

November 24, 2009

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen James L. Brinton.

Public: Valerie Friedman, Frank Adams, Tony Bedini, Chris Charles and Walter Whitney.

Call to Order: First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the November 12, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Communications:

* Department of Emergency Management/Homeland Security:

Correspondence has been received that the Town of Washington's local emergency plan has been reviewed and all is order and in compliance.

Appointments/Resignations:

* Resignation of Roderick Wyant III from the Board of Assessment Appeals:

Mr. Wyant has submitted his letter of resignation from the Board of Assessment Appeals, effective immediately. He has changed his political party affiliation to Republican and therefore there is no minority representation on the Board. Mark has contacted the Democratic Town Committee's Chairman Jane Boyer inquiring if Kerry O'Toole, who ran for this Board earlier in the month, would be a logical choice. Kerry would serve two years - the remainder of Rod's term. She will most likely be appointed at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

First Selectman's Report:

* Probate Court:

Mark attended a meeting of the seven towns in our Probate Court district. It had been thought that the consolidated court would most likely be in Southbury. Woodbury has now come up with an option for it's being located there. The major concerns for the towns are service as well as cost. There will be another meeting on December 2nd.

* Beach House:

The parking lot paving began today. The Parks and Recreation Commission, along with the Board of Selectmen, are working on the duties of the caretaker as well as the lease. The position of Boat Ramp attendant will be considered as a separate position.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Setting of Town Meeting Date: Approval of Funds from the Affordable Housing Fund for Marbledale Meadows:

Mark explained that he has sent a note to the other Selectmen and to Wayne Hileman, Chairman of the Housing Commission, regarding holding an informational meeting prior to a Town Meeting. He has concerns that holding a Town Meeting in the next couple of weeks, without the benefit of an informational meeting, prevents the townspeople from having enough time to be fully informed.

Walter Whitney, of the Housing Trust, felt that there has been enough information presented in the press, there will be an article in the town's newsletter, and the various meetings that have been held have given the public opportunity to become informed.

Mark has also contacted the State's Department of Economic & Community Development to inquire about the program for which the Housing Trust will be applying and what the outlook for approval may be. He hopes to receive a reply next week.

Jim Brinton felt that although this has been discussed for months, it is only recently that townspeople have really become interested. He is very much in favor of holding an informational meeting prior to a town meeting.

Mr. Whitney also explained the priority is given to applications is on a first come, first serve basis and the State has not yet received applications for all the funds available at this point. If the application is delayed and others are received prior to Washington's, it may have to wait for funding.

The Board of Selectmen expressed their support of the project and the importance of having the townspeople informed, as this is an important enough project with a large expenditure.

Motion: To schedule an Informational Meeting on Marbledale Meadows and related funding for Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 7:00p.m. at Bryan Memorial Town Hall and a Town Meeting on Town Meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

* Frank Adams & Valerie Friedman re: Whittlesey Road stone wall:

Frank and Valerie expressed their concern over the stone wall that has been constructed on Whittlesey Road and what they feel has created poor site lines and blind spots on a section of road already dangerous with the amount of school traffic, curves, etc.

Mark explained he has received other comments via email on the wall.

Kevin Smith, Highway Director, inspected the site when work first began – the wall does not encroach on the Town's right-of-way.

Mike Ajello, Zoning Enforcement officer has also stated there are no issues with regulations. Therefore, there may not be anything the Town can do except to contact the property owner, relay the concerns stated to the Selectmen and ask if they would consider lowering the wall. Mark will write a letter and "cc" Valerie & Frank.

Adjournment:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary