

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 31, 2011

At 6:31 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: None

PRESS: Derek McLean, D-S Press

Discuss Article 14: Dedham Street Sidewalk

Mr. Melican opened the Board's discussion of Article 14 on the 2011 Town Meeting warrant, a citizens' petition requesting installation of a sidewalk along a section of Dedham Street in the vicinity of Burnham Road. The proposed sidewalk has been studied by various boards and committees since last fall, including review of the plans and site visits to observe the traffic/safety conditions in this heavily traveled area which has prompted this request.

Mrs. Lisbon thanked Chip Spalding, the main proponent for this article, for the materials she provided to involved groups which facilitated an extensive, detailed report of findings and recommendation issued by the Planning Board. By way of background, Mrs. Lisbon explained that several years ago the Board of Selectmen asked the Planning Board to formulate specific criteria and procedural guidelines to be followed when considering any sidewalk request. The guidelines were subsequently accepted by the Selectmen as the umbrella philosophy which proposed sidewalks would need to meet. In Mrs. Lisbon's opinion, Mrs. Spalding has exercised due diligence, taking all of the proper steps during this review process and meeting all of the criteria outlined in the guidelines. Mrs. Lisbon suggested that the Board take a vote on this article, her only stipulation being to seek comment on the sidewalk plans from the traffic consultant who will be studying Dedham Street in the near future since the Planning Board's report includes some design issues.

Mr. Dawley and Mr. Melican echoed Mrs. Lisbon's thoughts on this matter. Mr. Dawley offered that he was initially skeptical of this request until the Planning Board's open hearing, during which several neighborhood mothers gave some compelling testimony on the dangerous conditions along that section of Dedham Street. He said that the underlying issue is speed, which needs to be addressed, especially along that section of Dedham Street. Mr. Melican added that the sight line is limited.

Mrs. Lisbon moved that the Board of Selectmen recommend approval of Article 14 at Town Meeting, seconded by Mr. Dawley; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Ramsay lauded the Superintendent of Streets for shepherding Mrs. Spalding throughout this process.

Review Article Motions

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Mrs. Lisbon observed that under Article 3, all elected board and committee members receive stipend amounts that have been fixed for a number of years except the Town Clerk, who is part of the Town's non-union personnel system.

Mr. Melican observed that Articles 1 – 9 are standard recurring articles, and that the Capital Budget Committee met with the involved Town departments regarding the capital items for which they are requesting funding under Article 5.

Mrs. Lisbon informed the Board that the Caryl House Preservation Plan Committee should receive a report from the architect assessing conditions at that historic house shortly, and after reviewing it the CHPPC will make a recommendation on preservation work to be funded. The \$100,000 currently in the Article 10 motion is a placeholder pending receipt of the preservation plan with cost estimates.

Mr. Ramsay told Mr. Melican that due to recent drafting of municipal relief legislation, the Town now must accept Article 11 at Town Meeting in order for uncashed checks to be returned to the Town's general fund.

Related to Article 12, re-laying out of the public way in the area of the Willow Street bridge reconstruction, Mrs. Lisbon directed Mrs. Pugatch to change the bridge's reopening date on the Town website in accordance with MassHighway's construction schedule.

The Selectmen were in accord in their support of Article 13, which would allow service of alcohol in the schools for fundraising events under the control of the Dover PTO. Mr. Dawley said that it makes sense for the PTO to benefit from additional monies, which are substantial, which have gone to entertainment venues in the past.

Mr. Dawley moved to recommend Article 13, changing the general bylaw of the Town inserting the word "schoolhouse", for the benefit of the Dover Parent-Teacher Organization, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Mrs. Lisbon told the Board that Article 15 will be dismissed since the Board of Selectmen did not receive a right of first refusal to purchase the Porter Trust land parcels as required by law.

Mr. Dawley said that Dover's share of the cost for repairs to the wastewater treatment plant (per DEP mandate) at the regional schools (Article 16) was \$284,648. Dover's counsel had reviewed and approved an intermunicipal agreement prepared by the region's bond counsel which both the Dover and Sherborn Boards of Selectmen had agreed to enter into in January allowing each Town to elect how to fund its portion of the assessment. When the Sherborn Selectmen subsequently declined to sign the agreement for reasons that have not been communicated to the Dover Selectmen, the regional school committee voted to bond at the regional level.

Mrs. Lisbon elaborated that these repairs must be made or the Town may be subject to fines of up to \$1,000 per day. She said that based on the Sherborn Selectmen's vote on March 24, 2011 not to enter into the intermunicipal agreement, at the regional school committee's next meeting that group voted to bond at the regional level. Mrs. Lisbon said that it made sense for Dover to fund its portion with Free Cash; however, since the full amount will instead be bonded, there will be an additional \$30,000 in administrative fees and five years' interest added to the total assessment.

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Mr. Ramsay told Mr. Dawley that if both towns do not approve Article 16, the region will not have authorization to borrow.

The Selectmen briefly commented on the remaining standard articles, and expressed their appreciation to the Warrant Committee and the Capital Budget Committee for all of their hard work throughout the fiscal year. Article assignments were made at this time.

Discuss Offer of Personal Property to the Town

Mr. Melican said that after a former resident offered to donate an outbuilding which was on the premises of the Hodgson House company at one time, the Historical Commission and Cemetery Commission voted not to pursue this offer due to the structure's limited historical value and its poor condition.

A letter of thanks will be sent by the Board of Selectmen to Mr. and Mrs. Franco declining their very kind offer.

Other Business:

Special Licenses (3)

Mr. Melican went over the details of 3 special license applications for upcoming functions to be held at Elm Bank. Two are from Pepper's Fine Foods Catering and the other is from Au Soleil Catering [see file in Selectmen's office for details].

Mr. Dawley moved to approve the special license for April 7, 2011, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Dawley moved to approve the special license for April 16, 2011, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Dawley moved to approve the special license for May 5, 2011, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Braking the Cycle Benefit Ride

The Logistics Coordinator for the Braking the Cycle HIV/AIDS benefit ride is once again seeking permission for approximately 130 bicyclists to pass through Dover on September 16, 2011 between 7:15 and 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Dawley moved to approve the Braking the Cycle bike ride on September 16, 2011, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Approve March 2, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Lisbon moved to approve the minutes of March 2, 2011 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Dawley; it was unanimously voted.

Citizens' Comments

Mrs. Lisbon announced that the Park & Recreation Department has a change of policy, initiated by the Recycling Committee, that will take effect on April 2, 2011 requiring visitors to carry in-carry out trash at Caryl Park, the Caryl fields and the Chickering fields. She said other towns in Massachusetts that have a CICO policy have seen a decrease in trash levels and an increase in recycling.

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Mrs. Lisbon said that the annual Town clean-up this past Saturday went very well. The Board thanks the sponsors of this event, Amy Wilcox and Erin Gorden, Recycling Committee Co-Chairs, as well as its other members; also Craig Hughes and the Highway Department for actively working with the Recycling Committee in this effort'; and all of Dover's citizens who enthusiastically participated. She added that this year the committee and Mr. Hughes worked with Casella to do a single-stream co-mingled recycling.

Adjournment

At 7:19 p.m., Mr. Dawley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

DOVER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Carol Lisbon, Clerk