

APPROVED 4.21.15

TOWN OF WENHAM

Board of Selectmen
Meeting of April 7, 2015
Town Hall, 138 Main Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30 A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, APRIL 7, 2015 at 7 PM in the Selectmen Meeting Room.

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF THE AGENDA

With a quorum present, Mr. Wilhelm called the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting to order at 7 PM

Selectmen present: Jack Wilhelm, Chair; Catherine Harrison, Vice Chair

Not Present: Ken Whitaker, Clerk

Also Present: Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary

Also present but not participating: Selectman Candidate John Clemenzi

Public Information

National Grid / Verizon Pole Relocation Request

Gordon College Letter of Request (road use)

Wenham Museum One-Day Liquor License Request

Boulder Lane Report 2015

Travel Policy - Draft

Minutes - March 3, 2015; March 10, 2015 Open/ES

PUBLIC INPUT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Town meeting is April 11, 2015 at 1 PM at the Bessie Buker School; prior to the meeting, the WVIS is serving a hot lunch at noon

Town Elections are Thursday April 16, 2015 at Town Hall; the Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm; Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's office through April 15, 2015

~~There were no Chairman's announcements.~~

NEW BUSINESS

One-Day Liquor License

Kristin Noon, Executive Director of the Wenham Museum was present to request a one –day Liquor License to serve alcohol on the premises during the Museum's Spring Fundraiser on May 8, 2015 from 7 PM to 10:30 PM. Ms. Noon described the fundraising event to be held during the special exhibit of *Love, Shirley Temple*. The Catering Company, Bonne Bouche Caterers will be serving beer, wine and liquor; the company is providing licensed, TIP certified bar tenders. All applications and fees have been submitted.

Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, the BOS approve a one-day Liquor License to the Wenham Museum for a fundraiser being held on May 8, 2015 from 7:30 PM to 10PM. The motion carried unanimously.

National Grid: Request for new pole location

Ms. Harrison summarized and explained the joint petition from National Grid and Verizon requesting to locate (4) poles, wires and fixtures:

- o 289 Main Street
- o 197 Cherry Street
- o 192 Cherry Street
- o Larch Row at Larch Lane (45-53 Larch Row)

WBOS 4.7.15

APPROVED 4.21.15

Ms. Harrison reviewed that some poles require stabilization, which in the past has typically done with a guide wire attached to a tree. The current practice is changing from attaching the wire to a tree, to installing a "stub pole" next to the tree and attaching the wire.

The petitioners have requested a minimum of a week's notice to attend the hearing. National Grid provided a list of abutters to the Town. A hearing will be scheduled, advertised, and notices to the abutters sent; available dates will be considered and the hearing date set at a future meeting. It was suggested the hearing be held in May 2015.

Gordon College – 9th Annual Triathlon – Saturday, May 2, 2015

The BOS acknowledged a request from Gordon College to use Hull Street, Grapevine Road, & Route 22 for the 9th Annual Triathlon (bicycle) loop. The police have reviewed and approved the request.

Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, the BOS grant permission to Gordon College to pass over Hull Street, Route 22 (Essex Street) & Grapevine Road, in Wenham, during the 9th Annual Triathlon on May 2, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

Review and Discussion on Travel Policy

A draft Travel Reimbursement Policy was before the Board for consideration.

The purpose of the policy is to establish guidelines for payment and reimbursement of expenses to employees relating to pre-approved in-state and out-of-state conferences and meetings.

Mr. Wilhelm explained that currently there is no policy guiding the reimbursement to employees for travel expenses. This policy can be amended in the future.

Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, the BOS accept the "Town of Wenham Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy" as written (dated as approved on April 7, 2015). The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Regarding Conservation Commission

The Board acknowledged a letter from Conservation Commissioner Stuart Gray, dated March 19, 2015, informing the Town that he was no longer a resident of Wenham, and requesting the Town allow him to remain on the Conservation Commission "until (we) complete all of the business currently before the commission." Mr. Gray's appointed term was through June 30, 2015.

Mr. Wilhelm reported that Ms. Cademartori confirmed it had been critical for Mr. Gray to previously remain on the Commission to maintain quorum citing other members were either out of Town or had to recuse themselves from specific applications. This situation has changed, and Mr. Gray's attendance is no longer necessary to have a quorum. The Selectmen agreed with Mr. Gray no longer living in Wenham and no longer needed to have a quorum, that he not remain on the Commission. Mr. Gray was recognized for his years of service on the Conservation Commission. The BOS are now seeking Letters of Interest from residents wanting to serve on the Conservation Commission.

Review & Discuss: Boulder Lane Feasibility Study - Draft

Mr. Wilhelm gave an update regarding the Boulder Lane property explaining that Wenham, along with two other private property owners commissioned a land use study be done by Mass Development and the BSE Group. This is a comprehensive report of the 70 + acre parcel, which is made up of 29 acres in the Town of Wenham and 42 acres in the City of Beverly.

The Report identifies the Boulder Lane property as challenging topographically, however, developable. The economical recommended use was not commercial as expected, but rather as a mixed use with residential being the primary use and up to 30% commercial development. It was noted Gordon College is interested in retail i.e. pizza restaurant, coffee shop and may be willing to work in conjunction with the project. The City of Beverly is not interested in any residential development of the site.

The Town of Wenham, along with two private property owners, collectively has enough property to develop. The three entities were advised to merge the properties and create what is equivalent to a corporation. All parties have this report and agreed to meet again to further discuss the options which may include elderly housing, multi-family, and affordable / rental units.

WBOS 4.7.15

APPROVED 4.21.15

It was noted that the land in Wenham is zoned single family commercial and would need to be changed if the town were to go forward; this would put before the town meeting for a vote.

Mr. Wilhelm opined the Report was well worth the money and well done.

Ms. Harrison added that a development located on Boulder Lane has the potential to fill the need for affordable housing and rental properties in Wenham.

This report is available to the public; potential developers were encouraged to review the report.

MINUTES - March 3, 2015; March 10, 2015 Open/ES

- Ms. Harrison moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 3, 2105 and it was unanimous to do so.
- Ms. Harrison moved to approve March 10, 2105 open meeting minutes and it was unanimous to do so.
- Ms. Harrison moved to approve and hold, not for release, the March 10, 2015 Executive Session meeting minutes and it was unanimous to do so.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Police Chief Thomas Perkins- Contract Negotiations

VOTE: Ms. Harrison moved the BOS enter into Executive Session at 7:45 PM according to MGL Chapter 30A Sec 21 for the purpose of Exemption (2). To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and to include Police Chief Tom Perkins and return to open session to take public votes, if any, and to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The BOS returned to open session at 8:30 PM.

Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, to offer Tom Perkins, Police Chief of the Town of Wenham, a three-year contract as voted in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Harrison moved to adjourn at 8:33 PM and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley

4.9.15
