

Dover Warrant Committee

March 31, 2010

Members in attendance: David Stapleton, Chair; James Kinder, Vice Chair; Peter Smith, Secretary; Kate Bush; James Dawley; Kathy Hall; David Melville; Andrew Waugh; Jane Wemyss

Others in attendance:

Board of Selectmen: Joe Melican, Carol Lisbon

Capital Budget Committee: Peter Mitchell

Planning Board: Mark Sarro, Chair; Henry Faulkner; Jane Remsen; Gino Carlucci, Town Planner

Parks and Recreation Commission: Scott Seidman; Nancy Simms

Mr. Stapleton called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

1. Review of minutes

Mr. Melville moved that the minutes of March 17 be approved, seconded by Mr. Dawley. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0-1..

Mr. Kinder moved that the minutes of March 22 be approved, seconded by Ms. Hall. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0-1.

Mr. Kinder moved that the minutes of March 24 be approved, seconded by Ms. Bush. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0-1.

2. Prior Notices and Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

None.

3. Discussion of Article 17 and Related Matters

The Planning Board has voted to withdraw Warrant Article 17, which would have overhauled the bylaws covering zoning. There will still be an open hearing on the matter April 5, and the Board plans to continue refining the changes. Mr. Sarro expressed the Board's desire to work with the Warrant Committee in anticipation of re-submitting changes at the 2011 Town Meeting. However, the Board was dismayed by the tone of a memo circulated by the Warrant Committee's James Kinder, which the Board felt unfairly characterized their methods and intentions. Their feelings were detailed in a letter to the Moderator withdrawing the article. Mr. Kinder defended his assertions, and expressed his displeasure with the tone of Planning's letter, stating that he would respond in writing. All parties agreed that the bylaw changes should be discussed early in the preparations for 2011 Town Meeting to ensure that all questions are resolved and that no misunderstandings remain.

4. Discussion of Article 23

Mr. Seidman explained that it was understood from early on by the Parks and Recreation Commissioners that every detail of preparing for the Caryl Fields project would have had to go perfectly to be ready in time for the 2010 Town Meeting. Unfortunately, all did not, and the article is being withdrawn in anticipation of a fully-vetted proposal in 2011. Significant uncertainties remain, especially concerning water and wells. Mss. Simms and Lisbon outlined the complex requirements to work around existing wellheads. Over the next year Park & Rec will resolve these uncertainties, pursue private fundraising, and approach the Sherborn Selectmen and Advisory Committee about financial participation. They will also take a fresh look at use of the fields at the former Medfield State Hospital. The Warrant Committee thanked Park & Rec for their earnest efforts and constructive engagement with other Town bodies.

5. Review of Warrant Articles

Article 10 has been withdrawn by the Board of Selectmen and no vote is necessary.

Article 17 has been withdrawn by the Planning Board and no vote is necessary.

Article 23 has been withdrawn by the Parks and Recreation Commission and no vote is necessary.

Article 24 has been withdrawn by the Regional Schools and no vote is necessary.

Mr. Dawley handed out the latest Revenue Sources and Expenses calculations, which take into account the withdrawn articles and two Article 4 adjustments, to wit:

Group Health Insurance had originally been budgeted at last year's level, but quotes for the coming year have come in below that. Mr. Smith moved that the Group Insurance budget (0914), previously approved at \$1,742,063, be lowered to \$1,600,000, seconded by Mr. Dawley. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

The Parks and Recreation budget originally contained coverage for utilities and upkeep at the Whiting Road property, which they now expect to turn over to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Smith moved that the Parks and Recreation budget (0650), previously approved at \$345,511, be lowered to \$341,961, seconded by Mr. Waugh. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

This completes the review of Warrant Articles for the 2010 Town Meeting.

Mr. Dawley noted that the Committee should expect a couple of additional small reductions. Ms. Hall and Mr. Dawley also expect an updated amount for Article 27 (GASB 45 OPEB).

6. Other Business

Speaking for herself, Nancy Simms referred to several occasions during the Open Hearing on the Warrant where citizens breached the bounds of civil behavior in questioning presenters. All agreed that these confrontational incidents were not in the proper spirit. Open Hearing is not a dress rehearsal for Town Meeting, and it is within the Warrant Committee's prerogatives to more tightly control the flow of the Hearing.

*Mr. Kinder moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dawley;
the motion was agreed by consensus at 7:50 pm*

*the next meeting will be April 5 at 6:30 pm
at 17 Valley Road*

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary

approved April 14, 2010