

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of June 25, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Alan Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Selectmen Bruce Breton, Dennis Senibaldi, Margaret Crisler, and Roger Hohenberger were present. Town Administrator David Sullivan was excused. Mr. Carpenter read the agenda into the record, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Mr. Senibaldi moved and Mr. Breton seconded to enter into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91:A-II:3a. Roll call vote – all members “yes”. The topic of discussion was personnel and the Board, Police Chief Lewis and Ms. Devlin were in attendance.

The Chief discussed the vacant Sergeant position with Board. Mrs. Crisler moved and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to support the Chief’s recommendation for promotion.

After further discussion, Mr. Hohenberger withdrew his second. No further decisions were made.

The public session resumed at 7:30 PM.

EARNED TIME POLICY: Mr. Carpenter inquired whether the Board had any further discussion on the proposed amendment, which was reviewed by Mr. Sullivan at the Board’s previous meeting. There being none, Mr. Senibaldi moved and Mr. Breton seconded to amend the policy as requested by the Town Administrator. Passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mrs. Crisler advised the Board that the following Friday, June 29th, the Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce would be hosting a tutorial jointly with representatives from the Department of Resource and Economic Development on methods of establishing an Economic Development Committee. The tutorial will take place at the Windham Terrace beginning at 8:15 AM.

Mrs. Crisler noted that she and Mrs. Ruth Ellen Post of the Planning Board had recently taped a cable show regarding an Economic Development Committee in Windham, which will be airing in the future.

Mr. Senibaldi reminded all that Town Day is scheduled for July 1st from 1 PM to 4 PM. He also noted that the Knight Ride the previous Saturday had been highly successful, and extended thanks to all who participated in or helped to coordinate the event.

WORKSHOP/HIGHWAY AGENT: The Board met in workshop session with Highway Agent Jack McCartney. Items discussed included:

- West Shore Road paving is underway from Range Road to the 2nd end of Pine Ridge Road, and will consist of raising the roadway up to 6” where necessary, pulverizing of existing pavement, and repaving.
- The culvert is built and ready for installation on Doiron Road pending DES permit approval.
- Plans will soon be available for bid solicitation for the East Nashua Road Project. Mr. Peter Zohdi of Herbert Associates is looking into wetland impacts, which should be minimal. Mr. McCartney also indicated he will attempt to include approximately 100’ along Beacon Hill Road on either side of its intersection with East Nashua Road to try and flatten out the area. Also, two new basins will be installed where the culverts are currently located.

- Mr. McCartney estimated that \$100-120,000 will be available in budget funds, and stated he was hoping to be able to complete 3 or 4 smaller projects.
- The first roadside mowing has been completed, as has the first cutting of the old landfill.
- Roadway sweeping has been completed to the extent it could be based upon the Board's bid award. A discussion ensued regarding the timing of the sweeping, the cap placed on the vendor's hours, and whether or not to hire a further contractor to complete the sweeping. No decisions were made.
- The Paver program was discussed. Mr. Hohenberger inquired whether an intern would be available to update the material. Mr. McCartney indicated that he hoped his additional staff member, once hired, would allow for updating of the data to resume. A brief discussion ensued regarding modifying the methods of prioritizing the roadways.
- Salt Shed: Mr. McCartney advised the Board he still awaiting a response from Ms. Pam Mitchell of the NHDOT, however, the possible joint project is not a priority for the State at this time. He noted that he had been advised that the State may not have sufficient money available to fund both the site and the building.
- The annual re-grading of Esty Road was discussed, and the possibility of paving it was suggested. Mr. McCartney noted the Town could discuss paving the road with the area residents and the Cemetery Trustees but, until then, there was really no better solution for addressing the condition of the road than has been done annually in the past.

Mr. Breton suggested that the residents could deed the road to the Town and it could subsequently be upgraded to Town standards, noting that likely 80% of the traffic is not related to area residents. Discussion ensued regarding road standards, the length of the roadway, and the estimated cost to pave it. Mr. McCartney estimated the cost at \$12,000, and the Board requested he obtain an actual cost to do so.

- Cracking/crumbling in areas along Morrison Road was discussed. Mr. McCartney reminded the Board that that project had not been a total reconstruction, and that some areas were in need of better drainage. Discussion ensued regarding the years of heavy truck traffic in the area due to new developments.
- Beacon Hill Road: Mr. McCartney indicated that, through CIP funding in 2008, he would like to reconstruct the roadway at least to the railroad bed.
- Mr. McCartney noted that the surplus truck recently purchased by the Department was currently out undergoing necessary mechanical work. He advised the Board that he was exploring costs to paint the vehicle and purchase either a used steel or newly fabricated stainless steel body.
- Anticipated 2008 budget needs, miles of roadway, number of new roads, price of materials, and budget savings for 2007 were briefly discussed.

The Board then extended their thanks to Mr. McCartney for attending. Mr. Senibaldi extended personal thanks, as well, for Mr. McCartney's assistance to the Recreation Committee.

The Chairman called for a five minute recess.

GRIFFIN PARK PARKING/DONATION: Mr. Carpenter explained that he had invited Mr. Zohdi to attend to update the Board on the status of the parking lot donation, and to allow the Board to map out a direction in hopes of having the project completed by next Spring.

Mr. Zohdi briefly reviewed the original design of Griffin Park, as well as the most recent proposal for the layout of the parcel to be donated by Mr. Mesiti. He noted that, since the latter had been presented, several concerns had been raised by abutters, primarily about environmental impacts. Mr. Zohdi advised the Board that he had spoken to Mr. Mesiti to inquire how important it was to him that a parking lot be constructed on the parcel, and Mr. Mesiti had replied that the donation itself was what was important.

Mr. Zohdi then reviewed an alternate proposal with the Board, consisting of a ditch line and an additional two rows of parking within Griffin Park itself, amounting to approximately 100 spaces, in front of the passive recreation area. He then stated that, if the Board wished him to, he would be willing to do an as-built of the area in question to include the proposed parking for the Board's future review. Mr. Zohdi noted that Mr. Mesiti would continue with his donation should the Board choose to support the new proposal.

Mr. Carpenter sought clarification of how many spaces were anticipated if the parking were constructed across the street as originally planned. Mr. Zohdi replied a maximum of 80-82 spaces.

Mr. Senibaldi indicated his support of the conceptual plan, and inquired if eliminating the middle entrance would offer additional parking spaces. He also suggested that traffic be made one way in/out through the parking area. Mr. Zohdi did not recommend eliminating the entrance entirely, as once such an entrance permit is given up it cannot be regained. Discussion then ensued about gating the center entrance.

Mr. Hohenberger spoke in support of the proposal, and requested that Mr. Zohdi also look at redesigning the corner and the southern entrance for possible additional spaces there. Mr. Senibaldi then suggested that angling the parking spaces may ease entrance/egress.

Mrs. Crisler supported Mr. Zohdi's idea, however she urged the Board not to lose sight of the fact that additional parking will still be needed in the future. A discussion ensued regarding an analysis of park usage, study of similar areas, and blocking access to the grassy area in front of the Park.

Mr. Breton inquired as to how the proposal would be funded. Mr. Zohdi replied he would like to work on the plan further before obtaining any cost estimates. Mr. Senibaldi inquired if Mr. Zohdi would include an analysis of the swale/outlet system as part of his survey. Mr. Zohdi agreed.

Mr. Charlie McMahon approached noting that parking such as Mr. Zohdi was proposing had been removed from the original design by the Griffin Park Committee for safety reasons. Mr. McMahon stated he wished to thank Mr. Zohdi for all he has done for the Park, but that he was opposed to the proposal due to the impacts to open space in the area.

Mr. McMahon noted that even regular use of the Park will cause parking issues, and felt the overflow should be located across Range Road. He reminded the Board that the crosswalk has already been approved and the speed limit in the area lowered.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential impact to the walking path, the original layout of the Park, the need for an as-built to determine the amount of space that would be lost with Mr. Zohdi's proposal, the flexibility of traffic control with the parking across the street, and safety concerns related to creating additional parking at the Park.

Mr. Breton did not believe Mr. Zohdi's proposal was feasible, and felt it was contrary to what Mr. Griffin envisioned.

Mr. Carpenter indicated his primary concern remained that of crossing Range Road. He noted that the State has installed on-demand pedestrian lights in other Town's, and inquired whether they had denied permission for one in this case. Mr. McMahon replied this request of the Board had been discussed with Division 5 representatives who indicated one could be installed in this case, however, the State did not want to cover the cost. Mr. McMahon reiterated that signage, access, and lights would all be available, and the final plan is all that is pending.

Mrs. Barbara Coish approached suggesting that the Park be made one way in, by Johnson's Farm, and one way out by Squire Armor Road. She felt the Board should explore Mr. Zohdi's proposal further.

Ms. Carol Pynn, Historic District Commission, approached to state the HDC was still concerned regarding the amount of pavement around the historic Haseltine home. She felt more attention should be paid to the structure, as it would be a shame if it were compromised. Ms. Pynn suggested that busses be made to park at the Park and Ride.

Mrs. Mary Griffin approached to extend her thanks to all for their efforts. She stated that, while she didn't know what the solution was to the parking issue, she did not want to see more pavement in Griffin Park, noting it was not what Mr. Griffin would have wanted.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Zohdi continue to develop his proposal, and that he, alternatively, explore the possibility of additional parking down the Squire Armor side of the Park, as well. Mr. Zohdi agreed, and indicated he would expand his earlier offered as-built to include the entire Park.

After a brief discussion regarding the donation, Mr. Breton moved and Mr. Senibaldi seconded to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi Devlin, Administrative Assistant

Note: These minutes are in draft form and have not been submitted to the Board for approval.