

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Minutes of May 24, 2010**

Chairman Dick Gandt called the meeting to order at 7:33PM. Board members present in addition to Dick Gandt were Martha Morrison, Nancy Luther, Eldon Goodhue 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 Topsfield Cable Evelyn Hammond and Walter Harmer, Tri-Town Transcript Brendan Lewis, residents Peter Sacco and Kim Sherwood, Housing Authority members Jack Minnehan and Gerry Buckley, Director Alice Sheridan, candidate Joan Emerson, Renewable Energy/Green Communities Sara Beck and Verizon Representative Joe Gleason.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

-Chairman Gandt stated that the Board would go into Executive Session at the end of open session to discuss the Police Union contract and the Fire Chief contract and would not return to Open Session

-Chairman Gandt announced that there would be a Town Clean-up Day on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Peter Sacco, a junior at Masco, has agreed to lead a Town wide Clean-up Day. Peter was present and was asked to come forward. He stated that Market Basket has agreed to donate the bags and gloves and that Dunkin Donuts has been contacted to donate the food in the morning. Peter explained that volunteers would be needed to pick up trash along Topsfield's roadways and public areas. Peter asked that volunteers be at the Town Hall parking lot at 8AM to register which roadway they intended to clean up. To guarantee the proper disposal of trash, it should be brought back to Town Hall for disposal in a dumpster.

-Selectman Powers announced that Hood Pond Applications were available. A family membership is \$150 before June 15<sup>th</sup> and a senior membership is \$50.00. Applications are available on the Town Website, in the Board of Selectmen's Office and at the Town Library.

-Selectman Morrison noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) would be holding a Public Hearings on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Town Library at the following times:

- 8:00PM on a filing relative to a reduced sized garage at 13 Prospect Street,
- 8:15PM on a filing relative to a second principal structure for a single family, residential dwelling on the same lot as a museum at 1 Howlett Street, and
- 8:45PM on a filing relative to an addition consisting of a master bedroom, mudroom and family room at 171 Washington St.

-Selectman Morrison noted that the Planning Board would be holding a Public Hearing on June 1, 2010 at the Town Library for 7 Bare Hill Road.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Old Business**

Liaison Assignments: Chairman Gandt asked if the Board accepted the Liaison assignments as presented and after no objections the list was noted as accepted.

**New Business**

COA Transportation Donation Funds: Selectman Luther made a motion to continue the usage of Account #SR545-COA Transportation Donation Funds to pay for COA Van Driver wages for the 3 hours worked on Friday mornings for FY2011, seconded by Selectman Powers;

so voted: 5-0.

Alternate Building Inspector: Selectman Luther made a motion to appoint David Harris as the Alternate Building Inspector for the Town, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

**Selectmen Minutes:**

-Selectman Powers made a motion to accept the Minutes of March 15, 2010 as amended; seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted 4-0. Selectman Goodhue abstained.

-Selectman Powers made a motion to accept the Working Session Minutes of March 19, 2010 as written; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 4-0. Selectman Goodhue abstained.

-Selectman Morrison made a motion to accept the Finance Committee Joint Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2010 as written; seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted 4-0. Selectman Goodhue abstained.

-Selectman Morrison made a motion to accept the Working Session Minutes of March 23, 2010 as written; seconded by Selectman powers; so voted 4-0. Selectman Goodhue abstained.

-Selectman Powers made a motion to accept the Minutes of March 29, 2010 as amended; seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted 4-0. Selectman Goodhue abstained.

-Selectman Powers made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 12, 2010 as amended; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 4-0. Selectman Goodhue abstained.

**Town Administrator's Report:**

- Open Meeting Law Meeting set for June 16<sup>th</sup> at 3PM in the Town Library.
- FEMA Kick-Off meeting will be May 27<sup>th</sup>
- Hamilton-Wenham Capital Management Update:  
Selectman Powers made a motion to authorize the Chairman to communicate to Hamilton/Wenham, Topsfield's interest in participating in the DEP's Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant Program with no financial obligation to the Town, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**8:05PM – PUBLIC HEARING Telephone Pole on Hill Street** – Verizon Representative, Joe Gleason – Clerk Powers read the Legal Notice. Mr. Gleason stated that there is presently a support guy wire from a utility pole to a tree and that Verizon would like replaced the use of the tree with a stub pole. However, the abutters were not notified; therefore, Selectman Morrison made a motion to continue the Public Hearing to June 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

**8:15PM - Roll Call Vote for Housing Authority Member** - Housing Authority members: John Minnehan, Gerald Buckley, Executive Director Alice Sheridan came forward together with Authority candidate Joan Emerson. Jack Minnehan introduced Joan Emerson to the Board, stating that the position was posted and 2 candidates were interviewed. Mr. Minnehan stated that the Housing Authority recommended Joan Emerson to fill the vacancy created by the death of John McArdle. Chairman Gandt opened nomination for the position and Mr. Minnehan

nominated Joan Emerson. Chairman Gandt asked all in attendance if there were any other nominations and there being none, closed the nominations. It was noted that this appointment would be to fill the position until the next annual election. Clerk Powers called a roll vote. A yes vote for Joan Emerson was recorded from Housing Authority members Jack Minnehan and Gerry Buckley, and from Board of Selectmen members Martha Morrison, Nancy Luther, Eldon Goodhue, Dick Gandt and Laura Powers; vote was recorded as unanimous with a term to expire May 5, 2011.

**8:20PM - Solar Harvester** – Renewable Energy/Green Communities Committee member: Sara Beck came forward to discuss the purchase of a Solar Harvester. Sara explained that part of the Massachusetts Technical Collaborative Grant awarded to Topsfield was intended for educational purposes and this item would be purchased to fill that requirement. Sara explained that the Solar Harvester would be transported on a small trailer and was intended to earn enough electric credits to offset the electricity used to light the municipal trees at Christmas time. Sara explained that the Harvester is simply plugged into an outside electrical source and left to absorb sunlight which is captured on a meter and translated into electrical credits by National Grid. Chairman Gandt asked if the Renewable Energy/Green Communities Committee would take responsibility of the Harvester, and Sara agreed that would be fine. Although there was no motion on the floor, the chairman accepted a motion by Selectman Goodhue to “move the question” as a request to increase the pace of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectman Powers and voted: 5-0. Selectman Morrison then made a motion to award a contract to Atlantic Green Energy of Seabrook, NH for the purchase of a 1.1 kW PV Array, commonly known as a “solar harvester”, in the amount of \$4,707, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

**Town Administrator’s Report**-continued

- Alcohol Beverages Control Commission: attended a meeting regarding a new application process

**Correspondence & Reports**

Correspondence

Retirement submitted: Library Director Jackie White has sent a letter stating she is retiring from her position as Library Director effective January 14, 2011.

Greenscape Program Funding: The Essex Agricultural Society has agreed, once again, to support the IRWA Greenscapes program by contributing \$1,500 to the program.

Service Zone Agreement Response: Lyons Ambulance has sent a letter to the Fire Chief and copied the Board regarding the request to sign a document.

Town Meeting Complaint: A letter was received regarding Town Meeting and how some residents were treated.

Citizen Request for Clarification: Heidi Fox is seeking clarification of some Finance Committee recommendations of Warrant Articles.

Moderator Appointment: Town Moderator, John Kinhan has appointed Craig Robinson, 180 High Street to the newly formed District School Committee of the Essex North Shore Regional Agricultural & Technical School District.

Legal Issue at the Village Shopping Center: Legal counsel for Topsfield Village Shopping Center has sent a letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding the parking/easement issue with Grove Realty Partners, LLC.

Amendments to Family and Medical Leave Act Regulations: Kopelman & Paige has sent a memorandum describing the changes made to the FMLA and FMLA Regulations.

Reports

North Shore Regional Voc School Agenda for May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and minutes of March 11<sup>th</sup> are available upon request. Agenda for May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and minutes of March 11<sup>th</sup> are available upon request.

Invitations

Masconomet Regional High School Graduation Board members are cordially invited to attend the Class of 2010 Graduation on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM in the Field House.

Greenbelt’s Art in the Barn 2010 Essex County Greenbelt is holding their 21<sup>st</sup> Exhibit and Sale benefit on June 11, 12, and 13 at The Cox Reservation, 82 Eastern Ave in Essex.

Community Giving Center Opening celebration of the new Community Giving Center will be held on Saturday, June 12 at 570 Main Street in Boxford beginning at 10AM.

**Warrants:** The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ **1,661,976.43**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY10:	
095T	\$ 82,072.65
095	\$ 1,579,903.78

At 9:57 PM, Selectman Morrison made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Police Union contract and the Fire Chief contract; seconded by Selectman Powers. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Chairman Gandt, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Luther, Selectman Goodhue and Selectman Powers. The Board would not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary  
Selectmen’s Office

*Approved as amended at the June 21, 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.