Town of Needham
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for November 23, 2010
Needham Public Services Administration Building

6:45 p.m. Informal Meeting with Citizens: No Activity.

7:00 p.m. Call to Order:

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman John A. Bulian. Those present were Daniel P. Matthews, Denise C. Garlick, Gerald A. Wasserman, Maurice P. Handel, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick, and Recording Secretary Mary Hunt.

Mr. Bulian introduced the following new appointees to Needham committees: Eilene Kleiman, COA, John Lin, Cultural Council, Daniel Dain, Golf Course Advisory Committee, Robert Boder, Historical Commission, Miles Shore, MD, Historical Commission, Charles Sahagian, Human Rights Committee, Michael Centola, Human Rights Committee, Jeffrey MacMann, Traffic Management Advisory Committee, Donna Mullin, Traffic Management Advisory Committee.

Motion by Ms. Garlick that the Board of Selectmen vote to accept the appointments as presented.
Second: Mr. Handel. Unanimously approved 5-0.

7:00 p.m. Meeting with State Senator:

Mr. Bulian invited State Senator Richard Ross to join the Board for a discussion on issues concerning the Town of Needham.

Senator Ross congratulated State representative-elect Garlick on her recent election and said he looks forward to working with her.

Senator Ross stated the purpose of his visit with the Board is to re-cement relationships since his election to the State Senate. He said Needham is a Town that excites him due to his personal historical roots. Mr. Bulian thanked Senator Ross for his attendance at the kick-off of the year-long tercentennial celebration on the weekend of November 5th. Senator Ross acknowledged the many challenges ahead. He said it is important to resolve political ramifications of some things that have been going on for a long time, re-gain public trust, and build relationships so issues of greater importance can be addressed.

Mr. Bulian told Senator Ross about the senior center project and asked for help in securing any additional funding that may be available at the State level.

Mr. Matthews thanked the Senator for his visit and encouraged him to keep in contact with Town Manager Fitzpatrick and Superintendent Gutekanst for issues relating to local matters.

Mr. Wasserman reiterated the importance of local aid, and asked Senator Ross to support an evaluation and upgrade of the foundation budget. Senator Ross said he would support it.

Ms. Garlick commented she looks forward to working with Senator Ross and feels there will be a great synergy between both of them to work on issues important to the community.

7:10 p.m. Consent Agenda and Appointments:

Motion by Mr. Wasserman that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Consent Agenda and Appointments as presented.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Council on Aging	Eilene Kleiman (6/30/2013)
2. Cultural Council	John (Jianhong) Lin (6/30/2013)
3. Golf Course Advisory Committee	Daniel Dain (6/30/2012)
4. Historical Commission	Robert Boder (6/30/2013)
	Miles Shore, M.D. (6/30/2013)
5. Human Rights Committee	Charles Sahagian (6/30/2013)
	Michael Centola (6/30/2013)
6. Traffic Management Advisory Committee	Jeffrey MacMann (6/30/2013)
	Donna Mullin (6/30/2013)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve request from Liz O'Connell for St. Joseph Parish and the Schools of Needham to use Avery Square for Santa's Village on Saturday, December 18, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The "Second Annual SJP Christmas Express" event features an enchanting train ride on the MBTA line and also includes having snack and souvenir booths, Santa's Village characters and carolers.
2. Accept donation of a 250th Anniversary Town of Needham ashtray from Edward and Valeria Frederick, former Needham residents.
3. Accept the following donations received to the Needham Cultural Council to help support New Year's Needham 2011: Roche Bros.- $3,000.00; BID Needham- $1,000.00; Briarwood Healthcare- $1,000.00; Needham Exchange Club- $1,000.00; Condon Realty- $500.00;Dedham Savings- $500.00; Rotary Club- $250.00; Needham Bank- $250.00; Middlesex Bank-$250.00
4. Approve a one day special Wines & Malt Beverages License from John Comando of Neponset Winery, LLC to hold a wine tasting on Wednesday, December 1, 2010, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at Perennial Designs, 117 Chapel Street, Needham.
5. Accept donation of $200.00 made to the Needham Health Department's Gift of Warmth Fund from Mr. and Mrs. Sagafi, 16 Surrey Lane, Needham.
6. Water & Sewer Abatement Order 1114.
7. Approve an amendment to the Employment Agreement between the Town of Needham and the Town Manager dated November 25, 2008, as amended on October 13, 2009.

8. Approve minutes from November 8, 2010 and November 10, 2010.

Second: Mr. Handel. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Mr. Bulian announced the meeting is being tape recorded, per the open meeting law.

7:15 p.m. Green Committee Designation:
Michael Greis, Green Needham Collaborative, appeared before the Board to outline potential benefits of Green Community Designation for the Town of Needham. He stated becoming "green" is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do for the Town's long term fiscal and sustainability, and it saves everyone money. Mr. Greis presented a Powerpoint presentation. He addressed many of the benefits of becoming a green community, particularly the impact on healthcare costs and decreased mortality. Mr. Greis spoke about the five requirements for becoming a green community, and focused on the requirement to minimize the life cycle costs of owning and operating buildings. He discussed the "stretch code" and how people can save money. Mr. Greis stated he has met with the Planning Board and it is very interested and ready to move forward. Mr. Greis provided a Map of Designated Green Communities as of May 21, 2010 and stated 35 Massachusetts municipalities have already been designated green communities. Mr. Greis asked the Board of Selectmen to consider Green Community Designation this year so the Town can start to receive some of the benefits of becoming a green community.

Mr. Bulian asked for Board comment.

Mr. Wasserman stated he supports to the concept due to environmental concerns and national defense reasons. Mr. Wasserman stated that from an economic standpoint, there could always be another Middle East crisis and supply could get worse. He feels the community and the nation are so dependent on the Middle East, that the Town should consider becoming green for the benefit of Needham. He stated this is the right time to move forward. Mr. Wasserman questioned work previously done and whether it could be utilized in the baseline to show progress. Mr. Greis said there is flexibility to set the year for the energy baseline but felt 2009 would be the baseline year.

Mr. Handel is very supportive of the Green Community Designation as a goal, and suggests a public discussion with people who would be affected by the stretch code and people on the municipal side to make sure there is full knowledge of the consequences and process.

Mr. Matthews commented reducing consumption of oil and the effect people have on global warming are key in dealing with energy conservation issues. He asked how many of the participating communities received the estimated grant of $150,000 - $200,000. Mr. Greis stated a population based formula is used to determine how much money to give to communities. Mr. Matthews stated he would like further discussion with stakeholders about possible problems in adopting the program.

Mr. Bulian asked Town Manager Fitzpatrick what are the next steps. Ms. Fitzpatrick suggested a working group of stakeholders should meet to discuss the stretch code and find out what is happening in other communities who have already adopted the program.

7:50 p.m. Sign Notice of Traffic Regulation – Hoover Road:
Richard P. Merson, DPW Director appeared before the Board to discuss a recommendation from the Traffic Advisory Committee. He stated residents of the Tower Avenue/Paul Revere Road/Hoover neighborhood requested that Hoover Road be established as a stop street at Tower Avenue.

Motion by Mr. Wasserman that the Board vote to approve and sign the Notice of Traffic Regulation Permit #SS10-11-23 for Hoover Road, Stopped Street eastbound at Tower Avenue.
Second: Mr. Handel. Unanimously approved 5-0.

7:50 p.m. Town Manager:
Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick appeared before the Board to discuss 5 items:

1. <u>RTS Rate Setting</u>:
Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager and David Davison, Assistant Town Manager/Finance presented the Board with three revised rate structure options for 2011. She stated each option allows for the purchase of discounted stickers (after the purchase of an initial sticker) at anytime during the year

Mr. Bulian stated it is important that stickers be affixed to all vehicles, as it helps with enforcement and equity for residents. Mr. Bulian asked the Board for their comments.

Mr. Handel is in favor of Option A for the current year. He commented on the fixed and variable costs to running the RTS, and feels in coming years the cost of the sticker should focus on the fixed costs of running the facility and variable costs should be reflected in the cost of purchasing yellow bags.

Mr. Wasserman echoed the comments made by Mr. Handel and supports Option A for the current year.

Mr. Matthews agrees use should be a factor in rate setting however he stated he is open to different options about how to balance sticker fees and bag charges. Mr. Matthews commented on the tax levy contribution and stated he never agreed with the argument the RTS had to function entirely on its own revenues. He feels the RTS is a service and a social good provided for the community. He favors the idea of subsidizing the RTS to encourage compliance, particularly to the extent that the taxes are deductible. He commented it is important the system be simple, fair, and easily administered.

Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board approve the rate schedule shown as Option A, and that the sticker period change from the January 1 to December 31 year to an April 1 to March 31 year, and further move that the 2010 RTS stickers remain valid for entry and use of the RTS facility until March 31, 2011.

Further move that until the new 2011 stickers are available, any Needham resident needing an RTS sticker for January, February, or March 2011 may purchase a 2010 RTS sticker for $25.00 and said sticker will be valid until March 31, 2011.

Further move that after the 2011 RTS stickers become available for sale and distribution, any resident needing a sticker for January, February, or March 2011 may purchase the 2011 RTS sticker at the 2011 rates, and said sticker will be valid from the date of purchase until the March 31, 2012 expiration date.

Further move that the Board reaffirms and requires that the RTS sticker be affixed to the window of the vehicle for entrance into the RTS facility.

Second: Mr. Handel. Unanimously approved 5-0.

2. Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Consultation:
Ms. Fitzpatrick appeared before the Board to discuss the FY2012 budget process and begin a conversation about budget priorities. Ms. Fitzpatrick reviewed the Board of Selectmen Statement on FY2011 Operating Budget Priorities and stated many of the priorities translate to the current year. She asked for feedback from the Board, and absent any changes, suggested the Board vote on the budget at a Selectmen meeting December.

3. Preliminary FY2012-2016 Capital Improvement Plan:
Ms. Fitzpatrick and Dave Davison, Assistant Town Manager/Finance appeared before the Board to discuss the preliminary FY2012 cash capital and debt-financed project submissions. She reviewed the recommendations as outlined in the handout "Town Manager's Capital Funding Preliminary Recommendations". Ms. Fitzpatrick said she would discuss the FY2012-FY2016 projects at the Board's meeting on December 7th, and will seek final approval of the Capital Improvement Plan at the Selectmen's meeting on December 21st.

4. Minuteman School Update:
Ms. Fitzpatrick told the Board that all 16 towns in the Minuteman School District voted to approve the MSBA-supported feasibility study for the facility renovation.

She said that prior to undertaking a traditional feasibility study, the school agreed to conduct an enrollment evaluation, review the core course offerings, and review the regional agreement by which all of the towns participate. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented the enrollment study and strategic planning process is on-going and the Regional Agreement Task Force has released a draft report. She updated the Board concerning three key concepts and recommendations, including a change in the apportionment of the capital costs, a change in the annual operating assessment, and costs to posts graduate students.

5. Town Manager Report:

Ms. Fitzpatrick told the Board the Town is scheduled to close on the property it purchased at 174 Charles River Street which is adjacent to Walker Gordon Field next Wednesday. She said the home will be demolished and the land will be graded in the spring. She commented a meeting will take place with the neighbors.

Ms. Fitzpatrick said the deadline to file Community Preservation applications is next week. She mentioned documents found after opening the time capsule need to be preserved and a proposal is being put together for the CPC requesting help in funding the project. She said the hope is to display the documents at locations around Needham.

8:55 p.m. Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Wasserman that the Board vote to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting of November 23, 2010.

Second: Mr. Matthews. Unanimously approved 5-0.