

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833
Ph. (978) 352-5755 * Fax (978) 352-5727
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Memorial Town Hall
Third Floor Meeting Room
7/13/09
7:00 PM

Selectmen Present: Philip Trapani, Chairman; Evan O'Reilly; Gary Fowler; Stephen Smith, Clerk; C. David Surface

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Interim Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant

Absent:

Call to Order

Mr. Trapani called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Mr. Trapani welcomed Mr. Farrell to Georgetown as the Interim Town Administrator.

Minutes

Mr. Trapani stated that there is a warrant to be signed and minutes to be approved.

Mr. O'Reilly moved to approve the minutes of June 1, 2009 Executive Session and June 1, and 8, 2009 Regular Session. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. O'Reilly moved to approve the Executive and Regular Session minutes of June 22, 2009. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by at 3-0 vote. Mr. Fowler and Mr. Surface abstained.

Correspondence

Mr. Trapani stated that they have received a resignation from Jonathan Ayres from the FinCom. He thanked Mr. Ayres for the time he spent on the board.

Mr. Trapani stated that they received a letter from the Police Chief with recommendations for the reduction of Street Lights.

Board Business

FY2010 Street Light Reduction

Wayne Snow, Light Department Manager was present

Wayne Snow stated that the letter was sent to the Selectmen as the Street Light Assessment was reduced in the budget. Lt Cudmore gave some recommended reductions. Mr. Snow stated that he went out and looked at these recommendations and he has 75 lights that they can turn off. He stated that they need to reduce the dollar amount and this will cause a significant number of complaints. He stated that they can

reduce 75 lights and put 75 lights put on a timer. He stated that there are a lot of lights in Georgetown. He stated that this is a significant expense for the Light Department to remove the lights and that they will not put them back up. Mr. Snow stated that they have already put in lower wattage lights and this has helped. He stated that they have stayed away from the Downtown and the Schools. Mr. Trapani asked if they can add more timers. Mr. Snow stated that they propose to take some lights down and move others around to fill in. He stated that 300 fixtures with timers would not work he would rather take down some. Mr. Snow stated that the Light board will cover the cost to make changes but they would rather just remove lights. Mr. Surface stated that they need to come in with a plan. Mr. Smith stated also that a plan is needed to do this correctly. Mr. O'Reilly stated that they do not want to make the town dark but concentrate on timers. Mr. Trapani asked about any green incentives. Mr. Smith stated that they need to look at ideas. Mr. Farrell stated that he has seen this situation in other communities and they have taken out every other light and they have had a lot of complaints. He stated that they need to look at each light and see why the light is there, is it a curve, or downtown. He stated that you can have fewer lights in outer areas. He asked if they can look at less powerful lights. Mr. Trapani asked if there are a lot of new lights. Mr. Snow stated that there are new developments that have added lights and this increases cost. Mr. Trapani asked how the cost went from \$44K to \$52K. Mr. Snow explained the formula of lights and power, etc. Mr. O'Reilly and Mr. Fowler stated that they would work with Mr. Snow on the Street Lights.

Bailey Lane Traffic Meeting Update

Mr. Surface updated the Board on the Bailey Lane Traffic Meeting. He stated that the meeting focused on the opening of the bridge and safety issues. He stated that a commitment for safety was great and they have already made some changes and are looking at the condition of the road. He stated that Mr. Durkee told them at the meeting that it will be 6 months to get the permit approved by the Army Corps of Engineers so they will not begin the bridge until next year. He stated that he will follow up with the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Peter Durkee. Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Surface did a great job moderating the meeting and residents were positive with their comments. Mr. Surface stated that he learned that the State sets the speed limits. Mr. O'Reilly stated that with the project pushed back to next year if the estimates we have will still be valid. Mr. Trapani asked to have Peter Durkee attend the next meeting to update the board on the Bailey Lane Bridge project.

GAA Land Purchase/Stone Row Lane-Update

Mr. Trapani read the letter by the Town Planner on the steps being taken regarding this project. He stated that he is happy with the way this is progressing. Harry LaCortiglia stated that the Planning Board will have another meeting on the issue.

Permits-Two Hot Dog Carts & Ice Cream Truck

Family Hot Dogs Jerry & Sandy Mottola

Mr. O'Reilly stated that he talked with BoH about a permit and he stated that they could issue a permit quickly if needed. He stated that he heard from residents around the park and there was a letter from the Historical Commission and they are against the cart unless

for a parade or special event. Mr. O'Reilly read the letter by the Historical Commission. Mr. Trapani stated that his challenge to support is that it is at a Veteran's Park and he is not open to this location. Mr. Mottola asked about the location at the Georgetown Savings Bank on the sidewalk. Mr. Trapani stated that there is an issue of limited parking places at this location. He stated that he would also have to ask the bank. Mr. Fowler stated that at the park it is posted No Parking all around the park. Karin Wilmarth stated all around the park is a no parking area. Mr. Surface stated that he would be okay with a one day event but not long term. Mr. Smith stated that a location at the Park & Ride would be one option but not sure it would be a good spot. Mr. Surface asked about empty rental spaces in Town and if they have considered this. Mr. Mottola stated that he does not want to rent and it would cost too much. Mr. Trapani stated based on the requested location he is not favorable but if at a different location they could revisit.

Mr. Trapani moved to approve a Hot Dog Cart by Family Hot Dogs at Harry Murch. No second. Motion failed.

Ice Cream Truck/Melideo

Mr. Surface stated that he talked to Mr. Melideo regarding his license and that he is okay with the license. Mr. Trapani asked for clarification that he has the documents. Mr. Surface stated that he has seen the license. Mr. Fowler asked about a Cori check. Mr. Trapani asked to table this until the next meeting and he asked Mr. Farrell to check into this and see if the BoS need to issue a permit.

Wizard of Dogs/West Street

Mr. O'Reilly stated he has not had any negative comments on this location. Mr. Fowler stated that he would just ask for a Cori check to be done by GAA.

Mr. O'Reilly moved to allow the Wizard of Dogs/Roger Griffiths to have a mobile food service permit and sell hot dogs & beverages at the West Street fields during games and tryouts after a successful Cori check by the GAA and with the permit expiring on December 31, 2009. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Conservation Commission Discussion

Paul Nelson, Charles Waters, Thomas Howland, ConCom Members and Steve Przyjemski, ConCom Agent were Present. Carl Shreder and John Bell were also present.

Mr. Trapani stated that George Comiskey sent a letter of endorsement for reappointment of both Mr. Shreder and Mr. Bell to the Conservation Commission. He stated that the non reappointment was not based on performance and that they want to be sure the board has the right balance for continued growth of the Town. He stated that they have new board members and they want to know who they are appointing. He stated that the board is looking at new Economic Growth. Mr. Smith stated that during his campaign he heard a lot of comments on the ConCom in a negative way and he wanted to get more information on how a resident is treated by the board and if they have a good process for applicants. He stated that he wants to know if they are proponents of new business and

Economic Development. Mr. Fowler stated his issue was getting to know the board and he hears that it takes a long time for the permit process before the ConCom. He asked if it takes longer for a resident as they do not know the process as for the developers who are more use to the process. Mr. Surface stated that he had the same feedback and was told that applicants expended the dollars to do as the commission has requested and the applicants were denied anyway. He stated that this is disturbing and then this resorts to a lawsuit. He stated that in the Executive Session earlier they received a lot of feedback and he is more comfortable after receiving more information on the commission's process with rules and regulations. Mr. O'Reilly stated that he voted in favor of the appointments before he voted against. He stated that legal bills are an issue and he feels more comfortable after the Executive Session. He stated that it is his fault that he has not been to enough ConCom meetings to see what is going on and the criteria on those projects.

Carl Shreder stated that he has been involved volunteering in town for many years to the benefit of the town and stated that this service to public is an honor and stated feels that he looks at both sides and is not ashamed of his track record and that he has a lot of historical knowledge to give to the commission.

John Bell stated moved here 20 years ago and was not happy with the water quality he saw. He stated that he wants to see the clean up of the Junk Yard. He stated that they work for the residents and have lowered fees for residents. He stated that this board works well together. He stated he enjoys the board and hopes to be appointed again.

Mr. Trapani stated that he has been told Georgetown has the toughest wetland regulations in the State and that Massachusetts has the toughest wetland regulations. Mr. Shreder stated that he does not feel Georgetown regulations are the toughest. Mr. Trapani asked if the bylaws are set to stop growth or for scientific facts.

George Comiskey Parker River Watershed Committee stated that the Wetland Act in 1986 was enacted with DEP and DQE and that the Town was asked to develop a Wetlands Bylaw with their Watershed issues. Mr. Trapani stated that there was an Article to remove the regulations recently and are there ways to reduce some parts of the regulations. Mr. Shreder explained that the wetlands grow and how this impacts other areas of Town. Mr. Bell explained a recent developer received more lots with not using a septic system but a treatment plant and they work with this developer. Mr. Smith stated that he has to look at what are the facts and what is fiction. He asked if they can do a fact based comparison of what other towns have in this area for wetlands regulations. Mr. Nelson stated that they say Georgetown's regulations are more stringent he does not know this to be true and he has found that another Town Falmouth has similar regulations to Georgetown. Mr. Trapani stated he is more interested to see the regulations of neighboring communities. Mr. Waters stated that they have no agenda to stop development. He stated we are running out of land to build on so more projects involve wetlands. He stated that building on wetlands will impact areas of town. He stated we are out of land without wetlands and that they work with applicants and they do grant waivers. Mr. Trapani stated that the Wetland Regulations in the State are driving up the

cost of housing in Massachusetts. He stated that Essex County has the highest increase in housing costs in the area. Mr. Waters stated that they have reduced fees for town residents and he stated that they have a report on the Website on other town regulations. He stated our watershed is the most stressed in this area. Mr. Surface asked for the information on the what if, if they scaled back some of the regulations.

John Bell stated wetlands are the kidneys of the earth and what will the Town do when the wells run dry and water is not drinkable.

Mr. Trapani stated that he wants to be sure the regulations are fair and equitable for the community. Mr. Waters stated that they want to hear the comments from the board.

Mr. Fowler stated his issue has been time applicants spend before the commission and do they have a plan for developers, do they have a plan for residents. Mr. Waters stated that the commission meets more often if needed some times twice a month and they have weekend site walks. Mr. Nelson stated that they also have to adhere to certain dates and timelines. Mr. O'Reilly stated that this discussion got off track and problems are with the bylaws and regulations not with Mr. Shreder and Mr. Bell. Mr. Trapani stated that he has learned a lot this evening. He stated that what he is hearing is that the board is comfortable with the appointments and that they would like to get together to review plans and timelines and work together. He stated that he does not like to hear a developer leaves town because of timelines and wants to be more customer friendly and has done there due diligence.

Mr. O'Reilly moved to reappoint *Carl Shreder and John Bell* to the *Conservation Commission* terms to expire **June 30, 2012. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

Affordable Housing Task Force/Trust Declaration

Harry LaCortiglia, Barbara Hart, Paul Nelson, and Virginia Adams were present. Mr. Surface stated that appointments have not been made to the AHTF. Barbara Hart, Chairman stated that she understood members were active until their position is filled. Mr. Surface stated that he has been reviewing and working with the boards on the Affordable Housing Trust Declaration. Discussion on version from the Planning Board and AHTF. Mr. Surface stated that he will review both versions. He stated that he wants to be sure the document does not have to go back to Town Meeting. He stated that he would bring a final version to the board. Ms. Hart stated that they can go to the State DHCD to use there attorneys to review the document and that this is free of charge. Mr. Surface stated that as long as they stand behind there opinion then he has no problem with using DHCD. He asked Ms. Hard for the DHCD contact and Mr. Trapani asked to be updated on the process.

Mr. Trapani stated that they would discuss appointments. Ms. Hart listed members who are up for appointment and her recommendations. She recommended Mr. Brennan and Mr. Nelson. She stated that Ms. Miller has been unable to attend meetings because of family commitments. She also recommended Shaun McGee.

Mr. O'Reilly moved to reappoint *Lonnie Brennan and Paul Nelson to the Affordable Housing Task Force* terms to expire June 30, 2012. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Trapani stated that he would talk with Shawn McGee regarding appointment to the AHTF. He asked for a copy of his resume.

CPA Legislation

Mr. LaCortiglia, Chairman CPC was present.

Mr. LaCortiglia stated he wanted to update the board on Senate Bill 90 an Act to sustain Community Preservation. He explained changes to the CPA Act. He stated that you can not use CPA funds for recreational land if you have not purchased with CPA funds and this will change. Mr. Trapani stated that he has an issue with an increase in any fees in today's economy. Mr. Smith stated other areas also get different funding sources. He stated that the matching funds are a good boost for Georgetown but that he does not agree with everywhere the funds are spent. Mr. Surface stated that they want to keep the match and that he would like to see the overall plan of where we are going with these land purchases. Mr. O'Reilly stated that he supports CPA and it is our money and we do not have the latitude to spend as we wish and if we pull out will not be able to fund some projects in town.

Mr. Surface moved to support an *Act to Sustain Community Preservation-Senate Bill 90*. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

ConCom Administrative Assistant Position

Steve Przyjemski, ConCom Agent was present.

Mr. Trapani stated that the Administrative Assistant position is open and there has been discussed whether the position hours could be reduced. Mr. O'Reilly stated that they could reduce hours to 16 hours but they would have to repost the position. He stated that they should also look at combining some positions in the land use office. Mr. Przyjemski asked if the position could be reposted in Town Hall and not in the newspapers because of the cost. Discussion on posting in Town Hall and talk with the Personnel Board for their recommendation. Mr. Trapani asked Mr. Przyjemski to check with the Personnel Board and to move forward to fill the position.

Board Business

Mr. Trapani asked Mr. Farrell to work with the Building Inspector and finalize a contract.

Mr. Trapani stated that the CPA land closing has been finalized.

Mr. Trapani asked if there has been any comment on the 38 Elm Street Order of Conditions. Ms. Pantano stated that there has not been any correspondence.

Mr. Trapani asked Mr. Farrell to look at budget numbers for the next meeting.

Mr. Trapani asked if there was anything they had to do regarding the Rock Pond Restaurant ABCC violation. Mr. Farrell stated that there is no action need by the Selectmen.

Mr. Trapani asked that board to review the Town Administrator bylaws.

Discussion on meeting on July 27, some members on vacation so the meeting would be moved to Monday, August 3, 2009.

Karen Wilmarth asked about traffic committee discussion on parking changes for the downtown. Mr. Trapani asked to have this discussion at the next meeting and to invite the Police Chief also.

Budget Transfer

Mr. O'Reilly moved to approve the line item transfer for the Assessors Office of \$400.00. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. O'Reilly moved adjourn. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved September 14, 2009.