

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, September 29, 2008
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:00 by Chairman Firenze. All selectmen were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

Dr. Nabil Fahmy, an Alexander Ave. resident, raised a safety concern about tree roots breaking through the sidewalk. Two panels of cement sidewalk need to be fixed, he said, otherwise it is not only an ADA issue, but also a safety hazard to children and the elderly. Dr. Fahmy told the Board that a town engineer suggested that he speak to the Selectmen about this issue. The Board requested that Mr. Younger look into this further.

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

One-Day Liquor Licenses

Ms. Betsy Parrot from the Belmont Hill School appeared before the Board to request a one day liquor license.

The Board moved: To approve the one-day liquor license as requested.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

National Grid, Simmons Avenue Gas Main

Mr. Harold Cooper, National Grid Permit Representative, appeared before the Board to request permission to install a gas main at 54-60 Simmons Ave.

Mr. Clancy was present and stated that, while he did not have concerns, he also at this point hadn't solicited input from other departments regarding opening this street. Mr. Clancy intends to do so soon.

The Board moved: To grant the street opening permit subject to any concerns discovered by Mr. Clancy.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Street Light Discussion

Light Department Director Tim Richardson, Police Chief Richard McLaughlin, Assistant Fire Chief Angus Davison, DPW Director Peter Castanino, and Mr. Clancy appeared before the Board to discuss street lighting. Chair Firenze provided an overview of the street light situation to date and the goal of saving \$170,000 by shutting off some street lights. He noted that the areas that would need to be shut off to save this amount have turned out to be larger than anticipated. Feedback from residents has been mixed. He asked if there is an interim approach that might make sense to achieve a lesser level of savings? For example, every other street light off on Concord or Trapelo?

The Board, and those appearing before the Board, discussed various approaches to reducing the street lighting. Selectman Jones noted that there are only 9 months left to achieve the expected savings of \$170,000 and that a decision needs to be made to move forward on this tonight. Mr.

Castanino added that this task has proved more complicated than expected: turning off every other light didn't save enough money, just keeping intersections lit was explored. The best approach coupled with implementation has taken more time than anticipated.

A resident from the audience spoke to the impact of reduced lighting on disabled and elderly people. He suffers from vision loss and fears reduced lighting will prevent him from walking home safely from the bus stop.

The Board gave a charge to Mr. Clancy, Mr. Castanino, and Mr. Richardson. The charge was to devise a new light reduction plan that will save some money, that is reasonable to achieve, that doesn't hurt public safety, and that makes sense. It was requested that this proposal be presented to the Board in two weeks' time with the dollar amount of projected savings included.

Approval of License for Junk, Old Metals and Second Hand: Marcou Jewelers, Divan Jewelers

Mr. Kenneth Marcou appeared before the Board to request approval for "License for Junk."

The Board moved: To approve the junk licenses for the above establishments (Marcou and Divan).

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Committee Discussions and Meet with Historic District Commission, Recreation Commission

Stephanie King, Chair of the Recreation Commission, appeared before the Board to discuss the possible overlap among the Recreation Commission and the Youth Commission. Dr. Alper (Youth Commission) could not attend the meeting because of the

Jewish holiday. Ms. King said combining the efforts of the Rec. and Youth Commissions is an idea worth talking about. The Board and Ms. King also discussed the membership numbers of the Recreation Commission. Ms. King said the Rec. Commission would be fine with 7 members. No motions were made.

Waverley Woods Housing Facility

At this point in the meeting, Chair Firenze introduced Ms. Nancy Marsh from the Waverley Woods Housing Facility. On December 1, 2008, 28 units (out of 40) will be available for Belmont residents. Ms. Marsh is looking for applications and raising awareness that these 28 units of affordable housing have been set aside. Applications are available at the Town Clerk's office.

Committee Discussions and Meet with Historic District Commission, Recreation Commission *(continued)*

Historic District Commission (HDC). Mr. Richard Cheek and Ms. Lydia Phippen Ogilby appeared before the Board to discuss membership on the HDC. The HDC is authorized to have 7 full-time members and 3 alternate members. Mr. Cheek addressed the Board's suggestion that, due to his numerous years of service, Michael Smith should be replaced. Mr. Smith, he said, has tremendous knowledge and vast experience at the HDC. Cheek suggested that he and Ms. Ogilby could retire and voluntarily assist the HDC. That would create three vacancies, as another member has retired. Cheek and Ogilby will help the Board fill the vacancies.

The Board moved: To reappoint Michael Smith to the HDC.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Planning Board (PB). Since Karl Haglund is the only member with institutional knowledge, the Board would like to reappoint him to the PB.

The Board moved: To reappoint Karl Haglund to the Planning Board.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To recommend Allan Vanderley to the HDC.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To appoint Adam Dash as a permanent member of the ZBA.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Future. At the Oct. 20th Board meeting, the Recreation and Youth Commission discussion will be on the agenda. The Board will hold an executive session meeting on October 8th (11:30-2:00) to discuss the Cushing Village RFP.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger spoke on the following:

- *Budget Update FY10.* Younger will meet with department heads on 10/1/2008. They have been asked to present three budgets: a level services budget, a level-funding budget, and a budget with a 5% reduction. Chair Firenze noted that he is not comfortable putting a dollar figure in, but prefers that department heads examine what they want to accomplish. Firenze expressed that he doesn't want items to be included in the budget, just because they were done last year. He would prefer department heads focus on the services they are providing.
- *Senior Center.* March opening is on schedule.
- *Fire Station.* Mr. Conti noted that smoke from a Flett Road fire got sucked into the new fire station, damaging the HVAC system. The station had to be cleaned, costing \$25,000. Insurance will cover this cost, minus the deductible.
- *Woodfall Road.* Interested buyers have come forward.

ACTION BY CONSENT

There was none.

ACTION BY WRITING

There was none.

OTHER

Cook and Company Report

Chair Firenze noted that the Insurance Advisory Committee received an update on where the town stands on self insurance. The fund has \$2.4M accumulated in the reserve. (The \$2.4M was achieved in less than a year. \$2M was the targeted goal for 2 years out.)

Signage

Mr. Conti informed the Board that the Burbank Principal has requested that a sign be placed at the beginning of the Burbank Driveway stating "Staff Entrance Only 8:00 am – 3:00 pm." Also, on Gale Road, a sign presently says "No parking 8:00 am - 3:00 pm." She requested to change the signage to indicate that parking was prohibited during the drop off and pick up hours only.

The Board moved: To approve the above parking recommendations.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT (continued)

Executive Session

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 9:36 to discuss the purchase of real property and to hear from the members of the Capital Project Overview Committee. The Board will not be returning to Open Session.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

(During executive session, no substantive motions were made. The Board adjourned at 10:44 pm.)

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator