

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, July 27, 2009
3rd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Meeting Minutes

Call to order and roll call

Laura Francis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.
John Szewczyk and James McLaughlin present.

Approval of the agenda

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.
ALL AYE

Public comments

None

RSD13 Building Committee Representatives – traffic and parking discussion

Building committee members Bill Currin, Ron Melnik and school superintendent Sue Vicarro were in attendance to discuss the school project.

Laura Francis had a question regarding traffic flow at events. Melnik responded that football would be the new event at Thanksgiving. He anticipates same flow of traffic and safety compared to other sporting events. He stated the committee did take a look at reorienting the placement of the field; however the best plan was to leave the track as is (East/West). Bill Currin also commented that there would still be the same amount of traffic even if the bleachers are full. Currin stated there is the ability to have parking and the board is not anticipating any problems, but will not overlook it.

Laura Francis expressed concern regarding parking and pedestrian traffic on Pickett Lane. If there is overflow parking at Korn, has the Board addressed how to direct pedestrian traffic? Melnik commented that there will not be more than one event at a time. John Szewczyk commented you would have to divert people off of the roadway when people park on both sides of the road. Currin said if you are walking from Korn to the high school there is no plan for walkers. He advised the auditorium holds 900 people; they try to alleviate parking all over the place.

Szewczyk addressed his concern that the capacity of seating is greater at a football game. Jim McLaughlin asked about the use of no parking signs at Korn. Currin said if signs are used they have to be careful regarding the certificate from the State. Currin stated it would be nice to have a walkway for pedestrians, but it is not part of the plan.

Laura Francis also had concerns about Route 17 and Maiden Lane. There are a lot of issues with traffic moving in and out of that area. She requested a study of the intersection.

Laura Francis opened the floor to questions for the Building Committee. Resident Donia Viola had questions about the drilling of holes for the wells and the vault at Lyman and Memorial schools. Melnik responded three wells were sited on the plan. It will also come down to what the well yields and the storage, three wells were the minimum they had to have and the board will be economic about it. Melnik also addressed Viola's question about the vaults. He said the location is not reusable or it is too close to other facilities. Laura Francis added this project will have oversight by various parties.

Resident John Corona commented that the parking situation at the High school is a disaster and inadequate. Faculty for Korn and Strong all park on picket Lane. Parking at Brewster is an issue also. People park informally on the road and both sides of the grass with kids walking in between the cars. The new facility will allow thousands on site. Adding 17 new parking spaces is not enough parking for what is being added. Corona also commented that it is gracious of the district to allow use of the fields but seem unwilling to take dedicated field use and use it for more parking. One-way traffic flow is not adequate. Exit site of Pickett Lane to Main Street is not possible at high traffic times. Neither intersection is safe. Track meets draw huge crowds and busses.

Currllin thanked Corona for his comments and stated this will be very similar to events that are already taking place and yes it is difficult to turn left onto 17. Yes, people should drive slowly, but it will be the same amount of people max at a concert or a play. There will not be a play or a game at the same time. We will have control over items occurring at same time. Laura Francis commented that we are victims of our own success and parking is an issue all over Town even at the churches. The Selectmen will discuss these issues as a local traffic authority to plan for these types of events.

Currllin added that it would be a shame if the students or members of the community can't use the track and complex. He thanked the selectmen for inviting them to the meeting and is now concerned that this will be an issue. Laura Francis responded by saying it was the goal of the meeting to address concerns while the plans were still on paper.

Agenda item change. Old/Business

Laura Francis moved up agenda item #20 (Old/New Business): request from Mr. Daly to use a metal detector on Town Green. Szewczyk. and McLaughlin are not comfortable with this type of use on the green. FRANCIS MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW MR. DALY TO USE HIS METAL DETECTOR ON THE TOWN GREEN. FRANCIS- AYE; SZEWCZYK AND MCLAUGHLIN- NAY. REQUEST FOR USE DENIED.

Catch basin bid award

Francis stated that the Board of Finance asked to make analysis if it is cheaper to do certain jobs utilizing "in house" employees or if it is cheaper to send out for a bid. In this instance it was more cost effective to contract out. To do this task in house it would have cost \$21.05 per basin times 1200 basins. To contract out it is \$18.80 per basin. The benefit of having a company come in and do this allows the public works department to continue to focus on other projects. FRANCIS MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW PUBLIC WORKS TO AWARD CATCH BASIN CLEANING BID TO HIGH TECH. ALL IN FAVOR.

Tercentennial account – W. Manemeit discussion

Agenda item #7 Tercentennial account – W. Manemeit discussion was moved to #6 on agenda. Wendy Manameit, Treasurer and Pat Curley were present to discuss closing of the Town Tercentennial account and where to transfer the remaining funds. The fund was created 10 years ago for the Town's Tercentennial celebration. \$4087.40 now remains in the account. Szewczyk stated he did not want the fund in its own line item; it should go into the general fund. SZEWCZYK MADE A MOTION TO RETURN REMAINING FUNDS TO GENERAL FUND. SZEWCZYK. – AYE; FRANCIS AND MCLAUGHLIN-NAY. MOTION DEFETED. FRANCIS MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF FINANCE CREATE A SPECIAL RESERVE ACCOUNT FOR REMAINING TERCENTENNIAL FUNDS. FRANCIS AND MCLAUGHLIN- AYE; SZEWCZYK- NAY. MOTION APPROVED.

Public Safety Facility Renovation Committee design firm discussion and/or bid award

This was agenda item #6 moved to agenda item #7. David Heer Co-chair of the Public Safety Facility Renovation Committee presented the Committees recommendation to allow Silver and Petrucelli to be the architectural design firm for

the facility design. Heer then explained how the committee arrived at their recommendation. The Committee used a grade value and points system to compare the various firms. After months of meetings and researching the needs of the departments that will utilize the facility, the search was narrowed down to two firms. Taking the grade value and points system then dividing the price of the project by the firms score= best value. After the interview process the separation of cost between the two firms were so different a scope review was done. Silver and Petrucelli bid number was the actual number.

Laura Francis asked what type of construction approach the firm has to offer is it design/build or construction/admin? Heer responded they are capable of doing both. Szewczyk commended the Committee for doing a great job and will support the committee's decision.

Laura Francis thanked the committee for all of their hard work and dedication and will put this decision on the agenda for the next meeting.

Agriculture Commission appointments

Francis stated she has a list of five regular members and alternates to make up a new commission to remember that Durham's roots are in agriculture.

FRANCIS NOMINATES: HERZIG 3YEARS, GREENBACKER-3YR, PASAVANT-2 YEARS, CATURANO-3YEARS, PORTER-2 YEARS, LOMBARD-3YRS., PASQUAL-2 YRS. AS MEMBERS OF THE NEW AGRICULTURE COMMISSION. MCLAUGHLIN SECONDS. NO OTHER NOMINATIONS. ALL IN FAVOR.

Francis congratulated the new Commission members on serving their community and is confident they will work well together. The new members bring valuable experience and expertise.

5 MEMBERS, 3 ALTERNATES

STAGGERED 3 YEAR TERMS, WITH INITIAL APPOINTMENTS TO BE 3 MEMBERS FOR 3 YEARS AND 2 MEMBERS FOR 2 YEARS; 1 ALTERNATE TO BE FOR 3 YEARS AND 2 ALTERNATES FOR 2 YEARS

Warren Herzig, U, 7/1/2012

Melissa Greenbacker, U, 7/1/2012

Vivian Caturano, U, 7/1/2012

Roger Passavant, U, 7/1/2011

Richard Porter, R, 7/1/2011

Alternates

Geraldine Lombard, D, 7/1/2012

Joseph Pasquale, U, 7/1/2011

Fred Mastele, R, 7/1/2011

Ethics Commission resignation

Laura Francis stated it is with regret and gratitude that she received Joseph J. Pasquale letter of resignation from the Ethics Commission. Francis thanked Pasquale for his service and wishes him the best. FRANCIS MAKES A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JOSEPH J. PASQUALE FROM THE ETHICS COMMISSION. ALL IN FAVOR.

Zoning Board of Appeals alternate appointment

FRANCIS MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE PAM LUCASHU TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS ALTERNATE SEAT. SZEWCZYK SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR.

Approval for First Selectman to sign Middletown Area Transit Dial-A-Ride Transportation Agreement for FY09-10

FRANCIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MIDDLETOWN TRANSIT DIAL A RIDE TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT. MCLAUGHLIN SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR.

Request for permission to use town roads from Gary Collin, Bikers for the Cure, Sunday, August 9th, 2009

Laura Francis commented that this event has gone through Durham before. Resident Trooper Pete Digoia recommends this event as well as all chiefs of service. FRANCIS MADE MOTION TO APPROVE USE OF ROADS FOR BIKERS FOR THE CURE. ALL IN FAVOR. All emergency service departments have been notified.

Request for permission to serve wine at P.A.L.S. annual reunion reception from Laurie Stevens, Friday, August 21, 2009 at the Durham Public Library.

MOTION MADE BY FRANCIS TO ALLOW WINE TO BE SERVED AT REUNION RECEPTION. ALL IN FAVOR.

Tax refunds

MOTION MADE BY FRANCIS TO ALLOW TAX REFUNDS TO BE ISSUED. ALL IN FAVOR.

Farmers Market parking

Steady traffic is becoming area of concern, although some weeks are better than others, said Francis. There have been recommendations to open parking on one side of the road. There is one handicap parking spot available as well as parking at ABC Academy. Customers of Farm Market have expressed their discontent at not being able to park on the side of the road. Francis also added there is no ordinance in place for parking on town roads. McLaughlin sees the need for a handicap parking area, but why it is difficult for people to park down townhouse road and walk to the market. Laura Francis suggested that parking be allowed on green side not west side. Emergency Management Director Francis Willett commented that there is no enforcement for parking in that area. He recommended designating more handicap spots by allowing parking on the edge of the green or opening up the area to everyone. Willett also noted that residents in that area are also parking along the edge of the green during the off hours of the farm market. Laura Francis recommended to Szewczyk and McLaughlin that they attend farm market to gain more insight regarding this parking issue.

LTA, Action relative to the 2009 Durham Fair: Letter of request to CT Bureau of Engineering & Highway

LAURA FRANCIS MADE MOTION TO APPROVE LETTER OF REQUEST. SZEWCZYK SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR.

Operations; Special Event Permit and Temporary Traffic Directional Sign (Encroachment) Permit

Francis tabled this discussion until after the Emergency Management meeting.

LTA – Service requests

- a. **Shunpike Road – request for children’s playing sign**
Francis stated people use this road as a cut through to Route 79. She recommended putting up a “Children at Play” sign. Public Works does have them in stock. FRANCIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE PUTTING UP CHILDREN AT PLAY SIGN. ALL IN FAVOR.
- b. **Dunn Hill Road – request for no parking sign**
Selectman’s office has received complaints that a resident continually parks on side of the road. Officer Digoia was called out to this location and was unable to enforce this issue because there is no law. Francis expressed her reluctance to “spot zone” areas for parking. This should be addressed on a town wide basis.
- c. **Parmelee Hill Road & Williams Drive – Update – speed limit sign & children’s playing sign**

Selectman voiced their concerns regarding sign pollution in this area. You cannot place a speed limit sign near a stop sign. Will have to go out and look for appropriate area for these signs.

Approval of Board of Selectmen meeting minutes July 13, 2009

MOTION MADE BY LAURA FRANCIS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2009 AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR.

Old/New business

Route 68 and 157: more rural area will look at cost of the electric company to add a 100 watt light bulb versus a 250 watt bulb. The cost of the 250 watt bulb will be 15.36 a month. It was suggested to redirect light from the light pole first before replacing the light bulbs. If redirection the light at that intersection does not work then the Board would look at adding additional wattage bulbs to the light fixtures.

Route 17 and Royal Oak Drive: There was a request for more illumination in this area, will not be pursuing this option at this time.

QScend technologies: Is the company that hosts the town website. Laura Francis just signed a purchase order agreement with them to redesign the website.

House numbering: Laura Francis contacted the company and is waiting for a response. Will discuss at next meeting.

White's Farm update: Conservation Committee held a meeting that was largely attended. Francis stated that the Conservation Commission has the support of the town staff and the Board of Selectmen; the town will work with the Chairman of Conservation Commission to come up with a plan for White's Farm.

New Business: Laura Francis will be on vacation during the August 10th Board of Selectmen meeting. John Szewczyk will decide at a later date if the August 10th Board of Selectmen meeting will be held.

Laura Francis congratulated Emergency Management Director, Francis Willett and Chief of Durham Volunteer Ambulance Corp, Scott Wright for securing a grant to enhance the Emergency Operations Center.

Fire House Grant update: The requirements for this grant were very steep it was geared to assist Fire Departments in larger cities. Decided not to pursue this grant.

Selectmen's comments

No comments at this time

Public comments

Resident Donia Viola reiterated her concerns regarding the high school project, White's Farm and the traffic guard at the high school.

Resident John Corona suggested implementing a blanket ordinance for no parking on town roads with special exceptions i.e. tag sales. This could be a way for the Resident State Trooper to be able to take action and deal with situations. Laura Francis commented that she will do research to take a closer look at this situation.

Adjourn

MCLAUGHLIN MADE A MOTION TO ADJURN. ALL IN FAVOR. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Alicia C. Fonash-Willett