

Selectmen Present: Gary Vanderweil, Chairman
Edwin Carr
Ralph Dormitzer
Paul Carlson

Selectman Absent: Frederick Koed

Others Present: William R. Griffin, Town Manager
Jennifer Oram, Recording Secretary

Chairman Gary Vanderweil called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Town Manager’s Report

Town Manager, William Griffin, informed the Board and the community that at the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen on March 10th, the focus will be entirely on articles for the Town Meeting.

Selectmen Comment Period

Selectmen Edwin Carr stated that the joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Advisory Committee and School Committee went very well.

Article 17 – Photovoltaic Array System at Paul Pratt Memorial Library – Selectmen Ralph Dormitzer moved to indefinitely postpone article 17. Selectmen Carr seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous (4-0).

Paula Becker – Staging Area on Jerusalem Road – Ms. Paula Becker, of 185 Jerusalem Road, addressed the Board. Ms. Becker reviewed the history of the staging area for the Board, as well as the results of the Appeal that she and neighbor, Eileen Craven (6 Nichols Road), brought to the Zoning Board of Appeals. This appeal was ultimately denied by the ZBA. Ms. Becker feels that her due process rights were violated and would like the staging area relocated out of her neighborhood. She is also upset that the Town is not in possession of an un-redacted version of the contract between the land owners, where the staging area is located, and the contractor. Mr. Griffin stated that the Town does in fact now have a signed copy of the contract; however the amount to be paid to the land owner is still blacked out. Ms. Becker also asked the Board if they were aware that the Inspector General is looking to see if any procurement laws were broken. Selectman Carlson stated that the Board is aware of this and that Town Counsel is still reviewing the claim. Sean Cuning, Chairman of the Sewer Commission, addressed the Board. He stated that the Commission could relocate the area should they want to, however they feel it is in the best place for the project. He stated that the Commission is willing to work with the neighbors to make the area more attractive. **Selectman Dormitzer made a motion to ask the Sewer Commission to present other location options for the Staging Area and to present those options to the Selectmen in writing. Chairman Vanderweil stated that he felt that other locations had already been considered and that this site was chosen as it was the best one. Selectman Carr seconded the motion, and the vote was 3-1, Chairman Vanderweil opposed.**

Town Meeting Article Review – Article #5 - Capital Improvements Budget- Selectman Dormitzer moved to recommend article #5 to appropriate and transfer \$50,000 for the West Corner Culvert Replacement Design. Selectman Carlson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous (4-0).

Article #9 Capital Stabilization Fund – Selectman Dormitzer moved to recommend the creation of the fund and the appropriation of \$250,000 to the fund. Selectman Carr seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Article #22 Treat’s Pond Restoration Project – Selectman Dormitzer recused himself and moved to a seat in the audience. He will speak as a citizen. Chairman Vanderweil reviewed the status of the article. He reminded the Board and the community that the Board had already voted to unanimously recommend this article. In fact, they took it from being a Citizen’s Petition to a Selectmen’s Article. He stated that the reason this is on the agenda this evening is to tie up two loose ends 1) to assign a money amount to the article and 2) to identify the parcels that would be affected. He stated that he saw that people representing both sides were present and that he had heard only one new argument. He stated that the Board had received a letter from the people of Jacob’s Meadow stating that they did not feel that article was justified because they feel they are more of a priority for Town money. Mr. Joe Coggins of 57 Elm Street and an abutter to Jacob’s Meadow area addressed the Board. Mr. Coggins stated the meadow’s flooding issues should be the priority for funds from the Town. He feels the flooding issues coupled with the wastewater treatment plant overflows, puts them at the top of the list.

Chairman Vanderweil moved that article 22 designate the affected lots and designate an amount of money not to exceed \$300,000. Selectman Carlson seconded the motion. The Board then opened it up for discussion. The following spoke against the project, Mr. Peter Whittemore of 47 Elm Court, Attorney Richard Henderson representing the Ralston family of 62 Whitehead Rd. and the Grayken family of 100 White Head Road, Mr. Jay Graham of 22 Parker Avenue and Ms. Mindy Evans of 36 Sohler Street. Mr. Dave Larson of the Army Corp of Engineers then addressed the Board and community and extensively reviewed the various options for the project and how and why the Corp ended up focusing on the Whitehead Road option. Mr. Michael Sceery of 95 Atlantic Ave then spoke and stated that he feels it is very important to keep the Town’s access to the pipe at Sandy Cove as it really makes a difference in the area. Ms. Karen Quigley of 27 Clay Spring Road then addressed the Board and stated that she does feel there is a serious flooding issue on Atlantic Ave, however she feels significant concerns with both marsh restoration and flooding. She feels that the best option would be to extend the existing pipe at Sandy Cove and then wait and see if the sewer project has any affect on the condition of Treat’s Pond. Amory Houghton of 91 Atlantic Avenue addressed the Board and stated that he and his wife also have a flooding issue, just like people in other parts of Town. He also reviewed the funding for the project and where various monies would be coming from. He stated that the money would not be there forever and that Congressman Delehunt could decide to take the Federal funds away from the Town and use them somewhere else. Marty Nee of 109 Atlantic Ave, speaking as a citizen (not as Chairman of the Stormwater Management Committee) stated that he feels that all of the flooding issues in the Town are related, but that the Town should take advantage of this opportunity. Ralph Dormitzer of 111 Atlantic Ave and also speaking as a private citizen, reviewed where the many issues with the stormwater and flooding are in the area, as well as where the stormwater comes from and the path it follows during and after storms. He added that the pond is dying and that something needs to be done. **Chairman Vanderweil then reviewed where the motion was and then moved to incorporate the affected lots and to incorporate the Town’s financial contribution of up to \$300,000 pending receipt of all other necessary funding from all other sources. Selectman Carlson seconded the motion and vote was unanimous (3-0, Selectman Dormitzer recused and Selectman Koed absent**

Selectman Carr moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Carlson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 10:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Vanderweil
Chairman