

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

August 9, 1999

A public hearing and a regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Selectman Gordon Carlstrom at 7:05 PM.

PRESENT:

Lois Briere-Selectman
Gordon Carlstrom-Selectman
Burton Reynolds-Town Administrator
Members of the public-see attached sheet

ABSENT:

Susan Clay-Selectperson illness

PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing had three topics: no parking on Rt. 13 and High St., higher visibility crosswalks, and a 25 MPH on town roads in the village area.

NO PARKING

1) Selectman Carlstrom outlined the major reasons for considering the institution of "no parking"

in these areas: increased traffic due to many factors over many years finally reaching the level where the Board feels action is justified, snow plowing made difficult, people parking out onto the narrow travel way, parking along the street makes it even more dangerous for those trying to walk to the Post Office, etc. along the side of the road.

2) Rosemary Gallagher wanted to know if the ban would prevent owners from parking in their driveways because those were within the State right of way.

3) Dan MacDonald was concerned also about whether the ban would apply to the whole right of way distance of approx. 29 ft. to either side of the center of the road. What about being grandfathered? If the driveway is to be improved or expanded, is a permit needed and does it need to be paved? What exactly is the road layout, because technically it is not necessarily from the road center?

4) Peter Shea felt more should be done with signage, such as slowing for children, and a police presence. He felt clearing the streets only encouraged faster driving which decreased safety. Also saw other places in town such as Dodge's Store as more of a safety threat.

5) John Shea brought a map of the RT 13 stretch and explained what he saw as the major concerns. He felt his parking in front of his house was safe and prevented the plows from damaging his premises.

The general responses from the Selectmen were as follows: this stretch of road needs to have action taken to make it safer and we should not wait for fatalities to prove this to us, other places in the village, like Dodge's, do present problems and those will be addressed also, the focus to improve safety is not falling just on the parking issue as should be evident by the other topics on the agenda, a previous letter was not intended to imply that

their would be no parking within the whole State right of way. The Board will consult with Chief McLaughlin and then make a decision within a few weeks.

CROSSWALKS

- 1) Painting within the crosswalks to make them more visible met with approval
- 2) Should there be more, like by the bank and by the school up Depot St.
- 3) Consider the new State crosswalk signs, as they seem to force people to slow down because there are in the roadway

25 MPH VILLAGE SPEED LIMIT

- 1) Applies only to Town roads - The minimum the State will post is 30 MPH
- 2) Would apply to Meetinghouse, Mill, Depot, Molly Stark, and a few others.
- 3) Lou Maynard asked if it could apply to the State road if the road was considered part of a downtown district.

APPOINTMENTS

Cemetery Trustees

- 1) The cemetery trustees explained that they did not require bills from Maureen Mansfield for her work. She has signed a contract with the Town to provide certain services and is paid on the regular schedule. Their slip to us indicating it is OK to pay her just indicates they have examined the cemetery and the work has been done to their satisfaction.
- 2) Given that most of the funds to pay for the upkeep are now Town funds and not cemetery Trust Fund monies, the Trustees were willing to obtain more detailed data from Maureen for budgetary purposes if the Board felt that was required to meet the Department of Revenue Administrations guidelines for the expenditure of Town funds. Burton is to provide some guidance on the details needed.
- 3) Maureen also performs other functions such as selling lots, arranging for burials, etc. for which she is renumerated by other sources.
- 4) There is a guidebook for how the cemetery is to be run. The Board plans to ask to see a copy. A general discussion took place as to whether it should become a public cemetery with a public board of cemetery trustees, or remain private with another Board to handle the new public section and the three other no longer used small town cemeteries. The two Boards will talk about this further.

Brandy Mitroff

- 1) This was a Temporary Trailer Hearing. The Selectmen review requests for these when needed. There was a public notice and abutters were notified by Cert. Mail. Brandy said the house trailer might not be needed but wanted approval in case. An addition is currently going on to their home so older family members can live with them. The trailer would just be used in case they need to be moved here before the addition is completed around the 1st of October. Based on a motion by Lois Briere, 2nd Gordon Carlstrom, both voted in favor of the permit which lasts for a period of one year.

Doug Hill

- 1) Property in question is just beyond Waldorf Estates and across from Foxberry. Wants to put a sign up but on Town land now owned because of the cistern. The Board told him to see the Building Inspector and Planning Coordinator for guidance.
- 2) Wants to change the name of the road from George Drive to Pheasant Creek Drive. He has a letter from the Board saying "no" for now. A procedure needs to be established for

name changes. The Fire Wards will work on this and when something is in place, Doug will be notified.

Conservation Commission

1) Brenda Lind was present to discuss funding for the footbridge project. It was established that the Town couldn't loan funds to the Commission. All our funds are appropriated for a designated purpose under rules of the DRA. Given the timeline of the project, it may be possible for the Commission to use the \$7,000 they have to fund a portion of the project, make application to the State for reimbursement, then use the reimbursement amount to fund the next step. The State will not directly pay any costs; only reimburse us. Burton advised that there are Current Land Use penalty funds of about \$5,000 that the Town will owe the Commission. While these are normally drawn just once at the end of the year once we know what the total penalties are, we could certainly send to them a partial payment based on what is already earned.

Dwight Lovejoy

1) under RSA 91-A:2c, both Board members voted to enter non-public session. The topic involved resolving an outstanding requirement for some electrical work to be done by Dwight.

OLD BUSINESS

1) For 1999 employee evaluations, we will be keeping the form as developed last year. A new section is to be added at appraisal time to more specifically address the job responsibilities so these will be part of the process at next year's appraisal.

2) There were two FEMA grants in 1996 due to the flood. One for the wall by the library is for \$8,350. Can find no vote of public to accept and spend. Board members thought this could be done now without a specific vote because back a few years ago at Town Meeting, a vote was taken to allow acceptance of grants and gifts without a specific warrant article so stating each and every year. Burton will research and then check with the DRA on procedure. A second larger grant was approved by the Town. The work has been done except for one hydrant. There may be money left over which we are allowed to keep. Gordon asked if that could be used to fix another hydrant; Burton will check.

3) Mr. Clark had asked for an abatement of the amount of the yield tax on a recent lumber cutting. He has been asked to provide the slips from the mill as they would indicate the quality and the quantity. The Board will review once this info is in hand.

4) The last of the abatement requests from the reval were reviewed and approval was given to follow the advice of the Town Assessor in each case.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Now that we are on Official Ballot Voting instead of Town Meeting, the budget must be final around the 1st part of January instead of February. With that in mind, salary decisions need to be finalized by the end of December. So personnel who might be in jeopardy of not receiving a raise have an opportunity to improve and thus earn one, all employee evaluations need to be done by the end of September so people will have a full three months to show improvement.
- 2) No formal guidelines have yet been established for exactly how we will go about handling either the salary situation, or the more serious termination procedure. Burton is to work on these and make a recommendation.
- 3) Although there are only a few Town owned locations which are paved (outside of our roads) it was felt a guideline for handling the expense would be helpful. The only paving money routinely raised is to be found in the Highway budget. Other departments may ask for money from this paving account for their paving project as long as: (a) the Road Agent is consulted and agrees (b) the amount is under \$5,000 (c) the taking of the money does not jeopardize a road paving project planned for that season. The Board will vote on this once it is discussed with Chairperson Clay and the Road Agent.
- 4) Burton has learned the Budget Software package so is ready to begin discussions with the departments. A letter from Finance Chair Dan Rothman indicates budget meetings will have to begin as early as the third week in September in order to meet with everyone by the deadlines required for SB 2.
- 5) The Board was brought up-to-date on the discussion with Bill Morrissey regarding the LCIP lands and easement. The Board wishes to continue trying to work with Mr. Morrissey but does want the Town's rights under the easement enforced.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:40 PM by Lois Briere, 2nd by Gordon Carlstrom.



Burton Reynolds
Town Administrator