

**PUBLIC HEARING, BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING – AUGUST 9, 2006**

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 7:30 P.M.

REVISED/APPROVED MINUTES

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These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

In attendance: R. Marconi, A. Bodner, B. Manners, D. Masters, J. Plock

**Public Hearing – 7:30 p.m.**

Notice is hereby given that a **Public Hearing** will be held on Wednesday, August 9, 2006 at 7:30 PM, Town Hall Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut, to discuss acceptance of an open space donation of approximately 17.18 acres of land on Hickory Lane by the Bard Family Trust to the Town of Ridgefield. A copy of the map can be found in the First Selectman's office.

**Board of Selectmen Meeting Agenda (immediately following Public Hearing)**

1. 8-24 referral from P&Z for Hickory Lane Property
2. Ridgefield Workshop for the Performing Arts Lease Renewal
3. Deer Management Implementation Committee Proposed Hunt Plan
4. Discussion of Police Station
5. Economic Development Commission Report Discussion
6. Review Charter Revision Ballot Questions
7. Executive Session: Land Purchase
8. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 7/26/06
9. Selectman's Report

R. Marconi called the Public Hearing to order at 7:32 p.m. The purpose of the public hearing was to discuss acceptance of an open space donation from the Bard Family Trust of approximately 17.18 acres of land on Hickory Lane. The Town Meeting for this issue is scheduled for September 6, 2006. As there were no questions or comments from the public, the public hearing was adjourned at 7:38 and R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen to order.

**D. Masters moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to reverse the order of items #3 and #4 on tonight's agenda. Motion passed 5-0.**

1. 8-24 referral from P&Z for Hickory Lane Property –  
**B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to request an 8-24 referral from Planning & Zoning for the Hickory Lane property. Motion passed 5-0.**

2. Ridgefield Workshop for the Performing Arts Lease Renewal --

Sue Manning and Wayne Leiss were present on behalf of the RWPA. Their current lease expires in 2010. The RWPA has applied for state grants to assist with their expansion and in so doing, the state requires the securing of a 25-year lease. The Board of Selectmen agreed to review a draft lease at their September 6 meeting.

**J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to, pending their approval at the September 6 meeting, send the lease to a Public Hearing on September 20 and a Town Meeting on October 4. Motion passed 5-0.**

3. Discussion of Police Station --

Charles Fisher, Town Engineer, and Carl Lecher, Police Commissioner, came forward with Peter Coffin, architect from DCA, to discuss. C. Fisher covered areas in which the building is lacking, i.e. handicap access, female lockers, etc. Wants to coordinate plans and keep the architectural style of the building consistent with neighborhood. Would like to use state DECD Small Cities grant money, which is \$500,000-\$600,00. C. Fisher stated that he sent out the RFP to five architects that have expertise with police departments and/or have worked with the town, and received only one response and it was from DCA. They have worked on the police department in the past and so Mr. Fisher is familiar with their work. B. Manners expressed disappointment that just one bid was received. A feasibility study is being requested to determine the viability of the addition of an elevator and the full use of the third floor. The feasibility study is to determine whether the third floor and elevator is possible.

J. Plock asked about the inside work--did not realize the addition was to be discussed tonight. Peter Coffin stated his work would be threefold: 1) provide computer drawings of facility (structural, plumbing, and mechanical); 2) determine elevator feasibility, code compliance, accessibility; and 3) locker rooms. Mr. Coffin also stated many subtle things need to happen in the process of renovating and the master plan should be thought through completely. \$85,000 is for the master plan including structural and plumbing consultant. The third floor was designed to house people; it is adaptable. Right now it is used for storage and air conditioning ductwork runs throughout, but at one time it was a dormitory. The Board expressed its concern about going too far with the feasibility and spending the entire \$85,000 only to find out that the space cannot be used. C. Fisher will

work with Peter Coffin to revise and come back to the Board of Selectmen on September 6 with a revised contract.

4. Deer Management Implementation Committee (DMIC) Proposed Hunt Plan --

Tom Belote and Major John Roche, members of the committee, came forward to discuss the proposed hunt plan. Mr. Belote stated that this year there would be one hunt only from November 15 through December 19. Hunting will not occur on weekends or school holidays. The state is opening the Bennetts Farm property for archery hunting this year. The state currently allows archery hunting and bird hunting in the Great Swamp. Mr. Belote is concerned that the DMIC actions will be confused with the state hunt. The DMIC hunt will be a much more controlled hunt. R. Marconi stated that he has received concerns from residents that Hemlock Hills is our largest tract of open space. Mr. Belote stated that there will be ample signage and notification; this is the responsibility of the DMIC.

Shotgun slugs are the proposed method to be used in the hunt. Mr. Belote explained that a shotgun slug is enclosed in a plastic tube and travels approximately 100 yard and then begins to drop. Hunters would be required to use a tree stand with a good backdrop or hollow to stop the slug. Whether to use bait would be left up to the individual hunter, although Mr. Belote does not expect to see a lot of baiting. Mr. Belote explained that one of the reasons the 4-poster method is not recommended is due to the communal feeding that occurs and chronic wasting disease, a "mad cow disease for omnivores", is spread through saliva. There will be no hunting on weekends and holidays. The selectmen reviewed the schedule and hunt rules. Stefano Zandri is the Hunt Master. All hunters will be approved by the DMIC. The maximum number of hunters is 15 with 15 alternates. Hunters will be required to sign in and out each day at the Hemlock Hills site. Any people that enter the site without permission will be turned in as poachers. The Board members suggested visible Town IDs, perhaps to be worn on the sleeve. All vehicles will be clearly marked. Scouting time shown on the calendar is to allow hunters to find their location. Hunters will be required to wear a harness attaching them to the tree. B. Manners thanked the DMIS for their dedication to planning a safe hunt.

**D. Masters moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to approve the DMIC Hunt Plan. Motion passed 4-1 with B. Manners opposing.**

5. Economic Development Commission Report Discussion --

R. Marconi stated that the Economic Development Commission Report be taken off the agenda because all members were not present at their August 7 meeting. Another meeting is scheduled for August 17; this item will appear on the September 6 Board of Selectmen Meeting agenda.

6. Review Charter Revision Ballot Questions --

R. Marconi passed out sample ballots prepared by Barbara Serfilippi, Town Clerk. Explanatory text will be written by Town Counsel and inserted in absentee ballots and made available at all polling places.

After R. Marconi read all questions, the Board agreed to the following changes:

Question 2) Insert the word "elected" after "multiple". The question will read: *Shall the Charter be amended to modify the eligibility requirements for town office, the procedures in the event of a vacancy in a town office, board or commission, and prohibit holding of multiple elected offices?*

Question 8) Change the word "modify" to "clarify", insert "both" after "include", insert "and the Board of Selectmen" after "Education". The question will read: *Shall the Charter be amended to clarify the procedures for long-range planning by the Board of Finance to include both the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen in the process?*

The Board of Selectmen expressed appreciation to Barbara Serfilippi for the work done on getting the questions in sample ballot form. It was agreed to put the information on the town website and make it available in the library and Town Clerk's office as well as running ads in the newspaper. D. Grogins will write neutral-based commentary as to the changes, as required by state statute.

**B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to take to referendum on November 7, 2006, the Charter questions as discussed and amended. Motion passed 5-0.**

**D. Masters moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to move Item #7 Executive Session: Land Purchase to the end of the public meeting. Motion passed 5-0.**

8. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 7/26/06 --

**J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the July 26 meeting. Motion passed 5-0.**

9. Selectmen's Report

Open Space Donations -- R. Marconi received an email from Ben Oko, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, requesting a procedure change allowing all potential donations of open space to be referred to the Conservation Commission before being presented to the town at a public hearing. The Board agreed that this procedure change should not be implemented.

Ridgefield Community Prevention Council Resignation -- Taylor McCall-Mazza has submitted her letter of resignation from the RCPC due to changes in her professional and personal life. The Board expressed appreciation for her four years of dedication to the town's residents, especially the youth.

Golf Committee Resignation -- Carol Ancona has submitted her letter of resignation effective October 1, 2006. The Board expressed their thanks for her 16 years of leadership on this committee.

Insurance & Risk Management Committee -- R. Marconi read a proclamation for 92-year-old Robert Wiltshire, a founding member of the IRMC, and asked all selectmen to sign it. It will be presented to him at Town Hall on Monday, August 14.

**J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to recess the public session at 9:15 p.m. and go into executive session. Motion passed 5-0.** R. Marconi stated there will be no vote when the Board returns from executive session.

**J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 9:35. Motion passed 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gannon Lionetti