

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 28, 2010

At 6:31 p.m., Chairman David W. Heinlein called the meeting to order with members Joseph M. Melican and Carol Lisbon present. Also present were David W. Ramsay, Town Administrator, and Greer Pugatch, Assistant Town Administrator.

ATTENDANCE: Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent of Schools; Bob Springett, Carolyn Ringel, James Stewart & Jennifer DaSilva, Dover School Committee; Dawn Fattore & Peter Lert, candidates; Betsy Ryan, Dover PTO; Ford Spalding, Kathy Weld, Dana White & Nancy Simms, Caryl Community Center Building Committee; Justine Kent-Uritam, Open Space Committee; Jim Kinder, Warrant Committee; Joseph Giovangelo; other interested citizens

PRESS: Teddy Applebaum, D-S Press

Vote to Fill Dover School Committee Vacancy

Mr. Heinlein welcomed Superintendent of School Valerie Spriggs, members of the Dover School Committee and other interested citizens to this evening's meeting. On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Heinlein thanked Dr. Darin Correll, who recently resigned from the Dover School Committee (DSC), for his service to the Town and the local schools. Mr. Heinlein explained that per statutory requirements, the remaining members of the school committee and the Board of Selectmen need to vote jointly on a replacement to fill this vacancy until the next Town Election in May.

DSC Chairman Bob Springett introduced school committee members Carolyn Ringel, James Stewart & Jennifer DaSilva, and told those present that two very qualified candidates have expressed interest in the vacant seat. He introduced Peter Lert and Dawn Fattore. Each was afforded the opportunity to make some brief

remarks, to be followed by questions from the school committee, the Selectmen and interested citizens.

Mrs. Fattore said that she has been a Dover resident since 1995, with children currently in the third and eighth grades in the local school system. She highlighted some of the leadership positions she has held, which included serving as president and vice president of as well as advisor to the Dover PTO; co-chairing the School Advisory Council; acting as parent representative to both the Chickering Special Education Director Selection Committee and the Dover-Sherborn District's Strategic Planning Conference; and other volunteer work.

Mr. Lert said that he has been a resident for seven years, with three children attending Chickering School in past years. He has served as co-president of the Newton PTO and he has been involved with the Dover Foundation since moving to Dover. In response to Ms. Ringel's request for the candidates to identify their major strengths and future focus if selected, Mr. Lert said that technology, curriculum, and attracting and retaining talented school staff are important as well as the fiscal challenges facing the school committee and the community going forward. He believed that his professional background in finance, government policy analysis and academic research would allow him to contribute meaningfully to this process.

Mrs. Fattore said that the school's curriculum has been improved tremendously recently and, with the upcoming departure of the principal, it is going to be a challenge to continue with its implementation and supporting the teachers during this process. She also believes in supporting the PTO's goals.

Mr. Lert told Ms. Ringel that while he does not have a child presently attending Chickering School, he has more perspective across the schools system-wide as opposed to a perspective from within his child's classroom.

Following more questions from the school committee, Mr. Melican thanked both candidates for coming in, and remarked that they both have the necessary background and experience. He said that DSC committee members must deal with influences from parents, teachers and the taxpayers, keeping Dover's schools significant portion of Town's operating budget in check while producing the high quality results that are expected.

Mrs. Lisbon asked the candidates what they felt the role of the DSC should be relative to the school's mission and its educators.

Mr. Lert answered that he is not entirely sure what role the school committee plays, but he is concerned with fiscal matters, and assisting with the interface between the school, the parents and the Town.

Mrs. Fattore agreed that the role of the school committee is “a little gray”, but she feels that the DSC should step back because as it is structured, it would be the principal’s responsibility to lead.

Mr. Heinlein questioned how the candidates would strike a balance between fiscal responsibility and delivering a superior education.

Mrs. Fattore responded the budget process is complicated and requires more attention by the DSC. She said that as a CPA for five years, she improved business practices. She would use this experience as a school committee member after gaining more insight into the school’s budget process if selected.

Mr. Lert said that there is a misalignment; funding is not increasing at the rate of community demands for a certain quality of education, but it is a critical issue that needs to be addressed going forward.

Mr. Heinlein asked the DSC members if they have a recommendation on a candidate as a whole, adding that historically the Selectmen have given a great deal of deference to the involved Town boards and committees when filling vacancies. Mr. Springett said that they did not have a recommendation before tonight’s meeting. His committee took a short recess to confer on this matter, with the Board of Selectmen to continue with other business.

Appointment

Mr. Melican moved to appoint Bob Homer as Groundwater Bylaw Enforcement Agent, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Treasurer/Collector MCTA Certifications

Mr. Ramsay reported to the Board that recently Jerry Lane received both municipal treasurer and collector certifications from the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association. Mr. Ramsay said that Mr. Lane should be recognized for this accomplishment, which requires several years of training and field experience in order to qualify.

Mr. Heinlein thanked Mr. Lane taking the steps to become certified, and he also thanked Mr. Ramsay for continuing to insist on Town employees reaching the

highest standards. A letter of commendation to Mr. Lane from the Board of Selectmen will be prepared for Mr. Heinlein's signature.

Other Business:

Snow & Ice Authorization

A memorandum from Superintendent of Streets Craig Hughes indicates that a total of \$174,523.69 has been spent to date from the Snow & Ice budget, leaving a balance of \$22,748,31. Mr. Hughes is holding invoices and payroll in the amount of \$31,128.48, and is therefore requesting an additional \$75,000 for this budget.

Mr. Melican moved to approve a Snow & Ice authorization in the amount of \$75,000, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Town Report Revision Request

Former Selectman and current Caryl Community Center Building Committee (CCCBC) member Kathy Weld asked the Board to approve some minor revisions to its report for the 2009 Town Report regarding the CCCBC's activities.

Mr. Melican moved to approve the Board of Selectmen's submission to the Town Report as presented [with revisions], seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Bicycles Battling Cancer Cycling Event

The Board reviewed a request from the American Cancer Society seeking permission to conduct a cycling event on Sunday, July 25, 2010. With an anticipated start time of 8:00 a.m. in Worcester, the cyclists would pass through Dover at approximately 2:00 p.m. from Farm Street to Willow Street with an aide station at the Chickering School. Chief Griffin does not have any stipulations for this event, and Mr. Hughes will oversee the painting of water-soluble directional arrows on the roadway along the route through Town.

Mr. Melican moved to authorize the use of the Dover roads for the Bicycles Battling Cancer cycling event on July 25, 2010, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Approve January 14, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Melican moved to approve the meeting minutes from January 14, 2010 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Heinlein said that the Board of Selectmen will invite Minuteman Vocational School Representative Ford Spalding to an upcoming meeting to share information on his Town Meeting warrant article to authorize borrowing for a school building renovation feasibility study. The Board will also extend an invitation to the Board of Health to attend an upcoming meeting to share the findings of its Lyme Disease subcommittee study and to consider any recommendations made.

Vote to Fill Dover School Committee Vacancy cont'd.

The Dover School Committee returned from its deliberations, and Mr. Springett informed the Board that his committee unanimously recommends Peter Lert to fill the vacancy on the DSC due to his breadth of skills and talents. He said that it was gratifying to have two very qualified candidates for this position.

Dana White voiced her respect for the DSC; however, she urged voters to consider Mrs. Fattore for this position in the May Town Election due to her qualifications, including her work with Mrs. White on the PTO, and Mrs. Fattore's commitment and interest.

Mr. Heinlein asked Mr. Springett for DSC's nomination. Mr. Springett moved to appoint Peter Lert to the interim position on the Dover School Committee to take the position of Dr. Darin Correll [to May 2010], seconded by Mr. Stuart; it was unanimously voted by the Dover School Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Heinlein said that it is always a difficult choice and, as with all candidates not chosen for interim positions, he encouraged Mrs. Fattore to run at the Town Election. This allows the candidate to speak to all of Dover's voters so they can ultimately decide who is best suited for the position. He thanked Mrs. Fattore for her interest.

Ford Spalding re: Caryl Community Center Building Committee Update

Ford Spalding, Kathy Weld and Dana White met with the Selectmen to update them on the status of the Caryl Community Center Building Committee. Mr. Spalding reminded the Board that since their appointments in September of 2007, the CCCBC members, with the assistance of four subcommittees, have met bi-weekly. The CCCBC agrees with all four recommendations by its subcommittees, as follows: Alternative Sites Subcommittee – The current Caryl Community Center site is the most advantageous site for a community center; Gym/Physical Activities Subcommittee – A gymnasium and café should be included in a community center; Great Room Subcommittee – It should also include a large room with character; Public/Private Partnership – If the current site is not used, it should be leased; if used, then private rental revenues need to be generated.

Mr. Spalding emphasized the importance of maintaining the Caryl Community Center building as well as making improvements/upgrades for its current users (e.g., Council on Aging, Park & Recreation Department). He referred the Board to a list of specific recommended building changes prepared by Mr. Ramsay, Park & Recreation Director David MacTavish and Building Maintenance Superintendent Karl Warnick, and also two reports on potential renovations prepared by Mills Whitaker Architects.

Mr. Spalding said the CCCBC recommends its own termination at this time, except for its new Program/Operations/Management Subcommittee.

To Mrs. Weld's question about whether there are any tasks from the original charge that the Board wants completed and if so by whom, Mrs. Lisbon said that the large amount of material gathered on operations and management could be compiled in a report.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Heinlein said that all of the time, energy and terrific work by the CCCBC and its subcommittees is greatly appreciated. He thanked Mr. Spalding for his leadership as CCCBC chairman. He also thanked Mrs. Lisbon, who worked throughout this process alongside these groups as the Selectmen's liaison. Mr. Melican and Mrs. Lisbon also enthused about the enormous amount of work produced by all of the volunteers.

The Board concurred with the CCCBC's recommendation that the Caryl Community Center building needs to be maintained and upgraded. Mrs. Lisbon suggested that Mr. Ramsay, Mr. MacTavish and Mrs. Weld use the information compiled in order to prioritize, cost out and develop a plan to proceed with improvements to the building. Mr. Spalding said the CCCBC will prepare this report.

Discuss Open Space & Recreation Plan Goals

Mr. Heinlein said that the Selectmen have had an opportunity to review the list of updates to the 2003 – 2004 Open Space & Recreation Plan presented by Catherine White at the last meeting. He thanked Open Space Committee (OSC) Chairman Justine Kent-Uritam for coming in tonight to discuss the draft plan and proposed 5-year implementation process before its finalization and submission to the state. The Board touched on some of the topics, such as the environmental impact of road salt usage, a rail trail feasibility study, development of a community center that meets the Town's needs and a formal property tax taking procedure, etc., some of which are already being done.

Mrs. Kent-Uritam said that she is getting feedback from various boards including the Selectmen on the delegation of certain responsibilities contained in the plan. She also asked interested citizens to send their comments to her at tinakent@hotmail.com. She identified some plan priorities such as the protection of natural resources by area conservation groups (80% of the townspeople have private wells) and marking Town-owned trails.

The Selectmen agreed that all goals contained in the plan are admirable and promote the citizens' interests. They appreciate all of the time original work and time spent by OSC members in updating the Open Space & Recreation Plan.

Mrs. Kent-Uritam urged interested residents to attend the open forum the OSC is holding on March 2, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's meeting room to share information and get feedback on the update.

Review Current List of Warrant Articles

The Board reviewed the list of warrant articles to appear on the 2010 Annual Town Meeting warrant, including standard recurring articles as well as special articles. The list will be re-ordered at the next Board meeting, with the warrant to be signed at its meeting on February 25, 2010.

Joe Giovangelo of Powissett Street voiced his concern about an article seeking changes to the maximum parking limits. He said that he received short notice from TTOR that a citizens' petition was being circulated regarding this proposed zoning bylaw change, allowing expansion of the TTOR's conservation land parking lot which is right next to his property.

Mr. Heinlein explained that the Board of Selectmen is neither the sponsor nor the arbitrator of this article, and the Town Meeting warrant is closed. Procedurally, Mr. Giovangelo should not submit an article opposing this change as requested, but rather he should attend the Warrant Committee's Open Hearing and other public meetings to gather support and develop a presentation opposing this article for Town Meeting. Mr. Heinlein offered the Town's service between now and Town Meeting to clarify the process. Mr. Giovangelo was also directed to attend the Moderator's meeting in April to make arrangements for any presentation he might give at Town Meeting.

Establish New Departmental Operating Budget

Mr. Ramsay reported that due to declining enrollment at the Childhood Development Center (CDC), it might be prudent to establish a new Caryl Community Center budget to potentially cover that building's utilities costs, which are currently paid by the CDC as part of their license agreement. He also recommended that an additional \$5,000 be added to the Caryl Community Center line item in the FY11 Building Maintenance operating budget for maintenance and repairs to the area which CDC occupies (which they presently maintain). It was the sense of the Board to so.

Mr. Heinlein's Departure from the Board of Selectmen

Mr. Heinlein officially announced that he will not be seeking a third term on the Board of Selectmen in May 2010. He has enjoyed his service of six years as a Selectman and before that as a member of the Warrant Committee. This has been his way of giving back to a Town that has given to him and his family over the years. He will now be able to devote more time to his family, work, and especially to his wife Heidi, who has sacrificed so much during his tenure. He thanked fellow Board members Carol Lisbon and Joe Melican, especially for covering during his absence last year, as well as Kathy Weld and Tobe Deutschmann for their encouragement and patience. He also thanked Mr. Ramsay and all Town employees for their work. He has grateful to have had this opportunity to serve a great Town with great people.

Adjournment

At 8:18 p.m., Mr. Melican moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

DOVER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Joseph M. Melican, Clerk