

Select Board meeting minutes  
October 5, 2011

Present: Select Board - Norman Russell, Doug Field, Paulette Leukhardt  
Interim Executive Administrator - Mary Fitz-Gibbon

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

#### Event Permission

Present: Nan Parati

Elmer's owner Nan Parati informed the Select Board that she would like to extend her usual Fall Festival Beer Garden space to include a few tables to be placed on the second floor front porch of Elmer's Store. After some discussion a motion was made and seconded and approved that the Select Board would support the use contingent upon the approval of the space for such use by the Building Inspector. The motion passed. Nan agreed that she would seek the Building Inspector's approval before moving forward with the plan.

#### Lilliput Road

Present: David Newell, Sheila Dennis, Tom Henry and Lilliput Road abutters. Tom Poissant, Highway Superintendent

David Newell presented the concerns of many Lilliput Road abutters regarding the long-term problems with Lilliput Road wash-outs. He stated that the condition of the dirt road has meant that road material often washes onto abutting properties creating clean-up and use-of-property issues. David said that he and Highway Superintendent Tom Poissant have talked about the issue over a number of years and that, while he understands the budget limitations involved, the severe wash-out deposits on private property as a result of the recent storm underscore the need for something to be done.

Abutters Sheila Dennis and Tom Henry shared with the Select Board pictures of their property showing large areas covered with gravel and fill run-off from the recent storm.

Tom Poissant agreed that the problems with Lilliput Road are a serious concern. He addressed the need to prioritize among many roads that need work, including some that present safety concerns, while working within a limited budget. Tom said that he will attempt to get approval from FEMA to address Lilliput Road as a mitigation project.

#### Sewer Easement and Agreement

Present: Grace Lesure

A final version of a multi-party agreement to extend sewer services to an area off Buckland Road that includes the Field Trustees property was presented to the Select Board for its signature following a long and detailed review process by Town Council and all interested parties. After a motion to sign was made and seconded, and the motion passed, the Board signed the agreement which was then notarized by Grace Lesure, Notary Public.

#### Expanding Solar Programs in Massachusetts

Present: McKensie Clark, Environment Massachusetts

McKensie Clark informed the Board of an effort by Environment Massachusetts to increase the net-metering cap for solar power projects in Massachusetts. She explained the mechanism by

which large and small, private and public solar projects benefit by the ability to sell energy back to the grid. She requested that the Select Board sign on to a letter of support for a bill now in the State Legislature that will increase the net-metering cap. A motion was made and seconded to send the letter of support. The motion passed.

#### Ashfield Wastewater Treatment Plant and Fall Festival

Present: Todd Olanyk, Sewer Commissioner

Todd Olanyk informed the Board of concerns about the use of public bathrooms during Fall Festival and the effect that such use historically has on the sewer plant operations. In prior years the Fall Festival weekend flows typically double the rate of influent to the plant. With the recent storm and subsequent high water table which increases the chance of infiltration, the plant operator and commissioners are concerned that use of town rest rooms by so many visitors to Fall Festival carries the risk of overwhelming the plant processing. Mary Fitz-Gibbon reported that, apprised of the increased concern earlier in the week, Sandy Lilly, Chair of the Fall Festival Committee had ordered a number of additional port-o-pots to be placed at various locations around town. Nan Parati said that she was making additional signs directing people to the free-standing facilities as well as signs for the bathrooms asking that they be used by exhibitors only. Doug Field said that he would follow-up with plant operator Betty Nichols after the first day of the Festival to insure that flows were remaining manageable.

#### Waste Management

Norman Russell suggested that the Board begin the process of reaching out to other towns in the area and collecting information on what the Town's future waste management options will be once the Northampton landfill closes. He said he has also sent an email to the town's Green Committee about exploring whether it is possible to increase recycling beyond what the town already does.

#### Personnel Board

Present: Ricki Carroll, member, Personnel Board

Ricki Carroll informed the Board that the Personnel Board is recommending two candidates for final interviews for the position of Assistant Municipal Clerk. She said that one of the candidates is currently employed in Town Hall for about ten hours a week.

Norm Russell said that, as the AMC position is a part-time (19 hour), non-benefitted position, the Select Board will be happy to interview the candidate who is currently employed by the town for some hours if that applicant is willing to resign from the first position in order to take the second. Ricki Carroll said that she will contact that candidate to see if that is what the candidate would like to do. Depending on the outcome of that conversation, the Select Board will conduct a final interview with either one or both of the recommended candidates at next week's meeting.

#### Liaison Reports

Doug Field reported that the town will stay in the declared State-of-Emergency for now. Most area towns are continuing in a State-of-Emergency for now as well.

Doug Field reported that a fire truck is down for repairs after failing inspection.

#### Mail

Norm Russell read a letter from a resident of Spruce Corner Road expressing strong support for the town continuing to be a member of the Shelburne Falls Senior Center.

After a motion was made, seconded and passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.