

• December 2, 2004

Present: First Selectman Richard Sears, Selectmen Nicholas Solley and Harry Wyant.
Public: Don Brigham

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:31p.m.

Minutes: Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 18, 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Dick Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Visitors: Don Brigham attended today's meeting to follow up on his request for consideration to have the Board of Education elections changed from the May Town Meeting to either the May referendum or November election. (Don had attended a Selectmen's meeting several weeks ago to bring this to the Board's attention at the request of the Republican Town Committee.) Dick Sears explained he had done research on this and had come to no conclusion. Dick recently read about another Town who had been considering adding Board of Education elections to the general election in November- it was voted down by the townspeople. General discussion followed as to the pros and cons of keeping at the May Town Meeting-candidates have an opportunity to introduce themselves; would other Towns in Region #12 have to follow suit?; would state law allow the change? Don expressed his willingness to review the information Dick had assembled.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: Dick announced there are two vacancies on the Planning Commission - one regular, one alternate. Dick has contacted the Republican Town Committee Chairman Anne Bruzzi as both positions were held by Republicans. The Selectmen would like to fill at least one vacancy as soon as possible as the Depot Study proposals have been received, etc.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Town Planning Poll:** Dick announced that the Town Planning Poll would be mailed tomorrow to all Postal Patrons. The public is asked to complete and return within a week. It can also be completed on the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Underage Drinking Ordinance:** The purpose of this ordinance "is to address the issue that the unregulated possession of alcoholic liquor by persons under the age of 21 is detrimental to the general welfare, health and safety of the residents of the Town of Washington, especially its youth." Dick explained that an ordinance dealing with underage drinking would be dealing not only with the possession of alcohol by a minor but would also address underage drinking at parties at private homes and define hosts and hosting of these events. Parents who allow minors (other than their own) to drink in their home could be held liable. This is the beginning of the discussion on this issue and an invitation to the public to become involved, continue conversation, etc.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 4:58p.m. as there was no further business to discuss. By Harry Wyant, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary