

Board of Selectmen's Meeting

7:00 p.m., Monday, May 9, 2016

Julian B. Thayer Auditorium, Coginchaug Regional High School

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order and roll call

Laura Francis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led with the pledge of allegiance. John Szewczyk and Steve Levy present.

2. Approval of the agenda

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS, SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE

3. Public comments

Joe Pasquale noted that the current laptop that is being used by Beth Moncata was in need of replacement and asked that funds be allotted for the purchase of a new one. L. Francis responded that her desktop is up for replacement in the fy16-17 budget and requested that it be a laptop docking station so it can be shared with Beth Moncata.

Norm Jason asked when the draft Plan of Conservation and Development would be available to the public. L. Francis stated it would be on the town website May 10<sup>th</sup> and copies would be available on May 11<sup>th</sup> in the Town Clerks office for a \$15.00 fee.

4. Planning and Zoning Commission submission of amended Plan of Conservation and Development (PoCD)

Frank DeFelice addressed the Board, and presented the draft of the town's Plan of Conservation and Development for their consideration, as required under the Connecticut General Statutes. He stated that this was the product of many hours and much effort on the part of each member of the commission, with assistance from staff at the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments, Town Planner Geoff Colegrove, and Beth Moncata. Along with seven (7) workshops held by the commission a variety of methods were offered to garner public input; 2014 Visioning Session, 2016 Visioning Charrette, on-line survey, Planning and Zoning outreach to Boards, Committees, and Commissions, and verbal, paper and electronic means for submitting public comment. He noted that a great deal has changed during the past twelve (12) years; new committees, state regulations, and challenges in Durham. He stated that the commission has endeavored to be more inclusive; adding two (2) new chapters on agriculture and energy and for the first time, adding a dedicated chapter to the protection of one of the town's most important assets, its historic district. He finished by stating that the commission understood that the planning function of its job is not an event to be conducted once per decade, so following adoption the commission intends to update this living document on a more frequent schedule. He welcomed the comments of the Board of Selectmen.

L. Francis thanked the committee for a job well done. She asked the Selectmen to take time to review the document and submit comments, but not so long as to delay the process. J. Szewczyk questioned the process order. F. DeFelice stated that the amended PoCD will be submitted, as required, to the Board of Selectmen and the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments by May 9th for review and approval and published on the town website and Town Clerks office by May 10th. A public hearing date has been set for July 13<sup>th</sup> where comments will be heard and at that time the Planning and Zoning Commission may adopt it. J. Szewczyk questioned if the Board of Selectmen needed to approve the document. F. DeFelice stated that the Board can provide comments and an endorsement; if the Board does not endorse, then a 2/3 vote of all of the members of the commission will be needed to approve the PoCD. J. Szewczyk asked if the commission voted on the draft. F. DeFelice stated yes, it was unanimous to submit to the Board of Selectmen.

The Board agreed that comments should be available for review at their meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

5. Town Green Revitalization Project Committee; Recommendations for Use of Durham Town Green

Tina Gossner requested the following guidelines established by the Town Green Revitalization Project Committee in order to protect the trees and turf.

- No adhering any signage to trees. Nothing may be tied to the trees.
- No trimming of trees without consent of Durham Tree Warden.
- Vehicular traffic on the town green is only allowed with permission of the First Selectman. Service vehicles are exempted.
- No vehicular traffic on the root system of trees. This area encompasses all of the soil under the drip line of the trees. As the trees mature, the drip line area will increase creating larger areas that need to be protected.
- Prior to large events of over 500 people, the trees should be protected by encircling them with fencing which should extend out around the drip line of the tree.
- Groups using the town green are asked to monitor the behavior of participants to ensure that the trees and the turf are not damaged.

L. Francis explained that the committee is also looking for fencing to protect the trees during events and they also voted to allow for some curbing; they will start with the two ends of the town green and triangle and are still developing this idea. The committee has received an American the Beautiful Grant and have set dates when new trees will be purchased. J. Szewczyk thanked George Eames for his donations.

MOTION BY STEVE LEVY, SECONDED BY LAURA FRANCIS TO APPROVE THE GUIDELINES FOR USE OF DURHAM TOWN GREEN AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE

6. LTA: No Parking on Maple Avenue

The public works department requested permission to install five (5) no parking signs on Maple Avenue. During the winter the hill is utilized for sled riding and people are parking on the side of the road and on the corner. Also, during the farmer's market season this area is also used as a parking area. Due to the width of the road and 90 degree low visibility corner, it cannot handle

cars parked on the side of the road with the flow of daily traffic. The Selectmen reviewed a map presented that showed where signage would be placed. S. Levy asked if 150 feet between signs on the north side was too much and suggested the addition of one more sign. He also felt that the sign should state “no parking either side”. L. Francis stated she would review this with John Jenkins. J. Szewczyk suggested the addition of another sign at Maple Avenue and Townhouse Road.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS, SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK TO APPROVE THE REQUEST WITH THE ADDITION OF A SIGN ON THE SOUTH SIDE AT TOWNHOUSE ROAD. ALL AYE

7. Approval of meeting minutes of April 25, 2016

Tabled

8. Selectmen’s comments

None

9. Old/New business

- a. Comments received from residents regarding the Eversource Energy petition for pole replacement were sent to the Siting Council on May 5, 2016.
- b. A meeting was held on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, with the Study Committee for Historic Property designation, Brad Schide and Mary Dunn from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation in reference to the Thomas Lyman House,
- c. Durham has been designated a HEARTSafe Community by the State of CT, Department of Public Health. Thank you to the Durham Volunteer Ambulance Corp.
- d. EMS Plan; draft was submitted for review although it is not complete.
- e. Water Main extension update; 100% design has been submitted.
- f. Korn School update; the sub-committee will resume meeting.
- g. The Road Foreman position was posted internally on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> for a period of one week as required.
- h. Middlesex Paramedics update; L. Francis will be participating in a meeting with RiverCOG this Thursday where the draft contract will be discussed. She will share this with the Selectmen at the next meeting. J. Szewczyk questioned a Board of Finance meeting held after the Board of Selectmen approved the Call to Annual Budget Meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>, stating they moved funds allocated for the paramedic’s line from contingency to a new line. L. Francis stated that the Board of Finance originally budgeted for this expense in the fy16-17 operating account and then moved it into the reserve account. At a Special Board of Finance meeting of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, L. Francis attended with new information concerning the removal of bundled billing for towns that did not participate in the new program. She explained that this would be a challenge for Medicare patients. At that time the Board of Finance put the funds back into the operating account. She assured J. Szewczyk that the budget approved on April 25<sup>th</sup> was the exact budget that was being voted on at this meeting. J. Szewczyk questioned again how the Board of Finance could change budget items after the Call was approved by the Board of Selectmen. He also questioned why other items that were on the same Board of Finance agenda were presented after the Call was approved. L. Francis responded that no additional funds were requested.

- i. CT DOT will be paving Route 77, May 23 – June 2, weather dependent.

10. Public comments

George Eames III encouraged the Board of Selectmen to read Connecticut State Statutes, Section 8-23. He made reference to a Town Times article where L. Francis and Frank DeFelice stated that the Plan of Conservation and Development would be on track for June 30<sup>th</sup> and questioned how they could be on track with a public hearing date of July 13. L. Francis stated that both she and the Planning & Zoning Commission were aware that there will be a period of non-compliance and was not responsible for what was printed in the newspaper.

Joe Pasquale noted that the unanimous vote by the Planning and Zoning Commission was to just send the draft PoCD to the Board of Selectmen.

11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Moncata