

• **May 19, 2005**

Present: First Selectman Richard C. Sears, Selectmen Nicholas N. Solley and Harry H. Wyant.

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:30p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the May 5, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Nick Solley, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.
- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the May 13, 2005 Emergency Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Harry Wyant, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

Visitors: None.

Communications:

- **Letter received from Lili Dyer:** Dick Sears received a letter from Ms. Dyer regarding the speeding of trucks, and cars on Sabbaday Lane. She feels the majority of the cars are on going to or from Rumsey Hall School. Dick has written a letter to Thomas Farnen, Headmaster of Rumsey and has also responded to Ms. Dyer. Police have been asked to patrol and monitor the area as well.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Dick Sears wished the minutes to reflect that the **Washington Community Housing Trust has asked to withdraw its request for tax abatement for 16 Church Street, New Preston from the Town Meeting agenda.** The Board of Selectmen will honor this request.
- **Christian Street/Route 202 Intersection:** Dick reported he will be meeting with John Bado of the DOT tomorrow morning to inspect this intersection. (A letter from a resident has been received regarding speeding and was discussed at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting.)

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Open Space/Land Acquisition Fund:** Dick Sears explained this fund was established a year and a half ago, by Town Ordinance, for the acquisition and administration of open space, The fund can also be used for "up front" costs such as appraisals, etc. The Ordinance stipulates that the request for funds should originate with the Conservation Commission, it then goes to the Planning Commission, back to the Conservation Commission, to the Board of Selectmen to the Board of Finance back to the Board of Selectmen and finally to a Town Meeting to authorize the purchase of land. Dick feels this is appropriate for the actual purchase of land but is proposing that the procedure for up front costs could possibly be changed to expedite the process. The Board of Selectmen could possibly have limited authority to spend up to a specified amount of money (up to \$6000?) from the non-recurring capital fund for appraisals. Dick suggested that a member of the Conservation Commission be involved with the Board of Selectmen when making this request. Following discussion it was decided to refer this to the Town Attorney, asking if the Ordinance could be amended to include this change.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 4:50p.m. to enter **Executive Session** to discuss a

potential real estate acquisition. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Call to Order: The Selectmen ended their Executive Session at 5:04p.m. and re-entered the Selectmen's Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Slaughterhouse Road parcel:** The Board of Selectmen have received a request to sell a piece of property approximately 50' x 50' on Slaughterhouse Rd (see minutes of 5-5-05). The Selectmen have since heard from other residents in Town that this parcel may have some historical value (an animal holding pen from the original Slaughterhouse in Town?). After discussion it was decided that Dick would contact the potential buyers and ask what their intention with the piece is, could we possibly sell with condition that it not be developed or altered.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:15p.m. as there was no further business to discuss. By Nick Solley, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary