

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of April 12, 2010

Chairman Martha Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:31PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Martha Morrison were Richard Gandt, Nancy Luther, Karen Dow and Laura Powers. 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 Evelyn Hammond and Walter Harmer of the Topsfield Cable, Brendan Lewis of the Tri-Town Transcript, Kim Sherwood of the Beach Association, Jeanine Cunniff, resident.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Morrison announced that the Cable Committee requests all residents reply to their survey to determine the needs and interests of Cable TV subscribers in Topsfield. The survey is available online (the link is on the Town Web site) and surveys were mailed as well. Blank surveys are available in the Board of Selectmen's Office and the Town Library. Paper surveys can be dropped off at the Board of Selectmen's Office.

Selectman Gandt announced that the sweeping of roads was eliminated from this year's budget, which was roughly \$10,000. Therefore there will be no annual street sweeping program this year.

Selectman Gandt announced that the compost site has reopened for the season. The Composting Facility is located at the Public Works Facility on Boston Street. There is a fee of \$5.00 to drop off leaves and yard waste. Residents can go to the Selectmen's Office in Town Hall and purchase a Compost Access Ticket for \$5.00. Each Ticket will allow the disposal of up to 2 cubic yards (a standard body pick up truck) of material per visit and the center is open on Saturdays from 9 AM to 1 PM only.

Selectman Luther announced that Candidate Night is Wednesday, April 14, at 7:30, Proctor Elementary School Library. All candidates will present their qualifications and views on issues confronting the town. The event will be taped by the Cable Committee and shown on cable TV Friday, Saturday and Sunday (April 16, 17 and 18) from 7:30PM-9:30PM

Selectman Luther announced that FEMA is offering assistance to individuals and business owners who sustained losses during the last storm. Citizens can use the FEMA Teleregistration number: 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Reserve Police Contract: Selectman Luther made a motion to accept the Reserve Police Contract effective July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 as presented and for all members to sign, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0. It was noted that the Reserve Police Union had agreed to zero increase in wages for a second year in a row.

Charter for the Town Building Study & Master Planning Committee: After some discussion of the draft document explaining the charter for the committee Chairman Morrison stated that if the Board has any language changes they should be forwarded to her for final submission and acceptance of the Board.

Topsfield Beach Association (TBA) Update: Selectman Powers provided an update of a meeting that was held a week and a half ago with five members of the TBA and Selectmen Gandt and Powers regarding insurance issues. A sense of costs and budgets were reviewed with TBA to obtain general liability and Director/Officers coverage. Ms. Wilder gave a historical review of what has been recorded in Town Meeting and Annual Reports from 1952 to 1969 as to the evolution of the Hood Pond Beach.(see attached list). Selectman Powers stated that she would like a sense from the Board as to what direction they wished to move before scheduling another meeting with TBA. Ms. Wilder described the Town's insurance coverage. For each incident there is a million dollar coverage with a three million dollar aggregate and a 2 million dollar

umbrella. If the umbrella coverage was to be extended from 2 to 5 million the increase would cost the Town an additional \$2,151. The Board decided that it would be beneficial for a MIIA representative to meet with the Board to explain the coverage and cost. Ms. Wilder will make the arrangements. It was also suggested that TBA continue to research options for obtaining insurance on their own as it was noted there are many smaller companies that have many options of coverage to offer small, non-profit organizations. Kim Sherwood, President of TBA, was asked to come forward and explain what they had researched with regard to insurance. There was final discussion on the administrative initiatives that have been put in place to run the beach this year, such as having a CORI Officer, and a company to perform Human Resource assistance, etc

New Business

Memorial Day Parade: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the Memorial Day Parade to be held on May 31, 2010 beginning at 9AM with the route as presented, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Chairman Morrison asked if Selectman Gandt would like to be the designated member of the Board to speak at the gathering following the parade, Selectman Gandt agreed to speak.

Option to Purchase Property at 16 Wildes Road: Chairman Morrison noted that the Board had 120 days to exercise the option presented, however, knowing that Town Meeting had already voted on this land, most likely a “no comments”/recommendation would be received from the Planning Board and Conservation Commission. She expressed her belief that a decision could be made at this meeting. Selectman Luther made a motion to waive the Town of Topsfield’s option to purchase property at 16 Wildes Road, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

New Item: Rail Trail DCR Grant Extension Request: Selectman Gandt made a motion to request Department of Conservation and Recreation to extend the 2008 Grant expiration date from June 30, 2010 to September 30, 2010, a 90 day extension, and authorize the Chairman to sign, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Town Administrator’s Report:

- Central Essex Ambulance / EMS Regionalization Study Grant Information
- Annual Report is available at Town Hall – *Discover Us* is the theme of the report.
- 2010 Town Warrant update: it was printed at the Middleton Correctional Facility and the Town Clerk has posted it in the designated areas. Recommendations on the Special Town Meeting Warrant were in process and should be available for the Board’s review by the end of the week.
- Essex Regional Retirement Board update: Andrew Maylor ran his first meeting as Chairman.
- Conducted a teleconference with Peter Epstein, legal counsel, and William Whiting, Chairman of the Cable Committee, regarding strategies for the renewal of the cable contract for the Town.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

DOTMass Highway has sent the Underwater Inspection Report of 2/22/10 of the Ipswich River / Rowley Bridge Street Bridge.

Joan Panella, resident, has sent a letter discussing her desire to have the artist of the Wounded Color Sergeant monument recognized by a brass plaque. The Chairman stated that the request seems appropriate and believes it is being funded through the Main Street Foundation. Topsfield’s Chapter 90 apportionment for FY2011 has been received and is expected to be \$207,658.

The Board received a copy of a letter to the ConsCom regarding the continued altered run off rain water pattern at 80 Hill Street allegedly from the site development at 79 Hill Street. Department of Environmental Protection has sent a letter along with documents required to renew the Town’s Water Management Permit.

Reports

North Shore Vocational School District Minutes of February 27, 2010 and Agenda for April 8, 2010 available upon request.

Conservation Commission Monthly Report for March

Invitations

Massachusetts Selectmen’s Association (MSA) Regional Meeting MSA, a member group of MMA, has invited the Board to attend a meeting at the Topsfield Library on May 5th from 6-8PM.

The Board of Directors of HAWC has invited the Board to the Opening Ceremonies at 11:30AM on April 25th, at Old Town Hall in Salem.

Town Day at the Ferncroft is being held on May 3rd and they have invited all towns people to play golf at the Ferncroft. Call to reserve a tee time, cost is \$75 for 18-holes or \$45 for 9-holes, \$25 for the Par 3.

Suburban Coalition Legislative Breakfast State-Local Partnership is holding its Annual Legislative Breakfast on April 27th at the State House beginning at 8:30AM.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$ 317,217.91**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY10:	
083T	\$ 74,805.25
084	\$ 242,412.66

At 9:20 PM, Selectmen Luther made a motion to adjourn and Selectman Powers seconded the motion; so voted: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen’s Office

Approved as amended at the May 24, 2010 Board of Selectmen’s meeting.

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.