

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JANUARY 9, 2007

MEMORIAL BUILDING

6:45 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

6:45 p.m. Non-Public Session per RSA 91:A3 Personnel: Present: George McCusker, and Bob Anderson. Neal Huntoon, recused himself from the non-public session, and joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

George moved to enter into non-public session at 6:45 p.m, seconded by Bob and approved. At 7:15 p.m. the Board voted to seal the non-public minutes and enter into public session.

Minutes of December 12, December 28, 2006, and January 2, 2007:

Old Business: George inquired as to whether anyone had looked at hooking up the electricity at the old highway garage. This has not been done yet.

Bob moved to accept the December 12, 2006 minutes as written, seconded by George and unanimously approved.

Bob moved to accept the December 28, 2006 minutes as written, seconded by George and unanimously approved.

A correction was made to page 3m paragraph 4 Bob moved to increase the Fire Chief's wages to \$3,000, *correct to read: "seconded by George and unanimously approved,"* of the January 2, 2007 minutes.

Bob moved to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by George and unanimously approved.

Cynthia Hayes, as a representative from Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT) attended the meeting to present a questionnaire to the Board. ASLPT is gathering information to help them create a land summit meeting sometime in the fall. They have compiled a series of questions regarding issues related to land conservation, growth and development. The following is a list of the questions asked and a summation of the Board's responses:

1. *What are Springfield's challenges regarding growth and development?*
Zoning and planning issues continue. Issues regarding development on Class VI Roads.
2. *What land conservation challenges does Springfield face?*
Inventory of wetlands which the Conservation Commission is working on.

Closing of Class VI roads.

3. *What growth, development and land conservation issues would you like to discuss with other towns or learn more about?*

How they are handling Class VI Roads. How other towns are handling situations regarding soil erosion and other areas of impact.

4. *What land conservation, growth, and development successes has Springfield experienced?*

Establishment of the Forest Conservation and Wetlands Overlay Districts.
Active Conservation Commission

What are the key factors that made these possible?

Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board, and Selectmen

5. *Has Springfield identified its land conservation goals and priorities?*

The goals have been addressed in the Master Plan.

6. *What barriers does Springfield face in accomplishing its land conservation goals and priorities?*

Being careful not to put too many restrictions on private land ownership.

7. *What regional land conservation issues concern Springfield?*

The Gile Forest

8. *What consideration does Springfield give to the connection between land conservation and historic preservation?*

Important to the town to preserve the local historic landmarks, such as Royal Arch, Fowler Town and Perley Town.

9. *What land conservation topics would help Springfield use land conservation more effectively in directing growth and development?*

Issues in dealing with Class VI Roads.

10. *Are there other topics regarding land conservation, growth and development that would be helpful for Springfield's decision makers and leaders.*

Dealing with impact of growth and development without restricting an individual's right to use their property. Regionally how to plan what the needs of the town are instead of forcing through increased regulations.

Communications Committee:

Donna Ruel and John Trachy met with the Board to review suggested warrant articles recommended by the Communications Committee.

1. ... to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 for conducting a survey to determine preferred means of communicating town business.

The Committee has been reviewing items that should be implemented and how the town wants them to proceed.

2. ...to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2200.00 for printing and mailing town reports to all households with registered voters.

Neal indicated that he does not agree with mailing town reports. John reported that six towns in the area mail their reports. Sunapee sends theirs postal patron in the Sunapee and Georges Mills Post Offices. John discussed with the Board the possibility of petitioning for warrant articles that are not supported by the Selectmen.

3....to raise and appropriate \$2,500.00 for the purpose of maintaining and improving the town website.

George stated that when the website was created it was made very clear that this was to be a volunteer position. The Selectmen were up front in indicating that there was no money or personnel available for this. John discussed with the Board dealing with the possibility that the volunteer is no longer able to keep up the maintenance. The Communications Committee is looking at the best way to get information to people. If people are going to take the time to look at the website the information needs to be kept current. For long-term planning the town needs to know what functions they want in the website. This is why they feel a survey is important. They have estimated that it would take someone approximately 3 hours per week for maintenance of the website. It may be possible to incorporate that position into some other position.

4. ...to continue the Communications Committee until Town Meeting 2008 or longer if desired....

John stated that the Committee needs to be able to find out what the people want in order to recommend how best to proceed. It is unlikely that there is a need for this to be a permanent committee. The Town could vote to continue the Committee for a longer period of time if they chose.

5. ...to authorize the insertion of information directly relating to municipal business with property tax bills per RSA 76:11.

John stated that they proposed inserting information with mailings such as the tax bills or inventory forms that are all ready being mailed to reduce costs.

The Board was in agreement that they were not in favor of inserting anything in with tax bills. Bob stated that the DRA does not like to see information included with tax bills. Legal advice from the Local Government Center does not recommend it. Even if a warrant article were to pass, the Tax Collector has the authority over the tax bills.

After discussion, Bob moved to recommend # 1, # 3, and # 4 for the 2007 warrant, seconded by Neal. Two members voted in favor, one opposed.

Conservation Commission:

John reviewed a recommendation from the Conservation Commission to appoint Cynthia Bruss as a full member of the Conservation Commission following Boris Bushueff's resignation. They also recommended Todd Richardson as Alternate. Bob moved to recommend Cynthia Bruss as member of Conservation Commission and Todd Richardson as Alternate to the Commission, seconded by Neal. Two members voted in favor, one opposed.

Carbon Coalition: Nancy Edgar Howard met with the Board to present petitioned warrant article to see if the town will go on record in support of effective actions by the President and Congress to address the issue of climate change. Nancy reviewed the carbon coalition information and global warming issues facing the country. She is willing to stand up and explain the article at town meeting.

Tim Lee – Tim Lee met with the Board. Bob explained that Tim had been advised by the Selectmen to seek a Special Exception from the Zoning Board regarding his proposal to subdivide 5 acres for his brother. He does not have 200 feet of frontage for each lot. The ZBA advised that this was not a zoning issue, therefore a hearing which Tim had applied and paid for was not held. Bob moved to refund Tim's fees to him, seconded by Neal and unanimously approved.

Tim stated that the ZBA suggested he go back to review his proposal with the Planning Board. As he has discussed with the Board before, he wishes to subdivide 5 acres for his brother. The remaining land will stay with Tim's existing house. He cannot meet the frontage requirements for each lot, and is asking for a waiver from the Selectmen for a 50' ROW to be used as a shared driveway. Bob moved to grant a waiver for a 50' ROW for a shared driveway to enter from existing frontage, subject to no further subdivision of the property. The motion was seconded by Neal and unanimously approved. Tim was advised to have a consultation with the Planning Board at their next meeting.

Fire Department: Dallas met with the Board. The purchase price for a pressure washer to be set up as a hose tester is \$925.00.

Dallas requested a \$345.00 increase in his 2007 proposed budget for reference material. The State incident reporting system has been upgraded so the department needs to upgrade their software. If the department does not do instant incident reporting, then the

Fire Department would not qualify for further grant monies. The Board granted his request.

Health Insurance: Bob stated that he has done further review of the Matthew Thornton Blue and Bluechoice Health Insurance Policies. He stated that the Board made a good choice in staying with Bluechoice. The difference in cost to the Town is not worth the difference in coverage to employees.

Highway Department: The estimate for reclamation on Stoney Brook Road has not been received yet.

Skateboard Park: Bob discussed with the Board whether they were going to support appropriating money through a warrant article to finish Phase I of the skateboard park. He feels the town has an obligation to finish the project and there currently are not enough funds remaining for completion. Fund raising should continue for further phases of the project. Neal moved to create a warrant article to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for completion of Phase I of the park project. The motion was seconded by George and unanimously approved.

The Board discussed the possibility of trading in some of the fencing that was bought for the tennis area toward what is needed for this area.

The Board discussed having Brad put up some barrier to keep people from driving on the field. A motion was made by Neal, seconded by George and unanimously approved install a barrier.

Building Permits: The Board reviewed their concerns with mobile homes being moved onto properties without septic approvals or proper permits. Neal discussed the penalty for non-compliance. The Town needs to come up with a policy to deal with stricter enforcement issues, such as removing the illegal mobile home until all permits, planning or zoning issues are complied with. Bob stated that the Board should discuss their options with legal counsel. The Board discussed giving a time limit for compliance, fining, impounding etc.

The Board also discussed review of the building permit fee structure.

Low Salt Area: The Board reviewed a letter from the Conservation Commission regarding a designation of Route 114 for a low-salt area from Oak Hill to the Springfield-New London Town Line. The Board agreed to support the Commissions Request.

Tax Collector: The Board unanimously approved the reappointment of Cynthia Anderson as Tax Collector. A contract was signed.

The Board voted to adjourn at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant