

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AUGUST 26, 2010

At 6:35 p.m., Chairman Joseph M. Melican called the meeting to order with members Carol Lisbon and James P. Dawley, Jr. present. Also present were David W. Ramsay, Town Administrator, and Greer Pugatch, Assistant Town Administrator.

ATTENDANCE: Joseph G. Griffin, Chief of Police; Craig Hughes, Superintendent of Streets; Roger Panek, and Giles & Susan Mosher

PRESS: Maureen Sullivan, D-S Press

Police Chief & Superintendent of Streets re: Dedham Street Crosswalks

Mr. Melican welcomed the Police Chief, the Superintendent of Streets and the residents in attendance to this evening's meeting to discuss the crosswalks recently installed on Dedham Street.

Chief Griffin reminded the Board that over a year ago, residents in the Oakley Road/Park Avenue area expressed concerns regarding pedestrian safety in the area of Caryl Park/Chickering School due to motor vehicles failing to yield to individuals in the crosswalks. Interested neighbors attended meetings he called together with Superintendent of Streets Craig Hughes and Town Engineer Bob Homer to consider various measures that could increase pedestrian safety, including raised crosswalks, the solution ultimately chosen. Once installed last year using Chapter 90 funds, these two crosswalks resulted in motorists slowing upon approach, making pedestrian crossings safer.

However, in recent months the Police Chief has received complaints about increased noise disturbances caused by larger vehicles, especially those with trailers in tow, as they pass over the raised roadway. Another meeting was called earlier this summer to discuss this unintended consequence. The Chief and Superintendent of Streets offered several alternatives to the crosswalks to the Board, such as hand- or sensor-operated flashing yellow lights or red lights when pedestrians are crossing the roadway (at an estimated cost of \$15,000 - \$100,000), larger or painted crosswalks with or without lights, simply removing the existing crosswalks, 4-hour daily police details, etc. The Chief emphasized that safety is paramount in deciding how to proceed.

Discussion ensued regarding feedback Chief Griffin and Mr. Hughes have received from communities that have employed some of these various measures, including Wellesley, Billerica and Chelmsford.

Board of Selectmen Open Session Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2010

Mr. Dawley recalled that prior to installation of the crosswalks the average speed on Dedham Street in that vicinity was 36 – 37 m.p.h. Chief Griffin's general sense was that speeds are lower now.

Mrs. Lisbon pointed out that there are two issues to be considered when discussing alternative solutions: pedestrian safety and car speed. She asked whether feathering out the ramps leading to and away from the crosswalks to make the incline more gradual might reduce noise. Mr. Hughes thought it could reduce the noise, but that motorist speeds would increase.

Mr. Dawley asked if the recent paving on Dedham Street decreased the height of the crosswalks, to which Mr. Hughes replied that it did not as the roadway was ground down prior to paving.

Dedham Street resident Roger Panek responded to Mrs. Lisbon's suggestion, saying that the incline at one of the crosswalks could only be extended on the side heading into town because his driveway is on the other side.

Oakley Road resident Giles Mosher told the Board that while the crosswalks initially had the positive impact of slowing vehicle speeds, he thought that they have gradually increased again, and that the noise produced by passing trucks and landscaping trailers is like a gunshot.

Susan Mosher told Mr. Dawley that while she participated in the original meetings leading to the crosswalk solution, had they known that this would generate so much noise, the Moshers would not have agreed to this option. She agreed with Mr. Melican that there is definitely a consensus amongst everyone that some measure needs to be taken to slow speeds and increase safety in that area.

Mr. Panek said that state statutes and MassDOT recommend against speed bumps on minor roadways, and that in recent years other communities have been taking measures to shield residents from noise produced by roadway traffic.

Mrs. Lisbon commented that if more Ch. 90 monies are used for an alternative measure, funds for other potential roadway projects will be reduced. She directed Mr. Hughes to investigate the various alternatives in more detail and ascertain how each would affect both car speed and pedestrian safety.

Mr. Panek told the Board that according to MassDOT, 30 m.p.h. speed limit signs could be posted in this thickly settled zone. Chief Griffin responded that MGL C.90 §18 dictates that the area would have to be speed zoned, and the Town would be required to adopt the 85th percentile of prevailing speeds, thus raising the speed limit. Therefore, he feels it is more prudent to use the thickly settled sign.

Mr. Hughes will research the alternatives in more depth and report his findings to the Board in the near future.

Stop Sign at Dedham & Centre Streets

Chief Griffin asked the Board to consider placement of a stop sign where cars exit Dedham Street in a northeasterly direction onto Centre Street directly across from the cemetery. Presently there is nothing in place to make vehicles come to a stop, which is compounded

by a blind spot for motorists quickly looking left. Three weeks ago a bicyclist who had the right of way was seriously injured at this location due to that blind spot.

Mr. Ramsay told Mrs. Lisbon that the Finance Committee on Roads does not offer its opinion on traffic matters involving public safety.

Mr. Hughes told Mr. Dawley that this would be a low profile stop sign.

Mr. Dawley moved to approve the installation of a stop sign at the intersection of Dedham Street northeasterly and Centre Street, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was voted unanimously.

Chief Griffin responded affirmatively to Mrs. Lisbon's question as to whether another accident had occurred within the last week at the intersection of Centre/Dedham/Haven Streets. Mrs. Lisbon said that the stop sign where Centre Street meets the Haven Street extension is so far back on Haven Street that vehicles need to stop a second time several feet further up to check traffic again before turning. Mr. Hughes told her that this stop sign, like a number of signs around town, was mounted on the nearest telephone pole, but that the pavement markings for this particular stop sign are located further up where vehicles stop to check traffic conditions and are highly visible.

The Chief told Mr. Melican that he has observed that the left signal turn onto Walpole Street from Centre Street seems to be working splendidly to alleviate the traffic cue at that location. Mr. Hughes told Mrs. Lisbon that motorists are becoming familiar with the commuter hours restrictions on the three Centre Street parking spaces at that intersection, and that it continues to be monitored for compliance.

Special Licenses (3)

Chief Griffin has reviewed the special licenses before the Board this evening and recommended approval of all three without restrictions.

Retirement of Police Chief Griffin

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Mrs. Lisbon thanked Chief Griffin for 16 years of service to the community. She said that the large turn-out this afternoon at the open house at the Protective Agencies building was indicative of the respect felt by the townspeople of Dover as well as the chiefs of police throughout Massachusetts who came to honor him.

Chief Griffin thanked the members of the current Board of Selectmen and their predecessors for giving him the opportunity to serve this community. During those 16 years he has made many wonderful associations with members of elected and appointed boards, citizens and town employees. The Chief said he hoped he has contributed to the quality of life in Dover.

Appointments

Mrs. Lisbon said that the Attorney General's office has approved Article 14 of the May 2010 Town Meeting, lengthening the terms of some of the boards and committees in the Town bylaws from 1 or 2 to 3 years. She added that appointments for those affected committees will be staggered as 1-, 2- or 3-year terms initially so that all members do not turn over at once during that cycle.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to appoint Amey Moot (to a 3-year term), Andy Thompson (to a 3-year term), Boynton Glidden (to a 2-year term), Catherine White (to a 1-year term), Christophe

Oliver (to a 2-year term), Justine Kent-Uritam (to a 3-year term), Rich Oasis (to a 1-year term) and Sierra Bright (to a 2-year term) on the Open Space Committee effective July 1, 2010, seconded by Mr. Melican; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Dawley moved to appoint Mrs. Lisbon as the Selectmen's liaison to the Open Space Committee, seconded by Mr. Melican; it was unanimously voted.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to appoint Carlton Sherman (to a 2-year term), John Sugden (to a 3-year term) and Ford Spalding (to a 1-year term) on the Board of Fire Engineers effective July 1, 2010, seconded by Mr. Dawley; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Dawley moved to appoint David MacTavish as a Bonded Constable for a period of 3 years effective July 1, 2010, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Dawley moved to appoint Mrs. Lisbon to the Capital Budget Committee for a period of 1 year effective July 1, 2010, seconded by Mr. Melican; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Dawley moved to appoint Jack London as Deputy Director of Emergency Management for a period of 3 years effective July 1, 2010, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Dawley moved to appoint David Heinlein and Kathy Weld as Fence Viewers for a period of 3 years effective July 1, 2010, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to appoint Mr. Melican to the Finance Committee on Roads for a period of 1 year effective July 1, 2010, seconded by Mr. Dawley; it was unanimously voted.

Mrs. Lisbon summarized the Long Range Planning Committee's (LRPC) activities during the past year and its plans for the year ahead. She said that a town-wide survey will be conducted by the LRPC in coordination with the Planning Board in anticipation of upcoming development of an updated Master Plan. The LRPC has gathered surveys for this purpose from other towns in order to refine Dover's survey, and has contacted all Dover boards and committees for areas of interest and topics to include in it.

Mr. Melican moved to appoint Mr. Dawley to the Long Range Planning Committee for a period of 1 year effective July 1, 2010, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Dawley moved to appoint Aaron Mick, Christopher VanHandorf, David Chaisson, Doug Comman, Edward Meau, Harold Grabert, Jonathan Cash, Nicole Bratcher, Richard Collamore, Robert Clouse, Ryan Menice, Steve Hagan, Todd Wilcox, and Warren Eagles [as Police Officers], and Charles Marscher, Mike Heffernan, and Patrick Murphy [as Special Patrolmen] for a period of 1 year effective July 1, 2010, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Dawley moved to appoint Elaine Yoke as Animal Control Officer for a period of 1 year effective July 1, 2010, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Appoint Acting Chief of Police

Mr. Melican announced that Jeffrey Farrell, a Detective Sergeant who has been a member of the Dover Police Department for over 40 years, will be appointed as Acting Chief of Police.

Mr. Dawley moved to appoint Jeffrey M. Farrell as Acting Chief of Police [effective August 28, 2010], seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Mrs. Lisbon remarked that Sgt. Farrell has dedicated his career to Dover and that the Board is fortunate to have someone so capable filling this temporary position. Mr. Dawley added that Sgt. Farrell has the necessary competence, and also the respect of his fellow officers.

Discuss Police Chief Search Committee

Mr. Melican stated that the Board will form a police chief search committee. Anyone who wishes to be considered should contact the Board of Selectmen within the next few days.

Mr. Melican moved to appoint Sgt. Farrell as Chief of Communications for a period of 1 year effective August 28, 2010, seconded by Mr. Dawley; it was unanimously voted.

Execute Center for the Development of Children License Agreement

Mr. Ramsay said that after the regional school system closed the Childhood Development Center (CDC) last June, a number of the parents have established a non-profit organization which proposes to operate that center essentially as it has been operated in the past. This group has put together the necessary articles of incorporation, insurance documents and passed all of the state inspections. They have agreed to rent that space for \$50,000 for the year starting after Labor Day under terms substantially the same as the CDC's terms.

Mr. Ramsay told Mr. Dawley that different regulations will govern as the program transitions from its school designation to that of a day care center, and enrollment has decreased.

The Board requested that the license agreement be amended to have the daycare's operations calendar mirror that of the public schools.

Mr. Dawley moved to accept the license agreement between the Town of Dover and the Center for the Development of Children, a non-profit organization, with an amendment requiring the licensee to operate its program in accordance with the Dover public school calendar, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Ramsay said that interested families should contact CDC Director Diana Workman at the center after August 31, 2010.

Execute State Primary Election Warrant

Mr. Dawley moved to approve the state primary election warrant, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Letter re: Open Space & Recreation Plan

Mr. Ramsay relayed a request from the Open Space Committee (OSC) that the Board submit a letter to the state approving the OSC's updates to the Open Space & Recreation Plan as required every 5 years.

Mr. Dawley moved to approve the letter, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Other Business:

Special Licenses (6)

Mr. Dawley moved to approve the special licenses, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted. [See attached licenses for the particulars of these events.]

Approve July 22, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Lisbon moved to approve the July 22, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Dawley; it was unanimously voted.

Adjournment

At 7:38 p.m., Mrs. Lisbon moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Dawley; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Melican reminded citizens that beginning in September, the Board of Selectmen will return to its biweekly meeting schedule.

DOVER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Carol Lisbon, Clerk