

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

December 17, 2007

7:30 P.M. – MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING – HANOVER NH

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Brian Walsh. Present were: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Katherine Connolly, Vice Chairman; Peter Christie, Selectman; Bill Baschnagel, Selectman; Athos Rassias, Selectman and Julia Griffin, Town Manager.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chairman Walsh asked for any comments from the public. There were no comments from the public.

2. PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION ON A CLASS VI HIGHWAY TO CLEAR TREE DEBRIS ON OLD SPENCER ROAD.

Ms. Griffin reviewed the proposal for the viewing public. She noted that Old Spencer Road connects Old Lyme Road to Dogford Road. Ms. Griffin reported that there was significant damage from a microburst that struck the area in April and the proposal is to move many of the downed trees to make it more passable for walking traffic. No changes to the road itself are proposed. The Trails Committee came up with the proposal to remove the trees and brush and due to the fact that an objection was brought forth for this project, a public hearing was scheduled.

Chairman Walsh read a letter that was received by Margaret Nutt Mitchell who voiced her concern over maintenance of the Class VI road and recommended that the application be denied. Chairman Walsh announced that Bill Nutt would like to have a face-to-face meeting with the Conservation Commission prior to a decision being made by the Selectmen.

Chairman Walsh pointed out that Helen LaCoss submitted a letter to the Select Board. Ms. LaCoss was present and stated that the questions she raised in her letter were irrelevant as long as the Town was not going to upgrade the roadway.

Chairman Walsh advised that he has given some thought to the issue and it is his sense that the Board could approve this action and that by approving it, the status of the road would remain as a Class VI road and not a Class V road. He feels that the Conservation Commission and the Trails Committee could meet with the Nutt's, John O'Brien and Vicky Smith and come to the Board with a plan which is acceptable to the landowners in order to make it passable and not maintained as a Class V road. He feels that this is a

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more appropriate way to move and he would like to see similar issues in the Town resolved in this matter.

Selectman Baschnagel noted that he is comfortable with the proposal as it is only proposing to make it passable for skiers and walkers. Vice Chairman Connolly noted that no trees will be cut down; this will be clearing the area that was closed due to felled trees from a storm.

Chairman Walsh would like something in writing when the plan is worked out.

Ms. LaCoss asked how much of a trail is going to be available and she is questioning whether the Town is permitted or required to keep an open passage way on each right of way on a Class VI highway.

Selectman Baschnagel advised that he didn't feel that the Town was required to keep an open passage way on a Class VI road. Ms. Griffin noted that the goal is to restore the passage way to no greater than an 8' width. Ms. LaCoss felt that if a trail was being made out of it, the Town would be required to deal with the landowner.

Doug McIlroy arrived and Selectman Baschnagel advised him of the recommendation to meet with the Nutt's, John O'Brien and Vicki Smith to come up with an acceptable plan for all parties.

Hugh Mellert noted that he has led hikes through Slade Brook and Old Spencer Road is well used. People ski on that trail and having a wide area to ski is much better than a small narrow area. There are rock walls on both sides and it is used as a trail but historically, it's an old highway road and it has that look and that appeal. The historical appeal is lost if it is not cleared well enough.

Chairman Walsh noted that this is something that passes over private land and he feels that there is common ground where the Trails Committee and the landowners can come to an agreement. The road is not meant to be changed to be traveled by vehicles. He would like a design that has the minimum work required to fix the mess caused by last spring's storm.

Chairman Walsh closed the public hearing.

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED that the Board proceed as discussed. Ms. Griffin will arrange a meeting between the landowners, the Trails Committee and the Town and that a plan be prepared to document the work that will be done on the Old Spencer Road. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR TO HAVE MS. GRIFFIN ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN THE LANDOWNERS, THE TRAILS COMMITTEE AND THE TOWN AND THAT A PLAN BE PREPARED TO DOCUMENT THE WORK THAT WILL BE DONE ON OLD SPENCER ROAD.

3. HANOVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTATION REGARDING PROPOSED FARMER'S MARKET.

Janet Rebman, Executive Director, made a presentation before the Board (with the assistance of Doug Wise) regarding a proposed Farmer's Market. The Hanover Chamber of Commerce would be looking for input from the Select Board. The goal for a Farmer's Market in Hanover is to promote locally grown food.

Ms. Rebman stated that the idea is driven by encouraging traffic coming into the downtown area which will increase exposure of the downtown businesses area and to bring the Dartmouth community into the Town of Hanover. If this goes forward, they will be looking to hire a professional market manager which will handle various tasks such as overseeing the set-up, operation and shut down of the market in addition to many other tasks that would benefit the program.

The proposal is to have the Farmer's Market at the top level of the Hanover Parking Garage. Ms. Rebman reviewed a map with the Board to elaborate on the proposal. The proposal is to have the market from June to September, every Wednesday from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. There are currently about 16 vendors interested in participating in a local farmer's market.

Ms. Rebman noted that they have received a lot of support from the Norwich Farmer's Market and this will not compete with their hours or their operation.

Selectman Baschnagel noted that the PTB observed the presentation and there were concerns early on but the timing actually works well since people are leaving the garage at that time. Vice Chairman Connolly wondered if it was possible to empty the garage. Lt. O'Neill felt that this would be possible with signage in the areas affected notifying people that they would need to remove their vehicles by 1:30. Selectman Baschnagel noted that there were previous discussions about having people working on Lebanon Street to assist with directing people that wish to use the garage.

Chairman Walsh didn't want this to become a crafts market instead of a Farmer's Market and wants to ensure that this is a local produce market with just a handful of other vendors. Ms. Rebman would like to keep the produce at 65% of the Market or more and to keep the crafts at a minimum.

Chairman Walsh would like to see this start next year and would like to have a report in October as to who participated in the market.

Ms. Griffin noted that formal approval isn't needed from the Board but they are looking for the Board's blessing and wanted to answer any questions the Board may have. The Select Board gave their informal approval of the project.

Chairman Walsh suggested having the Farmer's Market start the Wednesday after Dartmouth commencement and end the Wednesday before Dartmouth resumes classes.

4. BANNER REQUESTS:

- Upper Valley Presents
- Lions Club/Auto Show

Chairman Walsh invited Bruce Genereaux to speak to the Board about the banner request for Upper Valley Presents.

Bruce Genereaux, Executive Director, advised that Upper Valley Presents is a new Non-Profit which brings performers into the area. The banner would be used to promote the Open Air Summer Family Concert series and they would like to take advantage of the fact that they are non-profit and the chance to promote this with a banner hanging over Main Street in Hanover.

Vice Chairman Connolly expressed concern over the frequency that the banners would need to be put up and then taken down. Selectman Baschnagel had concerns about promoting events that take place in other towns. Selectman Christie noted that the Special Olympics have banners and they take place in Lyme. Ms. Griffin noted that the July request is a little tricky because there are other requests that usually come in for that particular time. There was general discussion regarding the events that usually come into play during the summertime.

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE BANNER REQUEST OF UPPER VALLEY PRESENTS PROVIDED THAT THE DATES ARE WORKED OUT WITH MS. GRIFFIN.

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE BANNER REQUEST OF THE HANOVER LION'S CLUB.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- December 3, 2007

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED to accept the Minutes of December 3, 2007 with minor changes. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2007 WITH MINOR CHANGES.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

Ms. Griffin noted that they now know the CPI and it is worse than she feared.

Ms. Griffin advised that they are finished with the internal budget review and now she is waiting to hear from Ms. McClain as to how much will need to be cut to reach the tax rate target.

Ms. Griffin noted that she participated in a drill to test the Emergency Operations Center/Regional Hazards Plan with the scenario of a meningitis outbreak. It appeared to go very well.

7. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.

Peter Christie

Selectman Christie advised that the Dresden Finance Committee met to look at the SAU 70 budget for the next coming year and they support that budget. The cost and the rate of increase have been reviewed and also the need to correlate that with metrics for measuring quality. Over the past 10 years, the core budget has gone up twice the CPI rate. The costs have been increasing at greater rates than increases in income and expenses. This appears to be an unsustainable trend. The criterion for the upcoming school budget is no more than 2.75% over last year's budget which will be tough. There will be some educational material to inform the public and encourage them to become involved.

Selectman Christie reported that the Hanover Finance Committee did meet and supported the Select Board's approach to the budget. Options were discussed for financing the WWTP upgrades and the Committee was supportive of that as well.

Kate Connolly

Vice Chairman Connolly reported that the Planning Board met on December 4th and approved the development on Curtiss Road. The original plan was to have a U shape facing Lyme Road but the plan was revised and would now face Curtiss Road.

Vice Chairman Connolly advised that the Planning Board had another meeting on December 11th where they reviewed proposed zoning amendments. There is another meeting scheduled for tomorrow night with discussions focusing on a Rural Overlay District. There will be a meeting in January at Trumbull Hall in Etna for the benefit of rural property owners to see the restrictions of the plan.

Bill Baschnagel

Selectman Baschnagel reported that the Conservation Commission met and will be reaching out to the Lebanon Conservation Commission to discuss the RT 120 Corridor Study to understand aspects from both sides of the project.

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Selectman Baschnagel noted that the Parking & Transportation Board (PTB) met and had a quick discussion of the budget and viewed the presentation regarding the proposed Farmer's Market.

Selectman Baschnagel attended the Upper Valley Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) meeting and part of the discussion focused on review of the Charter for the TAC with a focus on how they support the Regional Planning Commission (RPC). There was some interesting discussion regarding the TAC and although they typically make recommendations to the 10 year plan, it is really the RPC that has the authority to make the recommendations so there were on-going discussions about this with an effort to sort everything out.

Selectman Baschnagel reported that the Planning Board reviewed two Dartmouth projects with regard to the addition of a stairway to a fraternity for safety purposes and to make it handicap accessible. The renovation to New Hampshire Hall will be starting and will go on for about 6 to 8 months where they will replace the old fashioned fire escapes.

Athos Rassias

The Howe Library Board met last Thursday and they were presented with the Select Board's goals for the budget. There was a free form discussion about what happens in the library between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. when there is a huge surge of after school activities; a lot of students arrive to do things from computer work, socializing, studying, etc. The influx of middle school and young high school students and the impact of other users of the library were discussed. There were a few proposals which will show up in later discussions ranging from a monitor to ensure the kids are doing what they are supposed to and then later on developing programs and getting kids involved in library related activities.

Vice Chairman Connolly asked whether there had been a monitor at the library in the past. Ms. Griffin noted it has been an idea that appeared on the wish list but fell victim to budget cuts.

Selectman Christie was impressed with the fun atmosphere during the time when the kids are there. He could find a quiet place to read if he wanted to.

Brian Walsh

Chairman Walsh missed the Recreation Board meeting and had nothing else to report.

8. OTHER BUSINESS.

Ms. Griffin asked that the Board re-appoint Carolyn Murray as the Deputy Health Officer and re-appoint Ed Chamberlain to the Conservation Commission.

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Chairman Walsh MOVED to re-appoint Carolyn Murray as the Deputy Health Officer and re-appoint Ed Chamberlain to the Conservation Commission. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-APPOINT CAROLYN MURRAY AS THE DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER AND RE-APPOINT ED CHAMBERLAIN TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

9. ADJOURNMENT.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to adjourn. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN AT 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Athos Rassias, Secretary

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.

SUMMARY

1. **Selectman Baschnagel MOVED that the Board proceed as discussed. Ms. Griffin will arrange a meeting between the landowners, the Trails Committee and the Town and that a plan be prepared to document the work that will be done on the Old Spencer Road. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR TO HAVE MS. GRIFFIN ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN THE LANDOWNERS, THE TRAILS COMMITTEE AND THE TOWN AND THAT A PLAN BE PREPARED TO DOCUMENT THE WORK THAT WILL BE DONE ON OLD SPENCER ROAD.

2. **THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE BANNER REQUEST OF UPPER VALLEY PRESENTS PROVIDED THAT THE DATES ARE WORKED OUT WITH MS. GRIFFIN.**
3. **THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO THE BANNER REQUEST OF THE HANOVER LION'S CLUB.**
4. **Selectman Baschnagel MOVED to accept the Minutes of December 3, 2007 with minor changes. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2007 WITH MINOR CHANGES.

5. **Chairman Walsh MOVED to re-appoint Carolyn Murray as the Deputy Health Officer and re-appoint Ed Chamberlain to the Conservation Commission. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-APPOINT CAROLYN MURRAY AS THE DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER AND RE-APPOINT ED CHAMBERLAIN TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

6. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to adjourn. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN AT 8:45 P.M.