

December 28, 2006

Present: Selectmen Nicholas N. Solley, Mark E. Lyon

Press: Jonathan Shugarts

Public: Ken Cornet, Joe Mustich, Janet Buoniauto, Janet Wildman, Dick Carey, Dan Sherr, Todd Peterson, Barbara Boucher.

Call to Order: Selectman Solley called the meeting to order at 4:32p.m.

Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the December 14, 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- The Selectmen welcomed today's visitors. Nick Solley explained that a letter had been received today from "Concerned Washington Residents" regarding the Potter Farm. He, personally, had not yet had an opportunity to read it and expressed his thought that that in light of the fact that First Selectman Sears was away, any questions and/or discussion of the points in the letter should be tabled until Dick returned. Mark Lyon concurred and both Selectmen invited anyone present to speak if they wished.

Janet Buoniauto asked the Selectmen if the Potter Farm Proposition would be put "on the fast track" without going through the proper land use commissions, etc. Nick Solley explained that there are three lots that have been earmarked for affordable housing - two of which can be subdivided. These lots have been perk tested, wetlands have been identified and five houses could be tolerated. Janet later asked when the Selectmen would address the letter that was received today. Mark Lyon stated he had not yet had an opportunity to study the letter but in reviewing it quickly agreed there were issues that needed to be addressed. He reminded everyone there would be another informational meeting on Saturday, January 6th where everyone would have an opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns, etc. He was not certain there was anything contained in the letter that the Selectmen needed to act upon.

Ken Cornet requested that the Board of Selectmen hold an open forum to explain why they are proposing these affordable housing locations. He, personally, is in favor of affordable housing but feels that what is being presented does not meet with the Town's goals of maintaining rural character, etc. He feels further explanation needs to be given to the public and the affordable housing issue - where and how homes should be placed, are there available existing homes on the market, etc. Ken suggests that the Potter Farm Proposition be withdrawn at this time. Nick Solley feels that the Selectmen have looked into the various aspects of the Town's goals and this property appears to meet them. Ken strongly expressed his opinion that even those who are opposed to the Proposition should have the opportunity to speak and that the Board of Selectmen should present any negatives to the Proposition as well as the positives. Ken then stated that the public is invited to attend a forum at the First Congregational Church on January 20th at 10:00a.m. at which time a film of the 1997 Town Meeting dealing with the Lake Waramaug Boat Launch will be shown.

- Nick Solley stated he feels there is a misconception that all three Selectmen are "cheerleading" for the Potter Farm Proposition. He feels that what the Board is trying to do is to get as much information as possible to the public and then let them decide. They will make every attempt to answer as many questions as possible.

- Mark Lyon feels that part of the misconception may be a result of the Proposition coming from the Selectmen rather than the Washington Community Housing Trust. He and Nick feel the Selectmen have been charged with this Proposition and therefore they need to present it.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Resignation of Henry R. Martin from the Zoning Commission:** Nick Solley read a letter from Mr. Martin that stated he would be resigning from the Zoning Commission effective January 18, 2007 after completing eleven years on the Commission. **Motion:** To accept with regret the resignation of Henry Martin from the Zoning Commission as of January 18, 2007. By Nick Solley, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved. It was further stated "that the record show deep appreciation for Mr. Martin's eleven years of distinguished service to the Town of Washington in his position on the Zoning Commission - six of which he served as Chairman. Hank guided the Commission through many regulation revisions, difficult applications and agenda items and did so with diplomacy and fairness to all concerned."

- **Reappointments: Motion:** To reappoint the following:

Kelly Boling as a regular member of the **Conservation Commission** until 1/1/10; **Diane Dupuis** as an alternat member of the **Conservation Commission** until 1/1/10; **William Smith** as a regular member of the **Historic District Commission** until 1/1/12; **Jane Boyer** as an alternate member of the **Historic District Commission** until 1/1/10; **Jean Suddaby** as a member of the **Housing Commisison** until 1/1/10; **Tim Cook, Ray Reich and Louis Magnoli** as members of the **Parks and Recreation Commission** until 1/1/10; **Paul Frank** as a regular member of the **Planning Commission** until 12/31/11; and **Barbara Braverman** as an alternate member of the **Planning Commission** until 12/31/09 by Nick Solley, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Potter Farm Proposition Informational Meeting: Saturday, January 6, 2007 at 10:00a.m. at Bryan Memorial Town Hall.**

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 4:50p.m. as there was no further business for discussion and to wish everyone a Happy New Year! By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary