

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Working Session
Minutes of November 9, 2009

Chairman Martha Morrison called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. 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. Also present during all or parts of the meeting were Masconomet School Committee member Ken Vogel and Donald Stokes, candidate for Renewable Energy/Green Communities Committee.

General Business

6:30 PM – Candidate for Renewable Energy/Green Communities Committee – Donald Stokes came before the Board to introduce himself. Mr. Stokes spoke of his career as a historical restoration builder for 20 years before moving on to his present interest in renewable energy in 2004. Mr. Stokes described the four businesses he is presently operating, all under the umbrella of renewable energy. He expressed his desire to be of help to the Town in bringing his expertise in renewable energy to the new committee.

Tri-Town School Union Committee: There was a discussion regarding the Regional Readiness Study Report from the Tri-Town Union and a sub-committee that has been established. Dr. Creeden is looking for each town to recommend one member of their Board of Selectmen to the committee. Chairman Morrison has suggested Selectman Karen Dow be Topsfield's representative on the sub-committee. The Board unanimously agreed and planned to discuss it later that night during the televised session.

Regional School Transportation Funds: There was a discussion as to the reduction in state funding for regional school transportation, especially as it applies to the loss of about \$350,000 in transportation aid in the Masco budget (transportation aid was assumed to be \$616k in Spring 2009 when the Masco budget was built) in what is essentially a state-mandated program.

Fairgrounds Section of the Rail Trail: There was a discussion with regard to that section of the Rail Trail that passes through the Fairgrounds. It was agreed that Ms. Wilder should send a letter to Jamie O'Brien, Manager of the Topsfield Fair, to invite him to a working session to begin a conversation on this matter as it relates to the Town's easement through the Fairgrounds. However, Selectman Gandt asked for an opportunity to work with the Fair to find for a month, or so, to find a solution.

Selectman Dow made a motion at 7:28PM to adjourn; seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as written at the December 7, 2009 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.
