

## **SELECT BOARD MEETING - October 13, 2010**

**Present: Dave DeHerdt, Doug Field, Norm Russell**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

Minutes: Minutes of the October 6, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

### **Appointments:**

Street Light Committee : Present : Rickie Carroll

When asked for a status report, Rickie reported that the group has yet to meet. She asked for an extension until November 10 for a report from the group.

### **Old Business:**

Fall Festival: Russell began the discussion by stating that thanks should go to Sandra Lilly for her work in organizing the event, which was a great success. Field said judging from the Fire Department's food sales there was a good, hungry crowd.

According to Field, the Health inspector, who was new to the town, inspected everything. Russell said there had been a concern that sliced apple pie might not be able to be sold. This turned out not to be true; however the last minute nature of the inspection and the evasive responses to questions did create concern. [This was the first year that health inspections were performed by FRCOG.]

Another concern involved permitting of the larger tents. Hilltop Tents is supplier of most of the larger tents. Once the tents are up, the building inspector checks the installation, as a matter of concern for safety. There is a fee for the permit (\$30), which the town can wave.

Field reported that the tents were inspected on Friday. Russell how it was that the inspector "was inspired" to perform the inspection on Friday. Some questions were asked by persons present about what constituted a size that required a permit, and who sets the fee (town or state). Someone suggested a checklist for persons planning to use a tent might be a useful thing, to be sure nothing was overlooked. Someone else wondered if tents used for the Farmers' Market were required to be inspected. It was thought they were not considered large tents.

There was a motor vehicle accident caused when a small boy dashed out into the side of a slowly moving car. A doctor in the crowd came forward. The child was taken to the hospital, but suffered no injuries.

The Police Chief has some suggestions regarding the setback of tents and displays to keep people from overflowing into the highway.

Someone wondered if it might be possible to arrange a detour around Main Street for people just passing through. Sending vehicles over Creamery Road and Steady Lane was

suggested as a detour route. Perhaps there could be parking at both ends of Main Street and a shuttle arrangement. Maybe use the senior van. All things to consider for a future event.

DeHerdt said Chief Cotton and a chief from another department watched the traffic flow. They observed that with no officers in the crosswalks traffic moved slowly and steadily. It was thought that officers at crosswalks might actually have created a problem. Drivers might be watching the officers and not paying as much attention to the movement of people.

In Cotton's opinion there was enough police coverage of the festival. Cotton himself put in a lot of hours during the event. He has advised that he wishes to donate his time. DeHerdt said the Town is appreciative of his work and that of his officers. All in all this was a successful event.

Betty Stewart wanted to put in a good word for the health agent. As she put it, this type of event is a nightmare – no restaurant would be allowed to operate like this. She mentioned the way Gray's Sugarhouse is spread over three rooms.

### **Liaison Reports:**

Police Department Computers are up and running. Walls have been repaired. New officer Wilder will be trained to take over some of the paperwork which the chief now handles.

Fire Department no report

Highway Department The department is working in the upper park.

Emergency Manager A memo was received earlier in the day that a nor'easter is headed this way. That has since been reduced to just showers.

Town Office Russell said a high school student at Mohawk (and Sanderson Academy) has expressed an interest in assisting with the computers.

FRCOG The Executive Director would like to be put on the agenda to discuss services and costs.

Police Search Committee present: Suzanne Corbett

Corbett wasn't prepared to make a formal report, but she did say the committee was finalizing "what we can do" and "what you are going to do" (meaning the SB). Part of the group is preparing questions that will go out to the candidates, asking for additional information.

### **New Business:**

Town Common trees Present: Tom McCrumm

Tom said he was present to raise the issue of dead and dying trees on the Town Common. The Tree Warden has looked at them and feels a lot of the problem is stress caused by lack of rain. McCrumm agreed that this was part of the problem, but, in his opinion some of them won't survive. If they don't recover in the spring they should be removed. He wanted to alert the Board to the problem so plans could be made to take appropriate action replacing with decent size trees and taking care of them.

St John's event Word has been received that St. John's Church is planning an event for Saturday(ordinating of a new priest) and would like police coverage for the crosswalk, as the Farmers' Market will be in progress at the same time.

Delinquent Dog Owners The list has been whittled down to 5 or 6 that Warren Fitzpatrick would like to take to court. The major concern is to verify that the dogs have had rabies shots. DeHerdt said he hates to take town citizens to court. He would like to call the persons involved first. Russell suggested notification by certified mail as the next step.

Tax Exempt Properties DeHerdt has received a list of the tax exempt properties in town. Since many of these properties enjoy town services, he would like to have a discussion about some support from the holders of these properties in lieu of taxes. Betty Stewart, said the Water District has tried this. DeHerdt said payment in lieu of taxes is a way of supporting the community. He also said he hopes people to feel welcome to talk about issues such as this at Board meetings.

## **MAIL**

Wind siting committee Letters have been received from more interested persons. Persons interested are: Walter Cudnohufsky, Andrew Wells, Jack Anderson-Adams, Duncan Colter, and Ron Coler. DeHerdt has spoken to Les Garvin on the Conservation Commission to see if that board might have someone well versed in land issues willing to be on this committee.

Suzanne Corbett wanted to express her appreciation for the congenial feeling in town office these days. She spent the day doing some work there and found everyone seeming to be working together.

CoA task force Members of the task force sent a letter of resignation, now that their task has been completed. A motion was made, seconded, and voted to accept their resignation with thanks and appreciation for their hard work. Members were: Helen Boyden, Jancie Howes, and Lynde Gougeon.

Mass collector/Treasurer A letter has been received verifying renewal of the Certification of Laura Blakesley until 2015. This will be placed in her personal file.

VFIS Newsletter Fire & Police Insurance newsletter.

Chapter 61 - Notice of a conference call re: the right of first refusal.

## **Public Forum**

Sewer easement - Betty Stewart spoke about the letter received by the Board at a recent meeting regarding an easement through town property to accommodate extension of a sewer line to several properties off Buckland Road. She said the Town needs to grant an easement. The Board said it had not received a request for one yet.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Phelps