

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Proctor School Library
Minutes of March 18, 2013

Chairman Eldon Goodhue called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present, in addition to Chairman Goodhue, were Martha Morrison, Dick Gandt, Laura Powers and Ken Vogel. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder and Board Secretary Donna Rich were in attendance. Other persons present during all or part of the meeting were Topsfield Cable Walter Harmer, Tri-Town Transcript reporter Kate Evans, Beach Association President Vicki Long and Treasurer Rosemary Young, Senator Joan Lovely and her Chief of Staff Sam Cameron, and Representative Brad Hill, Institution for Savings President Mike Jones and Latham Law Offices LLC representative Chris Latham.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Goodhue announced that the Board would go into Executive Session at the end of regular session to discuss negotiating strategies for the Police Union Contract, the Police Chief and Fire Chief Contracts and would not return to Open Session. Selectman Morrison reported that the annual Town Cleanup would take place on April 27th from 8AM – Noon and is being sponsored by the Faithworks Group, a youth group. Selectman Morrison reported that the Planning Board would hold two Formal Public Hearings on March 19 and April 2nd (both) at 8:00PM at the Town Library to discuss the medical marijuana centers article that would be on the Town Warrant.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30PM - Senator Joan Lovely and Representative Brad Hill – Senator Lovely introduced herself and provided her background, as did Representative Hill. Among issues discussed were the medical marijuana legislation, a status on the State budget process, and gun legislation, as it relates to the schools.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Hood Pond: Topsfield Beach Association (TBA) President Vicky Long and Treasurer Rosemary Young came forward to answer questions from the Board. Selectman Powers questioned the insurance coverage that was submitted in the RFP, asking for clarification of their coverage. The information was not known and was asked to be researched and provided at a later date. Vicky Long reported that the TBA Board would like to work with the Board of Selectmen for a long term solution to Hood Pond, and in general work more closely with the town. She also asked for more help from Town Hall, such as information about new state regulations. Chairman Goodhue offered to get together with the TBA to better understand their needs.

Selectman Morrison made a motion to award a contract to the Topsfield Beach Association for the Operation and Maintenance of the Town-owned beach, known as Hood Pond, effective March 18th and to expire on December 31, 2015, seconded by Selectman Vogel; so voted: 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Selectman Gandt reported that in six weeks, April 30th, the Town would be holding a dual election. When voters check in, they will have the option of picking up 2 separate ballots, one for the State Primary and one for the Town Elections. In addition, the deadline for registering to vote for the dual election is April 10th, and the Clerks' office will remain open until 8 PM.

APPOINTMENTS:

8:00PM – Institution for Savings - Institution for Savings President Mike Jones and Latham Law Offices LLC representative Chris Latham came forward. Chris Latham provided a review of the bank’s projects including: the completion of the town’s Park Street parking which included an additional 18 spaces, lighting and an additional exit at the half way point; the striping of the Route One crossing for the Rail Trail; the installation of an educational Branch of the bank at Masconomet Regional High School; and at 5 Main Street, repair of the fence along Main Street which will have the same height, style and color as the existing fence and finally, the free standing sign which will be installed at the location noted on the approved site plan and which does not require a special permit because the size has been reduced to be in compliance with the Town’s bylaw. Chris announced that the expected opening of the Bank would be about April 15th. The Board expressed their enthusiasm for the improvements to the building and for the work that has been accomplished.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business (continued)

Annual Town Meeting Warrant: Ms. Wilder reported that there were still a few articles that required some work and requested a Working Session be scheduled. The Board agreed to meet on Monday, March 25th at 4PM for the final review and acceptance.

Alfalfa Farm Winery Petition: Ms. Wilder announced that the petition from Alfalfa Farm Winery to be placed on the Special Town Meeting Warrant has been received, and signatures have been certified by the Town Clerk.

New Business

Animal Inspector: Selectman Morrison made a motion to nominate Sandra Larson as Inspector of Animals for a term to expire April 30, 2014 in accordance with MGL Chapter 129, Section 15 seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Ethics Training Exemptions: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the list of Topsfield Public Employees and Volunteers exempt from the mandatory education and training requirements of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

Landfill Gas Management System Valve Box Work: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve a contract for repairs to two valve boxes at the Topsfield Sanitary Landfill with Weston & Sampson Engineers Inc. of Peabody MA in the not to exceed amount of \$10,000, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Council on Aging: Selectman Vogel made a motion to appoint Carole Moore to the Council on Aging Board with a term to expire on June 30, 2015, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0. It was noted that Chairman Pat Carroll had recommended the appointment.

Gibraltar Pools: Selectman Gandt explained that in 2007 a special permit had been issued for a sign at 435 Boston Street, however since then there has been an additional message sign placed on top. Selectman Gandt offered to draft a letter to be sent to the owner of Gibraltar Pools, Peter deBernardo, informing him of the procedure to be followed for the modification of the sign existing at 435 Boston Street.

Liaison Reports

Selectman Gandt reported on the Permitting Software.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

Tri Town School Union submitted a procedure report to Barbara Michalowski, Treasurer / Collector who has made it available upon request.

Reports

Board of Assessors submitted minutes of February 22, 2013.

Conservation Commission Administrator submitted Monthly Report for February.

North Shore Vocational School submitted minutes of January 10th and Agenda for March 14th.

Invitation

The Board received an invitation to the Ipswich River Watershed Associations ½ Day Conference on Roads, Runoff & Water Management to be held on April 11th beginning at 8:30AM.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ 240,448.49. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY13:

075T	\$ 91,120.98
076	\$ 149,327.51

At 8:30 PM, Selectmen Gandt made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the negotiating strategies for the Police Union Contract, and the Police Chief and Fire Chief Contracts; seconded by Selectman Morrison. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Chairman Goodhue, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Gandt, Selectman Powers and Selectman Vogel. The Board would not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as written at the April 1, 2013 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Per the Open Meeting Law, the documents that were either distributed to the BOS before the meeting in a packet, or at the meeting were:

1. Agenda.
2. License Agreement for Beach Association.
3. Nomination of Inspector of Animals.
4. List of exemptions from the Ethics Training Requirement.
5. Contract for replacement of valve boxes at Pye Brook Park.
6. Appointment of a new member to Council on Aging Board.
7. Gibraltar Pools sign correspondence.
8. Board of Assessors minutes.
9. NS Vocational minutes and agenda.
10. Ipswich River Watershed Association Conference invitation.
11. Institution for Savings proposed sign.

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law,' G.L. 39, § 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Board constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Board as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.