

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Grange Hall
July 17, 2013
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: M. Walter; E. Lyman Absent: J. Blaschik

Also Present: D. Barr; T. Barr; B. Batchelder; L. Boccaccio; G. Bugbee; T. Comer; L. Conroy; S. Conroy; M. Cooley; X. Coulter; D. Cross; S. Daigle; C. Desautell; R. Falletti; M. Gable; B. Gelston; G. Guy; S. Guy; B. Kane; J. Kastrup; L. Lanzon (Patch); K. Lauria; State Senator A. Linares; B. Lunt; T. McCabe; C. Mansfield; T. Quinn; M. Rockwell; R. Swol; L. Tsois; J. Venditti; J. Ventres; W. Watkins; S. Wheeler; State Representative M. Ziobron.

1. First Selectman Walter called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Walter stated that he would like to amend the agenda to move the following item up for discussion next: 5.A. – Moodus Reservoir Herbicide Application.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda as amended.
Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of February 27, 2013, Regular Meeting of June 19, 2013 and Special Meeting of June 27, 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 27, 2013 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 19, 2013 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 27, 2013 as amended. Unanimous aye.

5.A. First Selectman's Report – Moodus Reservoir Herbicide Application: Mr. Walter introduced Mr. Bugbee who stated that he is with the UConn Agriculture Experiment Station and that he is a Specialist in Aquatic Lakes & Ponds. Mr. Bugbee advised that he had surveyed the Moodus Reservoir at the request of Mr. Walter and noted that there are lily pads and invasive plants in the lake. He explained several treatment options that are available.

Mr. Walter advised that he had invited State Representative Ziobron and Senator Linares to participate in a public discussion concerning the application of an herbicide to treat the lily pad infestation in a specific area of the Reservoir. He expressed his concern that not treating the lake would have a long-term negative impact and stated that \$30,000.00 has been allocated in the budget for education/treatment of the three lakes. He noted that \$5,000.00 was spent on the analysis of the Reservoir. Mr. Bugbee advised that the Lake Hayward and Bashan Lake Associations have maintained an aggressive treatment program for over ten years.

Mr. Walter introduced Mr. Venditti who explained that there is lily-pad infestation in front of his and several neighbors' properties that prevented them from enjoying the lake. He stated that they had

investigated legal ways to treat the lily-pads, secured the appropriate permits from the State and retained the services of Lycott Environmental to apply the treatment.

Mr. Ventres provided some background on the regulation of bodies of water in the State and advised that chemical treatment of aquatic weeds has been under the State's jurisdiction since the early 1980's. Mr. Walter stated that correspondence he received from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Pesticide Program Supervisor regarding this issue states, *"...towns do not have the authority to overturn state permits. The mode for town involvement in the process is through the inland wetland notification process. Local wetland permits may be issued but they should be consistent town wide, and focus on the plant issues, not on the herbicide, which is under state and federal jurisdiction"*.

Several of Mr. Venditti's neighbors spoke in support of the plan to treat the lily-pads in their area of the lake. Mr. Walter noted that he had walked the area with the President of Lycott Environmental who agreed to extend the deadline for his contract to apply the herbicide but noted that the latest date for effective treatment is September. State Representative Ziobron noted that the Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group is another organization that is concerned about the condition of the lake and introduced the group's coordinator, Mr. Guy.

Mr. Guy advised that the Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group will be holding a meeting on August 1st at the Moodus Sportsmen's Club and they are hoping for wider participation by property owners on the lake. He stated their goal is to develop a comprehensive, long-term, plan to control the lily-pads and invasive plants in the lake. Representative Ziobron suggested the August 1st meeting could offer a forum for public input on the herbicide treatment. Mr. Venditti's expressed concern about timing, noting that the application has to be done by September, and stated that he and his neighbors have already made a significant investment to have the lily-pads treated.

Ms. Batchelder and Mr. Rockwell spoke in opposition to the use of chemicals in the Moodus Reservoir and Mr. Rockwell stated that he has manually removed lily-pad plants from another lake. Mr. Walter stated the best time to have a discussion about the pros and cons of treatments for aquatic weeds is during the August meeting of the Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group. Mr. Walter and Representative Ziobron agreed to make every effort to get a representative from the State Department of Environmental Protection to attend that meeting.

Mr. Venditti stated that he would like to move forward with the application of the herbicide treatment by Lycott Environmental and asked if there is any reason why he could not do that. Mr. Walter confirmed that Mr. Venditti has the appropriate permits in place and that the Town does not have any authority to override them. In response to a question from Representative Ziobron, Mr. Venditti stated that he did not think the application would go forward on the originally scheduled date of July 25th. There was a brief discussion regarding a petition against the treatment and it was again noted that the Town has no jurisdiction over the issue.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets, dated July 12, 2013, from Mr. Michael Malm who was expressing frustration about a street name change.

5. First Selectmen's Report

A. Moodus Reservoir Herbicide Application: This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on in the above minutes.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Ms. Lisa Conroy introduced herself and stated that she resides at 10 West Lake Drive. She noted the shortage of baseball fields in Town and stated that she is interested in creating a committee to investigate the possibility of creating a recreation complex on the Harris open space property. Mr. Walter advised that the Middle School Conversion Committee has been reactivated and they will also be looking into recreational uses of that property. Mr. Ventres noted that one of the Town's stated goals in its Plan of Conservation & Development is to develop more ball-playing fields. He agreed that the Town needs more soccer and baseball fields and outlined some of the challenges the Town has in creating/maintaining ball fields.

Mr. Shawn Conroy referenced the Town's agricultural plans for the Harris property and expressed concern that such a use would be contrary to Mr. Harris' intention when he agreed to sell the property to the Town. He suggested putting a hold on the agricultural plan for the Harris property until a plan for recreational use could be finalized. Mr. Ventres provided some background on the purchase of the Harris property and stated that Mr. Harris had agreed to some agricultural use of the property. He also stated that the building plans for the Harris property will have to go before the Planning & Zoning Commission which would be the proper forum for the public to express their thoughts on whether or not the plans should proceed.

Ms. Lauria expressed concerns about using the old Middle School property for a recreational site and stated that she supports Mr. Conroy's suggestion to delay the agricultural development of the Harris property. Mr. Mansfield provided some additional information regarding the fields at the old Middle School and reported on the improvement efforts that have been put in place.

Mr. Tom Comer stated that he is Mr. Dan Harris' neighbor and that he had conferred with him regarding the Town's purchase of Mr. Harris' property. He noted that Mr. Harris had been very involved in athletics and had stipulated that the property should be used for athletic fields and hiking trails. Mr. Comer stated that Mr. Harris has expressed his displeasure about the current plans.

Ms. McCabe stated that many Town projects are initiated without developing a comprehensive, long-term plan and suggested doing a needs assessment through an electronic survey. She felt that such a survey can determine what the citizens want before moving forward and how to prioritize multi-year plans.

There was a general discussion concerning the skateboard park at the Middle School and the consequences of a lack of adult supervision at the site. Mr. Walter suggested that the issue of a planned recreational area would not be resolved at this meeting and stated that he would like to have Ms. Conroy be his point of contact regarding issues related to the development of a recreational area for the Town and Ms. McCabe for the development of a needs assessment survey.

Ms. Conway stated it was difficult for Town residents to keep abreast of all the potential projects the Town is working on and Mr. Walter agreed that the lack of regular media coverage of Town meetings did have a negative impact on communicating with citizens. He suggested citizens should review the agendas for Board and Commission meetings and if there were subjects they were concerned about, they should attend those meetings. He also encouraged participation in the Town's budget process to make sure their interests are being supported by the Town. Mr. Walter advised that the agricultural development on the Harris property would have to have final approval at a Planning & Zoning meeting. The grants and plans have already been approved by the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Town Meeting.

In response to a question from Mr. Watkins, Mr. Walter advised that there is a great deal of interest in the organic gardening program at the Harris property and that all the plots would have been leased out if the farm had opened this season.

7. Unfinished Business:

A. Tax and Business Incentive Program Application: There was no update on this agenda item.

B. Transfer Station Update/Transfer Station Committee: Public Works Administrator Lunt advised that she has researched the rebate for hauling and it can be adjusted to a per/tonnage amount. Mr. Walter reported that the Parady's insurance company had reimbursed the Town, in the amount of \$5,162.95 for the damage to the hopper.

8. New Business

A. Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects Resolution: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding the CT Department of Transportation's new Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects (MMAC). He explained the MMAC was developed so that a new Agreement will not have to be completed each time a municipality wants to do a construction project and that project specific information and monetary terms will be set forth in Project Authorization Letters (PAL) that are expected to take only a few days to execute. He advised that the Master Agreement is for a 10-year term.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, that the Honorable Mark B. Walter, First Selectmen, is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement entitled, "Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects". Unanimous aye.

B. Grant Acceptance – 2014 Historic Document Preservation: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets, dated June 28, 2013, from the Connecticut State Library Public Records Administrator advising that the Town's grant application for Historic Documents Preservation had been approved.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to recommend to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that a grant in the amount of \$4,000 is hereby accepted from the State of Connecticut, State Library, for the purpose of historic document preservation; and that Mark B. Walter, First Selectman, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality, a contract with the Connecticut Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant. Unanimous aye.

C. Bid Award – 2013 Rescue Truck: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Fire Chief Daigle, recommending the purchase of a rescue truck from C&S Specialty, Inc.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to award the bid for the Rescue Truck to C&S Specialty, Inc. in the amount of \$209,237.00 without trade.

Fire Chief Daigle provided some background on the bid process for this purchase. He noted that there was only one response to the original RFQ and, at the request of the Board of Selectmen; he located a second company, Danko, which submitted a bid for the rescue truck. He stated that, although Danko's bid was lower, C&S proposes to have the truck built by Spartan ERV whose products have more rugged construction and a better warranty. He advised that the warranty from Spartan includes bumper-to-bumper coverage for 2 years, chassis and structure coverage for 10 years, and paint coverage for 10 years while the Danko warranty provides bumper-to-bumper coverage for 1 year, chassis and structure coverage for 7 years, and paint coverage for 5 years.

There was a general discussion regarding the pros and cons of keeping or trading in the old rescue truck and Mr. Walter stated that he felt that decision could be made at a later date.

Unanimous aye.

D. Gift Acceptance – Senior Club Exercise Equipment: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets, dated June 12, 2013, from the Senior Club noting that they purchased a treadmill and recumbent cycle for the Senior Center and have presented these items as a gift to the Town.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept a gift of a treadmill and recumbent cycle for the Senior Center and send acceptance of said gift to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

E. Board/Commission Changes (BOFC, CONS, COA): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets, dated July 11, 2013, from the Board of Fire Commissioners, recommending a removal and an appointment to their board.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to remove Daniel Barry from the Board of Fire Commissioners due to the lack of participation. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Michael Cooley to fill a vacancy with a term to expire January 1, 2014 as a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to two emails from Rob Smith, the new Chairman of the Conservation Commission, recommending changes to the Commission. Mr. Walter noted that Mr. Smith was informed that Cynthia Matthews' term does not expire until June 30, 2014 and, in order to remove her from the Commission, a letter of resignation would be required. He also noted that Claire Maeder's term has expired, she has chosen not to be reappointed and a letter will be sent to her thanking her for her time on the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Paul Sienna and Marilyn Gleeson to fill two vacancies with terms to expire June 30, 2014 on the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to two emails from Jo Golec, Chairman of the Commission on Aging, recommending changes to the Commission. He noted that Ron Brennan's term expired, he chose not to be reappointed and a letter will be sent to him thanking him for his time on the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to reappoint James O'Brien and Jo Golec for three-year terms to expire June 30, 2016 as regular members and Mary Ellen Klinck for a one-year term to expire June 30, 2014 as an alternate member on the Commission on Aging. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Victoria Riley-Pach for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2016 as a regular member and Suzanne Bostelman for a one-year term to expire June 30, 2014 as an alternate member on the Commission on Aging. Unanimous aye.

E. Volunteer of the Month (July): There were no nominations for a Volunteer of the Month at this meeting.

F. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds for consideration at this meeting.

9. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: There was no additional discussion.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Emmett Lyman, Secretary

Tape: 670A
670B
671A