

• November 2, 2006

Present: First Selectman Richard C. Sears, Selectmen Nicholas N. Solley and Mark E. Lyon.

Press: Ann Compton-VOICES, Rebecca Ransom-Litchfield County Times, Jonathan Shugarts-Waterbury Republican.

Members of the community.

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:31p.m.

Motion: To include subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon. Dick explained that this would include a post season boat launch issue, announcement of a special Board of Selectmen's meeting, notification of a grant and congratulations to a Shepaug student. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the October 19, 2006 Regular Meeting, the October 26th and 30th Special Meetings of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Sears, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

VISITORS: Dick Sears welcomed all visitors and invited comment.

- **Janet Buonaiuto** addressed a question to Dick Sears regarding his decision not to write a letter to Congress reporting on the October 28, 2006 Forum. Dick explained that the vote taken at the last Selectmen's meeting on a motion not to allow the First Selectman to write a letter on Town letterhead was defeated and therefore there was "no action" approved. Dick reviewed the course of events starting with the early requests of a special town meeting, his offer of a forum modeled after similar meetings held in Salisbury or Cornwall. Alternative ideas were presented in order for the petitioners to achieve their goals. The meeting that was held on October 28th in Washington was not a function of the Town. Dick explained that he had originally thought he would write a letter to Congress and/or other appropriate parties reporting on the meeting (as requested by the petitioners). Upon further thought, Dick felt that as the Forum was **not** a Town sanctioned function, his writing a letter as First Selectman would not be appropriate and could be construed as representing the Town even if stated otherwise. Dick urged people to write their congressmen personally. **Ken Cornet** voiced his disappointment with Dick's decision and asked to see letters that Dick has written on behalf of other constituents. **Valerie Andersen** spoke about the agenda item stating there would be a site visit at the Lake Waramaug Boat Launch. She voiced concern that the Town may be looking at this in phases and not as an entire project. She feels it would be beneficial to plan for all that will be involved with not only the boat launch, but the boat house and beach house as well. Valerie then spoke about conversations that have been taking place at various commission meetings regarding a project dealing with a large track of farm property that is on the market. As this would be a multi-dimensional process (different commissions, working with private groups, i.e. Washington Community Housing Trust), she feels we need to have a "road map" of sorts and have a clear outline of how to get to the desired results. Dick thanked Valerie for her thoughts on long-term planning and proper processes.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Watts Fund-First Congregational Church:** Dick announced the Town had applied to the Watts Fund for a grant to assist with funding for the installation of a kitchen at the Pavilion. We have received

notification that a matching grant in the amount of \$10,000 has been approved with a deadline of July 1, 2007. Conversations will begin on how to raise the matching \$10,000.

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:

- **Resignation of Edmund White:** Ed White has written a letter to the Board of Selectmen submitting his resignation as Chairman and member of the Zoning Board of Appeals effective October 25, 2006. **Motion:** To accept, with regret and gratitude for his many years of outstanding service to the Town, the resignation of Edmund White from the Zoning Board of Appeals. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.
- **Appointment of Michael Ajello:** Dick announced that he has appointed Mike Ajello as Zoning Citation Officer pursuant to the ordinance passed at the October 3, 2006 Town Meeting establishing citation and fine procedures for violations of the zoning regulations.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Awarding of Bid for Heating and Air Conditioning Upgrade at the Old Firehouse:** Dick Sears read a letter from Lee Levesque, Buildings and Property Manager, recommending McKenny Mechanical for the above mentioned job. **Motion:** To award the bid for the Heating and Air Conditioning Upgrade at the Old Firehouse to McKenny Mechanical for an amount of \$25,700.00. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Hiring of Highway Director, Kevin Smith:** Dick Sears explained that Kevin Smith has been hired to fill the newly created position of Highway Department Director. Roger Cannavaro, who has worked for the department for 27 years, will continue as Road Foreman. Dick voiced his gratitude to Roger for his fine job of directing of the department for many years. The Town looks forward to his working along with Kevin.
- **Inland Wetlands - Lake Waramaug Boat Launch site visit** will take place on 11/8/06 at 3:00p.m. and there will be a public hearing on the subject on 11/29/06 at 5:00p.m. The public is invited to attend both.
- **Post Season Boat Launch discussion:** Hank Vallely - Boat Ramp Attendant - has approached the Board of Selectmen with the problem of boats that have not yet been removed from Lake Waramaug. It has been posted that the boat launch will close the last weekend in October. After some discussion of whether a fee could be paid to Hank or a fine imposed if the deadline is not met, it was recommended that Hank attend the next Parks and Recreation and a formal policy be drawn up for next year.
- **Congratulations to Kristina Welles,** Shepaug High School senior and Washington resident, for winning the State Championship for girl's cross country for four years! She is only the third girl in state history to accomplish this!
- **Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting:** There will be a special Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday, November 6, 2006 at 6:00p.m. to discuss personnel issues with the newly hired Highway Department Director.

ADJOURNMENT:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:05p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Mark

Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary