



**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 7:00pm
Town Hall Meeting Room**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chair, Stu Sklar in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Selectmen Lucy Wallace, Ron Ricci, Leo Blair and Ken Swanton were in attendance as well as Town Administrator Tim Bragan.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

CPC Chair Didi Chadran came to present the articles which will be proposed at the Annual Town Meeting. He reported requests were received from the Conservation Commission, Harvard Park Association and the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust. They did not receive any grant requests for the historical category this year. He explained the CPC is required to fund 10% each year to these specific categories: historic preservation initiatives, open space & recreation assets and development & support of affordable community housing. He said the committee did not award the full amounts this year. Wallace asked why the funding is low this year. Leo Blair, as a member of the CPC, explained the committee's decision to increase its reserves is in anticipation of funding requests for the Town Hall project. He explained they have seen a decrease in the amount the state has been matching therefore they do not know what will be contributed in future years. Blair said the decision was made after their analysis was completed and they had determined how much was needed to meet their requirements. He estimated as much as \$500,000 could be available in debt reduction on the project. They also want the public to continue to be supportive of the preservation act so projects such as the McCurdy Track can be done in the future. Ron Ricci suggested the CPC be prepared to include in their report at the ATM the amounts in each reserve account and explain to the public these funds can only be awarded for specific purposes.

CABLE COMMITTEE

Stu Sklar recognized the resignation of John Burns from the committee. He commented on the hard work Burns demonstrated over the years while he served on the committee. On a Wallace/Blair motion, the board voted unanimously to accept John Burns's resignation from the Community Cable Access Committee and have Julie send a letter of thanks.

Committee Chair Stephen Adrian presented Hakan Sahin to fill the vacancy left by Burns. Adrian said Sahin has attended several meetings already and has the perfect background and experience the committee is looking for. Sklar is very impressed with Sahin's experience and is excited he is willing to volunteer on the committee. Swanton asked Sahin for a bit more detail on his production experience. On a Blair/Wallace motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint Hakan Sahin to the Cable Committee.

KEN HARROD BIKE RIDE

Stu Sklar invited Robert Curran to come forward on behalf of the Harvard Firefighters Association. Lucy Wallace asked if they may be able to cap the number of participants. Curran explained each race has up to 75 racers at any given time and there will be no more than 400

total participants and most likely less. Curran said they are considering eliminating the family ride and holding a family event off-site instead. The event would have different elements on the idea of the amazing race which they believe will be more fun and allow them to better contain the family part of the day. He commented on the course being different from last year. They will be using Littleton Road, Old Littleton Road, Oak Hill Road and Fairbank Street. Police Officers and Firefighters will be stationed at intersections to control the flow of traffic with the racers. They plan to avoid the center primarily utilizing Oak Hill Road and Fairbank Street. Curran said they have six races scheduled but it all depends on how many participants there are. Sklar asked if races will impede residents from exiting their driveways. He explained the races will run about every half hour and go by fairly quickly. On a Wallace/Blair motion, the board voted unanimously to authorize the Ken Harrod Bike Ride for May 30th.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Jeff Levering, Building Use Manager for the Unitarian Church, asked about the large scale event policy. He said the church holds a number of events both private and public so they want to be aware of how this policy may impact them. They are curious about the language in the policy that may trigger their need to file an application Ricci told Levering the policy will not be finalized tonight and asked he contact him with any suggestions he may have.

UPDATE ON OPM'S REVIEW OF THE HILDRETH HOUSE ACCESSIBILITY PROPOSAL

Bragan informed the board the OPM has not yet had the time to finalize his review. They have been busy with the Town Hall sub-bid opening which happened this afternoon. He expects the review to be completed prior to our next meeting. Ken Swanton and Lucy Wallace asked for the review to be circulated amongst the BOS members and the Hildreth House Improvement Committee. Swanton explained the reason he asked to have this on the agenda is so they can be certain the contingency amount is accurate. He expects once a review is conducted of the final schematics from LLB, parking lot plan from GPR and the most recent estimates from Fogarty we will have a better understanding of what the contingency should be.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Bragan informed the board the foreclosure scheduled for an affordable unit at Harvard Green has been delayed. The bank will be providing the town and DHCD with a sixty day notice as required.

Bragan told the board Marie Sobalvarro was able to touch base with Bob Thurston about the Ginny Thurston Scholarship. He indicated to her the family wishes any amount available be given each year. They do not want the board to wait allowing the funds to grow. Ron Ricci suggested the board award \$250 each year keeping the spirit of the scholarship alive. On a Ricci/Wallace motion, the board voted to use \$250 of available funds for the Ginny Thurston Scholarship for this year.

Bragan recommended the board not take advantage of offering early retirements if the legislature opens it up to cities and towns. He explained if the positions need to be filled then you are paying for both a retiree and a new hire. The state would not fill vacancies created by those taking early retirement.

Bragan informed the board 30 sub-bids were received from various trades for the Town Hall project. He said overall the opening was very promising. The General Contractor bids are due on March 16th.

Bragan confirmed the Finance Committee finalized the warrant. He distributed a copy. He informed the board that both the finance committee booklet and annual report have gone to the printer.

ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

On a Ricci/Wallace motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the Apple Blossom Festival.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGREEMENT

Sklar confirmed Town Counsel Mark Lanza reviewed the agreement and it is in good standing for the board to sign. On a Swanton/Wallace motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the historic preservation agreement on 327 Still River Road. The board will come into the office to sign the agreement so it can be notarized by Julie Doucet.

LARGE SCALE EVENT POLICY

Ron Ricci said after receiving feedback from the other board members he began thinking back to why the board wanted to establish a large scale event policy. He recognized the creation of a policy is primarily to balance the use of events in different areas of town, establish a way to inform residents, ensure events are successful, guarantee public safety and minimize disruption to residents. He thought rather than having groups complete an application maybe development of an event calendar is a better direction to take. Ricci envisions specific requirements for events to be incorporated into the calendar and allowing events to remain on the calendar once they are initially approved. He noted in most cases when the BOS approve an event they rarely add additional requirements. He suggested there be an annual review of the event calendar. Lucy Wallace revisited the idea of blocking out certain weekends to minimize the number of events. She also referred to the Entertainment license policy as a good way to handle first time event requests as it calls for a more in-depth review initially and then standard approve moving forward unless any issues arise. Swanton agreed with an annual review of the event calendar. Ricci described the policy as a way for the public to be aware of what is going on it is not meant to make things more difficult. Leo Blair is supportive of a recurring long standing events calendar. He is more concerned with events that impact public roadways or services where the board should have some oversight. He believes the calendar will be a great tool but does not solve the bigger issue of rules and how you manage the number of events. The board members seemed in be in agreement with the direction Ricci is taking. Ricci will continue to work on the policy and Marie Sobalvarro will work on an event calendar. They decided the policy will only apply to public events not private.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Lucy Wallace reported the Hildreth House project is moving along and the Friends of the COA are putting together an aggressive outreach program to educate the public prior to the annual town meeting. She also thought it would be a good idea to make it very clear the town election will not be held the Tuesday right after the ATM but the following week on Tuesday, April 7th.

Ron Ricci said Ed Starzec from MassDevelopment is interested in attending an upcoming JBOS meeting where he can review feedback received at the public hearings and introduce the new Senior Vice President at MassDevelopment. The board decided on holding the meeting here in Harvard in the Town Hall meeting room on Thursday, March 19th.

Stu Sklar announced the Suburban Coalition is holding a meeting on March 12th at the Newton Marriot on Sustaining Vibrant Communities throughout the Commonwealth. He said the Chair of the Ways & Means Committee, the Lieutenant Governor and our State Senator will all be in attendance.

**** On a Wallace motion, the Board voted unanimously by a roll call vote: (Wallace – Aye, Ricci – Aye, Sklar – Aye, Blair – Aye, Swanton - Aye) to enter into executive session at 8:10pm, as authorized by Chapter 30A, Section 21.2 of the Massachusetts General Laws, at a meeting for which 48-hours' notice has been given, to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Following the executive session, the Board will reconvene into open session only to adjourn. ****

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Documents referenced:

CPC report – dated 3.3.2015

Cable Committee – Burns resignation letter dated 2.26.2015

Sakin volunteer form dated 1.8.2015

Entertainment License request – dated 2.2.2015

Large Scale Event Policy from 2/24 meeting – dated 2.19.2015