

*SPECIAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
1:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL*

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by Laura Francis at 1:30 p.m.

In attendance: Laura Francis, Sherri Hill, Lainey Melvin, Henry Coe, Jackie Stannard, Richard Vynalek, Peg Atwell, Gwen Clark. James McLaughlin and John Szewczyk absent.

Laura Francis explained the reason for the meeting; to create a public discussion on Capitol Planning. Several projects are up for discussion; Senior Center, Senior Center/Community Center, Public Works Facility, Renovation or addition to the Fire Department for Emergency Services, and Open Space. She continued by stating the Board of Selectmen has had discussion on the different needs and wants; how best to fund these projects; buying vs. renting; and urgency.

The discussion then focused on a Senior Center facility.

Lainey Melvin spoke about the possibility of renting the Dolphin Days building and renovating it. She commented that several people feel parking would be an issue and also objected to renting it.

Jackie Stannard questioned the use of the Ackerman house, stating that it could be renovated, a recreation room could be added on to it, and it was centrally located.

Richard Vynalek explained that he has been in the septic tank and building business for 45 years and feels the Senior Board needs someone who has these qualifications. He is also a senior citizen and wishes to get involved; he feels the committee has been heading in the wrong direction. He talked about his knowledge of the Sweet property and feels that knowledgeable people need to get involved in town committees. He went on to say he feels the Ackerman house should be torn down and a new building put up for a Senior Center.

L. Melvin commented the towns Emergency Services would like to keep the property to expand on. R. Vynalek said there is an additional parcel for sale in the back.

Henry Coe stated many people do not understand what a Senior Center for the future would entail; state law dictates some requirements that the building must have; there is a need for health and exercise facilities; and recreation and socialization services.

L. Melvin commented that currently there are no meeting places in town for additional services and the committee needs to look into the future.

H. Coe questioned the pipeline going onto the fairgrounds. R. Vynalek stated the pipeline was put in 8 to 10 feet deep with man holes reaching down into the fairgrounds. There would be no problem using this property unless you were to take the swampland out or go over the road. His concern was what the drainage would be like and suggested getting Bill Milardo, Town Sanitarian involved. L. Melvin asked if there was documentation of this pipeline. L. Francis stated it has been researched and no easement was found with the Fair Association although she did not look in the Building & Health Department records.

R. Vynalek feels the town set a precedent for taking down historic houses with the Fire Department and asked why not with the Senior Citizens; asking to take the Ackerman house down for the good of the town. He went on to say he felt the Meeting Hill House Road property the committee was looking at was too far away. L. Melvin stated she felt that the property was convenient to many main roads in town.

J. Stannard commented the Senior Board has been looking for 10 years and it was time a decision was made. H. Coe stated he felt the decision should not be made by the Board of Selectmen or the Board of Finance. He feels it should be the committee that has been active for 10 years and it was time for the legislature of this community to vote at referendum.

R. Vynalek commented the property behind the firehouse is up for sale, interior lot, before the houses on Cherry Lane. L. Francis stated she would gather information on the firehouse property.

S. Hill questioned the condition of the Ackerman house calling it a safety issue. L. Francis stated the Historic District Commission has authority over the house by State statute. R. Vynlek commented the house could be moved to another location.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Beth Moncata