

BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING – NOVEMBER 18, 2009

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

REVISED/APPROVED MINUTES

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

In attendance: R. Marconi, A. Bodner, D. Masters
Absent (Illness): B. Manners, J. Plock

Agenda

1. September 11 Memorial Update: Steve Zemo, Alison Greeley, Michael Breede
2. Deputy Treasurer Interview: Linda Hannah
3. Ridgefield Arts Council Interview: Ryan Bell
4. Proposed Traffic Control Ordinance
5. Community Center Lease Discussion- David Grogins, Patrick Walsh
6. 2010 Board of Selectmen Meeting Calendar
7. Selectman's Report
8. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 10/7/09, 11/4/09

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. September 11 Memorial Update: Steve Zemo, Alison Greeley, Michael Breede

Steve Zemo, Alison Greeley and Michael Breede came forward to present their site evaluation for the proposed September 11, 2001 Memorial – the write-up of which they submitted on November 13, 2009, to the BOS for review. Michael Breede and Alison Greeley commented on how they became interested in this project and contacted Steve Zemo to volunteer their assistance. Together, the three of them developed a methodology for assessing various possible sites for the memorial: public access, pedestrian access, parking availability, visibility for pedestrians and drivers, tranquility surrounding the area, suitability and feasibility (zoning issues), and potential expansion to additional memorials. They individually used these criteria to assess eight different sites. The southern-most corner of Ballard Park was the top rated location. Next was the Recreation Center “lawn” adjacent to the pathway leading to Route 35, and third was the corner of Governor Street and Prospect Ridge in connection with the establishment of an “Arts District”. Later discussions resulted in a preference for #2, the Recreation Center “lawn”. There would be space for a Memorial Walk off the current walkway and this would provide space for possible future memorials as well.

Andy Bodner asked if the sculpture itself has taken any possible form or shape? Steve Zemo responded that they are seeking the site first and then will proceed with further decisions once the site is established. D. Masters indicated that she liked the idea of the site being a palette for the future and the idea of possible future memorials as well. She also agreed that there would be more solitude possible in the Recreation Center location. R. Marconi asked if they had searched into deed restrictions? No, they will need to go to Parks & Recreation for their endorsement. A. Bodner indicated that he prefers a Main Street location with the highest trafficked area both pedestrian and vehicular. He likes the idea of pedestrian activity around the memorial at all times.

R. Marconi indicated that there may be more difficulty in getting approval for the Ballard Park site.

It was agreed that the September 11, 2001 Memorial Committee should focus on the first two sites – Ballard Park and the Recreation Center location, and seek feedback from Planning & Zoning and Parks & Recreation. R. Marconi indicated that Joan Duffy has expressed interest by the Women’s Club to raise funds for the Memorial from their Crafts Sale. There would need to be a community-wide fund-raising effort, and not just donations by a few. It would be appropriate for the Committee to also consult with the AAC.

2. Deputy Treasurer Interview: Linda Hannah

R. Marconi removed this item from the agenda as not going forward with the Deputy Treasurer position.

3. Ridgefield Arts Council Interview: Ryan Bell

Ryan Bell came forward to express his interest in serving on the Ridgefield Arts Council. He moved to Ridgefield in February 2008, and stated how he has been involved with art his whole life. He has a Fine Arts degree from Syracuse University and a career in advertising design. He has attended the Arts Council meetings as an Auxiliary Member. D. Masters asked Mr. Bell what he would like to do in particular on the Council? He responded that he has an extensive background in communications and feels he could add value to the website.

Andy Bodner moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to appoint Ryan Bell to fill the vacant position on the Ridgefield Arts Council for a two-year term. Motion passed 3-0.

4. Proposed Traffic Control Ordinance

David Grogins, Town Counsel, came forward to discuss the draft of a proposed traffic control ordinance which has been suggested following meetings with the Police Department and R. Marconi. They have reviewed similar ordinances in other CT municipalities which provide for public safeguards and traffic control during construction within public rights-of-way. The draft is worded that “the person engaged in any such activity must provide at his or her expense adequate protection as the Chief of Police or his or her designee may require.” This covers construction on main highways and heavily-trafficked areas, and “such services shall be obtained from the Police Department”. A. Bodner stated how public safety is always the #1 issue, and it is important to have traffic control, but he feels that such traffic control could also be provided competitively by other than just the Police Department. D. Grogins pointed out that the ordinance draft provides for the use of trained flag persons on tertiary roads or in an isolated area. D. Masters indicated her objection to the ordinance as it will result in increased construction costs. If there have been recurring problems with traffic control on construction sites, Chief Roche should make the BOS aware of these situations. This ordinance sets up a revenue stream for the Police Department. A. Bodner indicated that he is agreement with Ms. Masters.

R. Marconi asked if this proposed ordinance should be “put on the shelf” for now? D. Masters responded that Chief Roche needs to come back to the BOS with specific traffic control problems. A. Bodner stated that this ordinance provides for traffic control at any cost. The individual doing the hiring should have the option of hiring someone certified in traffic control. He is aware that police coverage for traffic control is assigned by rotation and this the cost could vary greatly depending on who is assigned, their rank, the time of day, and the duration of the coverage. The cost for a patrol car at the location with lights on is \$24/hour. D. Masters indicated that she is not in favor of pursuing this proposed ordinance at this time. A. Bodner and R. Marconi indicated that

there needs to be some standard for when traffic control is needed – the current wording is “too broad”. R. Marconi suggested for Town primary roads and State highways. A. Bodner asked if the Fire Police could qualify for this coverage? – Yes, if certified. What would the approximate cost be? Time and ½ totals to about \$45/hour with a minimum of four hours.

R. Marconi, D. Grogins and the Police Chief will discuss this issue further and report back to the BOS.

5. Community Center Lease Discussion – David Grogins, Patrick Walsh

D. Masters withdrew from this discussion. D. Grogins, Town Counsel, and Attorney Patrick Walsh came forward to discuss the latest version of the proposed Community Center lease. A. Bodner indicated that the lease needs to not indemnify nor hold the Directors personally responsible in the case of losses or third party claims. He feels the wording of the proposed lease is not yet what it should be. It was agreed that Mr. Walsh will make some changes, forward the draft to D. Grogins for his review, and Mr. Grogins will in turn forward the draft to R. Marconi and the BOS for everyone’s review and agreement prior to putting it again on the BOS agenda.

6. 2010 Board of Selectmen Meeting Calendar

The proposed BOS & Fire Commission Meeting Calendar for 2010 was presented for consideration. The following changes were proposed:

- Move January 20 BOS meeting to January 27 with preliminary budget review discussion on 1/26, 27 and 28
- Move July 21 BOS meeting to July 28 and no BOS meetings scheduled for August
- September 1 BOS Meeting schedule
- Quarterly Fire Commission meetings will continue to start at 6:30 p.m.

D. Masters moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to accept as amended the proposed 2010 Board of Selectmen and Fire Commission Meeting Schedule. Motion passed 3-0.

7. Selectman’s Report

- Children’s Corner – Director, N. Howkins wants credit for what she has spent on bottled water. She is asking for \$30,000. R. Marconi indicated that the total should be about \$20,000. She is holding up the rent payment pending resolution of the water issue. In her November 12th payment, \$7,000 was deducted. According to Crystal Rock, the cost for water provided to Children’s Corner from ’04 thru ’09 is \$20,628.50. D. Masters asked if she had asked for payment for bottled water in writing previously. No, she has not been asking all along, but R. Marconi indicated that as landlords, it is our responsibility to supply potable water. D. Masters stated that this situation needs to be resolved quickly. R. Marconi indicated that neither the BOE or Superintendent Low have responded to his repeated request for a decision as to whether they will need the Children’s Corner space or if a new lease for the space can be issued? The previous October “deadline” is past. R. Marconi will let the BOE know that the new “drop-dead date” is December 15.
- Holiday Party scheduled for December 17 at Silver Spring Country Club. Elected officials are welcome to attend.
- Ippoliti Trail dedication scheduled by Parks & Recreation for November 21st.
- Venus Building Boilers – One of the boilers is working fine; the other one needs firebox repair for \$17,000 (first estimate).

8. Approval of Meeting Minutes; 10/7/09, 11/4/09

D. Masters moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to postpone until the next Board of Selectmen Meeting Agenda Item #8: Approval of Meeting Minutes: 10/7/09, 11/4/09. Motion passed 3-0.

D. Masters moved and A. Bodner seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Johnson