

Regular Session Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting

Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Town Hall

Monday, April 22, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: William S. Moonan, Chair, Margot R. Fleischman, Caroline Fedele, Michael A. Rosenberg, Mark Siegenthaler, and Town Manager Richard T. Reed

ALSO PRESENT: Outdoor Recreation Area Study Committee (ORASC) members David Sukoff, Elizabeth Cowles, Brad Hafer and Tara Capobianco; Department of Public Works Engineer Adrienne St. John; Finance Committee member Ben Thomas; James Shea, 30 Independence Road; Press Representatives Kim Siebert, John Ciampa and Hilary Hosmer.

Chair Moonan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

13-250 Ad hoc Outdoor Recreation Area Study Committee Report

David Sukoff, representing the members of ORASC, gave the final report of the committee. Mr. Sukoff reviewed the votes the committee had taken since the Special Town Meeting held in November, 2012.

He noted that the Selectmen seemed to be more focused on grass fields after the Sabourin field was approved by Town Meeting. The committee would like to see the implementation of best practices for field maintenance which would require additional funding in the DPW’s operating budget. They would also like to see the Selectmen appoint a permanent Field Oversight Committee to oversee/continue the work ORASC started.

Additionally, the committee unanimously recommends field improvements codified as marketing, benches, signage, and field status in the Comprehensive Plan Component Analysis spreadsheet dated March 26, 2013. Mr. Sukoff thought an added benefit would be to include current field conditions on the Town’s website.

In response to Mr. Rosenberg’s inquiry about expanding the existing Field Partnership to include additional members, it was the ORASC committee’s preference to have a different oversight committee made up of citizen volunteers, including liaisons from the School Committee, Recreation Commission, and the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Rosenberg commented for the record that the ORASC team did a superior job on fulfilling its mission and sets an example in terms on how to approach something in a comprehensive and responsible way. The makeup of the group was exceptional and very representative of the quality of volunteers in Town.

Ms. Fedele also commented for the record that the Selectmen need to revisit the Field Partnership Mission and Charge and their results. She added that good results were received from the volunteers who did this study. Going forward, she believes there is a need for another fields committee with another vision. Once Sabourin comes on line, everything will be different; she urged the Selectmen to keep their focus on this need or all this work would have been a waste of their efforts.

Town Manager Reed noted that it will not be necessary for the Selectmen to officially disband the committee as their terms end on June 30, 2013. The Selectmen thanked the entire committee for their input, hard work and dedication.

The groundbreaking for Sabourin Field is scheduled for June 6, 2013.

13-251 Chapter 90 Project Requests – Hancock Street/Hillside Ave and School Way/Elm Street

Town Engineer Adrienne St. John requested \$1,070,000 in Chapter 90 funds to enable roadway improvements to the Hancock Street area (\$700,000) and the Elm Street/School Way area (\$370,000).

Mr. Rosenberg opined that the worst road to travel on is Hartwell Road and he questioned how much of that road is owned by the Town. Ms. St. John replied that the majority of Hartwell Road has been granted to the Town; however the section between Elm Brook and the east side of Instrumentation Laboratories (IL) is still owned by IL. Mr. Reed added that after you pass IL's property, it becomes federally-owned and/or state property.

Mr. Rosenberg commented that the Town does not appropriate enough money to stay on top of road maintenance and sooner or later the Town has to address this issue so as not to let Bedford's roads deteriorate.

Ms. St. John noted that in the Backlog Program, Bedford is \$14 million underfunded for pavement management. She went on to say that for every year you underfund the pavement management system, the backlog and price go up, therefore, it almost exponentially that you are falling behind.

Ms. Fleischman made a motion to approve two Chapter 90 project requests, the first being for Elm Street, Foster Road, Maple Street, Rodney Road, School Way in the of amount of \$370,000 and second being for Hancock Street, Hillside Avenue, Hamilton Road, Hunt Road, Nickerson Road, Springs Road and Wayte Road in the amount \$700,000. Mr. Siegenthaler seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

13-252 Contract Approval – Weston & Sampson – Sewer I/I Study

Ms. St. John presented a contract agreement with Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. (W&S) to investigate the sewer system above the Page Road sewer station and areas that are subject to periodic flooding. W&S will inspect 750 sewer manholes and 25 miles of sewer mains for sources of inflow and infiltration (I/I).

The contract, in the amount of \$171,245, will be partially funded by Entegris' \$200,000 fee and through the MWRA loan/grant program. Once approved, W&S will begin the field work under seasonal high groundwater conditions.

Ms. St. John explained the method used for looking for leaks in the wells that allows extra water to infiltrate. She was unsure how many gallons of water they will find that is unnecessarily put into the sewer system.

Ms. St. John noted that after this work is completed, approximately 80 percent of Bedford will have been examined. Their goal is to restrict groundwater from entering the sewer system.

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve a contract with Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$171,245 to perform an Inflow and Infiltration study through Bedford's sewer system. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

13-253 Selectmen/Town Manager's Goals Update

Ms. St. John updated the Selectmen on the progress of the North Road sidewalk, crosswalk signal, and easement at the corner of Pine Hill Road/North Road, and the cleaning and lining of sewer mains. Town Manager Reed commented that once the remaining pipes are cleaned and lined over the next ten-year period, no additional work will need to be taken to prevent rusting in the pipes. The Town anticipates another summer like last year with coliform in the water pipes around August, but it is not dangerous. Mr. Reed noted that the reporting standards for coliform may be changed in the next year or so and at that point, the numbers would be considered too low to have to report. Announcements will be made on the Town's website and on AM radio 1640.

Bedford will be switching to Burlington water shortly for a 4-week time period as they have a higher chlorine level in their water supply than Bedford. This will enable Bedford's pipes to become cleaner.

Mr. Reed reported that on the Tri-Town project, NSTAR has done a fair amount of work, now it is Verizon's turn.

The Selectmen discussed the future potential of removing the poles around the Town Common and installing underground utilities. Mr. Reed noted that staff will contract NSTAR for an estimate if the Selectmen decide they want to proceed in that direction.

He also noted that the bid process would need to be followed due to the anticipated high cost.

Mr. Reed reported that the Spring Road/Great Road design project is almost 90% complete and expects to bring the plan to show the Selectmen before they go out to bid.

Ms. Fleischman asked if there was any movement towards looking at the intersection of Hillside/Bacon/the Bike Path and The Great Road. She added that related to the South/Springs/Great Road intersections, there is a lot of the congestion due to the long wait for the queue for the people who want to turn left, and lack of a straight ahead lane. She commented that the Hillside/Bacon Roads would offer a substantial release valve and wondered if there would be another chance to look at Hillside/Bacon to see how those two systems are working. Ms. St. John stated that the Hillside/Bacon area will be looked at under The Great Road Master Plan, but the South/Springs intersection does take into consideration ways to improve the efficiency of that intersection.

Mr. Rosenberg noticed an error in the Recreational Field Development category. The last line should state "propose construction funding at 2014 ATM", not 2013.

Ms. Fleishman asked for an update on asking the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission for another all alcohol license for Bedford. Mr. Reed advised that it will take an Act of the Legislature to allow extra alcohol licenses to communities who have issued all their licenses.

Mr. Reed noted that he has been researching and discussing with Town Counsel if Bedford could give an alcohol license to an establishment that does not serve food. Additional discussion is needed with Town Counsel to determine whether Bedford is prohibited from allowing alcohol without food service. He added that other town's alcohol policies are similar to Bedford's as far as having to serve food with alcohol. Ms. Fleischman asked if the Alcohol Policy could be relaxed as far as making customers order a 'full meal' before alcohol can be served.

Chair Moonan asked the Town Manager for guidance on the process for appointing the next Charter and Bylaw Review Committee. Mr. Reed noted that the Selectmen will send a memo to the School Committee, Finance Committee, Planning Board to ask for a representative to serve on the committee, as well as one or two citizens at large will be appointed. In addition, the Town Moderator has previously served on the committee and he will ask her if she would like to serve again.

Mr. Reed estimated that the Selectmen's meetings would start to be broadcast by Cable Television around July-August.

13-254 Miscellaneous Action Items

Mr. Reed announced that there is a request for a One-day Special Alcohol License to Prince Street Café and Bakery for an event at Old Town Hall on May 4, 2013.

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve a One-day Special Alcohol License to Prince Street Café and Bakery for an event on May 4, 2013 at Old Town Hall. Mr. Siegenthaler seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

13-255 Town Manager's Report

Mr. Reed asked if the Selectmen had made their final decisions on the Selectmen's Liaison Assignments. A few additional choices were made and the list is now complete.

Mr. Reed called attention to the letter received from the Henning family inquiring as to the possibility of opening an old-fashion 50's café at the Freight House. Discussion ensued on whether that would affect the income of the Friends of the Depot Park's (Friends) operations center. The Friends sell approximately \$5,000 worth of food yearly and those proceeds are deposited in a revolving fund to offset costs. Chair Moonan suggested that the Depot Park Advisory Committee and the Friends should also be consulted.

Mr. Reed offered that if a lease were estimated to exceed \$25,000, then Bedford must following the competitive procurement process. Any tenant willing to pay that much rent would probably make a significant investment in the property and would want a long-term lease. The first step would be to decide whether the Town wants to continue the present use or change it.

Mr. Reed also mentioned the terms of the leases of the current tenants – JM Creations, The Glass Cooperative, JMR Antiques, and Babe Ruth.

Chair Moonan also commented that the Historical Society is looking to improve its museum space and may be interested in the Depot building.

Mr. Reed mentioned the letter received from retiree Marcia Sternberg in which she feels Bedford should offer two single dental insurance plans to a married couple rather than a family plan due to the cost. Mr. Reed noted that the GIC Dental Plan does not allow for that option.

The Selectmen also noted a request by the Dudley Selectmen to contact Bedford's State Representative to ask him to sign on to the bill regarding Chapter 70 funds. The deadline for this request expired; therefore the request was a moot point.

13-256 Open Discussion

Mr. Rosenberg asked if any Selectmen would like to represent Bedford at the Middlesex Community College Commencement. Mr. Moonan and Ms. Fleischman offered to attend.

Mr. Rosenberg also announced that on Friday, April 26, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. there will be an Arbor Day presentation in the Town Hall Multi-purpose room.

Mr. Siegenthaler mentioned that Vince O'Neil has formally asked the Planning Board for an amendment to the Special Permit at the Village at Taylor Pond for additional housing units with some mix of office space. Mr. O'Neil does not believe that a single office building is viable. Mr. Siegenthaler advised that the hearing is still open and has been continued to June if the Selectmen wish to express an opinion.

Mr. Siegenthaler confirmed to Ms. Fleischman that the whole development was issued a Special Permit and Vince O'Neil purchased the office building component of the Special Permit. If the Selectmen want to see the latest plans, they would be available from the Planning Board office.

Mr. Siegenthaler asked if the Selectmen had been given a copy of the deed restriction for the Depot building grant project. Mr. Siegenthaler wanted to make certain that the grant is for the exterior of the building only. Mr. Reed noted that he has not seen a draft yet, but noted that Town Meeting needs to vote to accept the restriction first.

Chair Moonan reminded the Selectmen that the retirement party for Public Works Director Warrington will be held Wednesday, April 24th and the speeches will commence at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Chair Moonan announced that he will be unable to make the Wilson Mill Park dedication ceremony on May 18, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. and hoped another Selectman could make a speech. Mr. Rosenberg offered as he has been the committee's liaison since 2008. He also mentioned the lack of parking at the site and has asked the committee to confer with the Police Chief about the possibility of a shuttle bus service.

Chair Moonan noted that the Blake Block is looking for more designated parking due to the increase in restaurant tenants. The neighbors are concerned that any overflow parking will be on Fletcher Road. Chair Moonan advised that the Planning Board might like to hear from the Selectmen. Mr. Reed agreed that Special Permits for restaurants are issued by the Zoning Board of Appeals, but was not sure if the Town Center Overlay District supersedes that requirement. Ms. Fleischman added that the Code Enforcement Director must calculate the parking requirements for restaurants for that Special Permit.

**Mr. Siegenthaler made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion.
The motion passed 5-0-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hurd
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved May 6, 2013, as amended

Record Copy