The Board of Selectmen discussed a letter from Conservation Commission member Carolyn Bishop requesting that the Conservation Commission be involved in the construction permit granting process in order to better protect public shade trees.

The Board suggested that the Shade Tree Committee may also need to be involved in this process and Selectman Firenze will be discussing these suggestions with Senior Planner Tim Higgins.

Selectman Brownsberger generally inquired about the status of the Belmont Uplands project.

The Board scheduled a discussion on the proposed Zoning amendments including the re-use of the Waverley Square Fire station and a discussion of options to respond to the Demolition Moratorium next Monday night.

Selectman Brownsberger inquired about a six-month follow up report from the Human Rights Commission on racial issues, which is due in the next few weeks. Dr. Solomon reported that the Human Rights Commission's efforts have been impressive and that a report should be presented before the Board of Selectmen soon.

The Board adjourned its open session at 9:15 pm.

Dr. Paul Solomon, Chairman
Board of Selectmen