

Jan 19, 2010

Wenham Board of Selectmen
Meeting of Tuesday, January 12, 2010 ~ 7 PM
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

With a quorum present, Mr. Swartz opened the meeting at 7:01 PM.

Selectmen Present: Larry Swartz, Chair; Harriet Davis, Vice Chair; John Clemenzi, Secretary

Also Present: Jeff Chelgren, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF THE AGENDA

STATEMENTS OR QUESTIONS BY PUBLIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Tree Drop Off Program

Ms. Davis announced that the Christmas Tree recycling program is extended through January 16th. Wenham residents can bring Christmas Trees to the West Wenham Playground, Pingree Park, or The Iron Rail DPW garage where the trees will be ground and reused by the town as mulch.

Community Preservation Act (CPA)

Mr. Swartz announced the deadline for submitting CPA applications is February 1, 2010. Applicants will make their presentation to the Community Preservation Committee on February 3rd & 17th, and the Committee will decide on March 3rd which applications, if any, to recommend for approval at the May 1 Annual Town Meeting.

PRESENTATION BY GUESTS OR STAFF

OLD BUSINESS

November 12, 2009 Special Town Meeting – Take action to close meeting

Present: Town Moderator, Paul Weaver

Town Clerk (Acting), Elizabeth Carey

Mr. Weaver declared the November 12, 2009, Special Town Meeting back in session. He stated that since the only open business of the meeting was the ballot vote override for the Cutler School boiler debt exclusion and since this action had been completed that the STM could now be dissolved.

Mr. Swartz made a motion to dissolve the November 12, 2009, Special Town Meeting. Ms. Davis seconded, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Liquor License Legislative Petition Discussion

Present: Emma Roberts, The Exchange, Wenham Tea House; Barbara Locke, Wenham Village Improvement Society (WVIS)

Mr. Chelgren reported that the second petition to the legislature requesting that the current Liquor License held by the Exchange allowing serving alcohol with meals be amended to add to this license a package store license was denied. The Governor's office denied the request as it was determined these are two separate licenses. Discussion followed concerning a plan for the Exchange to give up the License for serving alcohol in the restaurant and to apply for a package store license which would allow the sale of wine both for off premise consumption and to take into the restaurant.

Mr. Weaver observed that there are set back requirements for a package store from Churches and Schools. He recommended a review of where a package store could be established in Wenham, noting a lot of businesses are now grandfathered.

This will be on the next meeting agenda presently posted for January 19, 2009.

Permitting Office Fee Review

Mr. Swartz reviewed that at a previous meeting the Town Administrator presented proposals for town permit fee increases. Seven other local town fees were provided for comparison. This information is on the town web site and comments can be made through January 26th

The Selectmen will take action at their February 2, 2010 meeting.

Sign Policy Review

Present: Stacey Metternick

The Board reviewed the draft policy for posting signs in the town and specifically for the car barn lot

Mr. Chelgren reviewed that historically the permitting office authorized signs on the car barn lot. The Administrator's office has recently taken over the process. Mr. Chelgren reviewed the proposed policy including the application process, administration and enforcement.

Ms. Davis suggested that the policy incorporate the entire town rather than just the Car Barn Lot and that signs be limited in size and number approved.

No action was taken, and this was deferred to the next meeting.

The Selectmen requested additional information on how other towns manage the posting of signs and a list of those organizations/businesses that regularly put up signs.

At the request of the BOS, Ms. Metternick researched the collective opinion from past sign applicants regarding the size, number of signs, duration. She recommended the Selectmen approve a general policy and allow for individual consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORTS

Town Administrator

Reminded the BOS that the MMA Conference will be held on January 22, and 23rd.

He passed out an updated list of issues put on the back burner by the demands of the budget season.

Mr. Swartz reported that possibility of sharing an Assessor with Ipswich no longer exists as the Town of Ipswich has moved forward to find an Assessor and are no longer considering a shared service.

Mr. Clemenzi reported that contrary to previous information, the Boy Scouts will continue to deliver Town Reports and the warrant books again this spring for which the BOS was very appreciative. He added that the Scouts are seeking additional community service and are considering involvement in the Rail Trail.

MINUTES – January 5, 2010

Ms. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of January 5, 2010 as edited. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Davis made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes of January 5, 2010. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Clemenzi announced that Richard Byron Kimble of Wenham has become an Eagle Scout.

Ms. Davis announced that Ian Michael McGowan of Wenham is becoming an Eagle Scout on January 21 as a member of the Hamilton Scout Troop.

8:15 PM Mr. Clemenzi made a motion to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.