

June 10, 2010

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

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen James L. Brinton and Nicholas N. Solley.

Press: Ann Compton – VOICES, Jack Coraggio – Litchfield County Times.

Public: Jane and Jack Boyer, John Meeker, Chris Charles, Duncan Woodruff, Wayne Hileman.

Call to Order:

First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the May 27, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

* Resignation of Brad Sedito from Zoning Board of Appeals:

Mr. Sedito has submitted a letter dated June 9, 2010 indicating his decision to resign from ZBA. The Selectmen accepted his resignation and asked that the minutes again reflect the Town's deep appreciation for his 19 years of service on this commission. Mark has contacted Peter Bowman, the longest serving alternate to determine his willingness to move us to a full member – if he is, this appointment will be made at the next Selectmen's meeting. There will then be an alternate vacancy.

* Upcoming re-appointments:

The following commission members are up for re-appointment at the end of June:

Building & Property – Mark Showalter;

Inland Wetlands – Stephen Wadelton, Roger Bohan and Margaret Cheney;

Judea Cemetery – Nelly Condon;

Lake Waramaug Authority – Edwin Matthews.

These reappointments will be made at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Anyone else interested in submitting his or her name, may do so before then for consideration.

First Selectman's Report:

Mark Lyon reported the following:

* Route 202 and Route 45 Scenic Road Designation:

Notification has been received that a 2.8-mile section of Route 202 and a .5-mile section of Route 45 have been designated as a Scenic Road. The Conservation Commission began this initiative 1-½ -2 years ago. Thank you to them for their efforts.

* Housatonic Railroad:

Communication has been received that Market Street Research of Northampton, Massachusetts has been hired by Housatonic Railroad to research the viability of instituting passenger service on the line from Danbury to Pittsfield.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Chipsealing of Town Roads:

Annual road oiling and stone chip sealing will take place June 16-18, 2010, weather permitting, on the following roads: Nettleton Hollow Road, Nichols Hill Road, South Street, Curtis Road and Popple Swamp Road.

* Sale of Police Boat:

Washington, Warren and Kent have purchased a new police boat for use on Lake Waramaug. Monies from the sale of the old boat will be divided between the three towns.

Motion:

To extend an Invitation to Bid for the sale of a 20-foot 2000 Hydro Yatch, Model 205, with a Mercury Cruiser 3.0 engine and Alpha One out drive. Boat has center console and T-top. Comes with trailer. Sealed bids will be due by June 24, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Office. Minimum bid of \$2000.00.

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

Visitors:

* John Meeker thanked the Selectmen for the information he had received regarding the renting of the beach house and hiring of the caretaker.

* Jane Boyer had heard that Hank Vallely had secured the beach house and caretaker job after responding to an advertisement in the paper. She asked why this position was not advertised for the most recent occupant and she felt there were other young couples in town that may have been interested. Nick Solley explained that over the years there has been a number of different ways used to secure the tenant and caretaker and basically the "policy" was to find a tenant that was willing to do the job and whom the selectmen felt would do a good job. After looking into the past records and speaking with former selectmen, it appears as if it was felt best not to open to the public by advertising for a number of reasons. No record of advertising in a paper has been found. Mrs. Boyer also asked about the number of toilets at the Town Beach - seeming excessive. It was explained that the number installed is to code – the number being determined by the number of beach users.

* Chris Charles is of the opinion that the Housing Trust should have possibly been involved in the renting of the beach house and the unit could have been considered affordable housing. If the Housing Trust had been involved they could have given priority to Washington residents. Chris then spoke about the Moore property and his view has always been that the Town's purchase of it was a good idea for the Town and if it had been done 5-6 years earlier it could have been purchased for a lower amount. However, he also feels that the property should have been purchased with general funds not Open Space Funds. By using these funds the uses are limited. He feels the Selectmen and the Town have not looked

at all possible uses and now have created a situation where the property cannot be used for anything else. The Selectmen reminded Chris that the purchase of this property with Open Space Funds was approved by the townspeople at a Town Meeting on April 9, 2009. Jim Brinton reminded Chris that at the Town Meeting, the housing component, which Chris has mentioned at prior meetings, was mentioned but the Town voted for open space. Chris again expressed his opinion that if planners had been involved, 28 acres may still be used for open space but a comprehensive study should have been done indicating possible different uses of the property. Mark Lyon reiterated the fact that the purchase was initiated by the Conservation Commission using Open Space Funds and approved at the April '09 Town Meeting after Chris had expressed his opinion about housing and other uses at that meeting.

* Jane Boyer asked if there was a need for a new septic system in New Preston, could the property be used for that. Mark explained that the Town Attorney and Attorney Mike Ziska have been consulted on this and it would be an "untested situation". According to Town Ordinance if purchased with Open Space Funds, it should remain Open Space, and kept in its natural state. If an underground septic system were installed, would it change the "natural state"? These are unanswered questions at the present time but the subject would certainly be explored further.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

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

Executive Session ended at 6:26 p.m. and the Selectmen re-entered the Regular Meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

By Nick Solley, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary