Town of Needham
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for February 22, 2011
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.

7:00 p.m. Recognition Letter:
Mr. Bulian read a letter of recognition, to be signed by the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager, congratulating Alexandra Raisman who is the 2011 recipient of the Pearl D. Mazor Award for Outstanding Jewish Female High School Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Ms. Raisman will honored by the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and Museum on March 27, 2011.

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing - NSTAR Petition for South Street:
Maureen Carroll, NSTAR representative appeared before the Board requesting permission to install approximately 10 feet of conduit at Pole 21/73 South Street, Needham.

Motion by Mr. Wasserman that the Board of Selectmen approve and sign petition from NSTAR to install approximately 10 feet of conduit at Pole 21/73 South Street, Needham. This work is necessary to replace existing overhead service with underground electric service for 649 South Street.
Second: Mr. Handel. Unanimously approved 5-0.

7:00 p.m. Needham Free Public Library Strategic Plan:
Rose Doherty, Chairman, Library Trustees and Ann MacFate, Library Director appeared before the Board to present and discuss the Library's recently completed strategic plan.

Ms. Doherty told the Board the five-year plan is a requirement of certification for the Massachusetts Board of Libraries. She stated it is a great opportunity to find out what residents really want from the Library, and what the Library can do to fulfill those needs. She said a panel was held and people knowledgeable in electronic delivery spoke with the library staff, a survey was completed, interviews were conducted with high school and middle school students, as well as with the Council on Aging and the School Department. She said three themes emerged from the committee's work including technology, finances, and awareness. The goals for this year, she said, include information literacy, lifelong learning, diversity and heritage, and stimulation of imagination.

Ann MacFate said it is important to do these plans to hear from the public. She said there will be a "balancing act" with print and electronic materials.

Mr. Bulian commented he was on the committee and it was a real "eye opening experience" to see how much the Library is used and for what purpose. He said the vibrancy the Library brings to the Town is amazing. He said he believes there is a struggle to keep books as the world moves further into the electronic age.

Ms. Garlick commented on the goal of increasing wireless use, and asked what plan is there to replace the computer infrastructure by FY15. Ms. MacFate said requests are submitted every year for equipment replacement. She said wireless capability has also increased because more people come into the Library with their own computers.

Mr. Handel asked if the Library will be able to get electronic books for people with Kindle, Nook, or Sony e-reader. Ms. MacFate said the Library has a subscription with Overdrive, which supplies e-books. She commented not all e-readers are compatible with all e-book suppliers. Mr. Handel asked whether the Library community has contacted Amazon to get access. Ms. MacFate said it does all the time.

Mr. Wasserman said he was pleased with action plans of the report.

Mr. Matthews commented on the SWOT analysis and asked if the committee voted on all the findings or are they just all the comments. Ms. MacFate said they were all the comments, not votes. Mr. Matthews said he thought it would have been better to be clear that they were comments, and not votes. Mr. Wasserman suggested having a separate listing of what the committee based the plan on, and to keep the information presented tonight as the general information from the research.

Ms. Garlick asked whether there are any concerns for the goals set forth, and if they have been prioritized. Ms. MacFate said the Trustees set the goals, which then become the priorities. Ms. Doherty said their is strong support from the Town, coupled with trust funds, state aid, Friends, the Foundation, and the Needham Women's Club.

Ms. Fitzpatrick commented the Library Director and Trustees are very good at articulating their needs, and that she and Dave Davison meet with the Board every July to review the library's needs.

7:20 p.m. Sign Notice of Traffic Regulation – Carol Road

Richard P. Merson, DPW Director appeared before the Board with a request and accompanying petition which was received from the residents of Carol Road asking that a no parking zone be established to prevent all-day parking on the west side of their street.

Motion by Mr. Wasserman that the Board vote to approve and sign the Notice of Traffic Regulation Permit #P11-02-22 for Carol Road, Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours, West side from Great Plain Avenue to 180 feet south from Great Plain Avenue, No Parking 7AM – 5PM Mon-Fri.
Second: Mr. Handel. Unanimously approved 5-0.

7:20 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 of Economic Advisors	Tom Jacob (term expires 6/30/2012) Matthew Borrelli (term expires 6/30/2012)

CONSENT AGENDA

1.	Accept the following donations made to The Park and Recreation Commission for Arts in the Park: ▪ \$600 from Louise Condon Realty, Inc ▪ \$300 from North Hill
2.	Approve application for calendar year 2011 Common Victualler License from Pronti Bistro, Inc. d/b/a Pronti Bistro, located at 11 2nd Avenue, Needham.
3.	Approve minutes from February 8, 2010 and February 15, 2010 meetings.
4.	Water & Sewer Abatement Order No. 1119
5.	Accept the following donation of \$1,000 made to the Needham Fire Department Student Awareness of Fire Education program from the Needham Exchange Club.
6.	Approve a one day special Wine and Malt beverages license from Liz O'Connell of St. Joseph School to hold a Trivia Night on Friday, March 4, 2010 from 6:00 pm to 11:30 pm at St. Joseph Elementary School, 90 Pickering Street, Needham.

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

7:25 p.m. Town Manager:
Ms. Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager appeared before the Board with 3 items to discuss:

1. Special Town Meeting Warrant:
   Ms. Fitzpatrick reviewed with the Board the warrant articles in the Special Town Meeting warrant scheduled for March 14, 2011. With respect to Article 2 – Restoration of Charles River Treatment Facility Well, she asked Mr. Merson to make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen at its meeting scheduled for March 8, 2011 when a preliminary report from the engineer will be available as to the

best method for fixing the well. She suggested a position on this article be taken at the March 8, 2011 meeting.

Article 1 – Appropriate for Parking and Access Improvements – Pollard School
Motion by Mr. Wasserman that the Board vote to recommend adoption of Article 1 on the March 14, 2011 Special Town Meeting Warrant.
Second: Mr. Handel. Unanimously approved 5-0.

2. Annual Town Meeting Warrant:
Ms. Fitzpatrick stated the warrant is not yet complete, however she briefly reviewed the articles and asked the Board if they would like additional presentations on the articles. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated the Planning Board has a special meeting on March 8, 2011 to review all of the zoning articles. She commented all of the articles may not move forward, and suggested the Planning Board to come a meeting in April for discussion when more is known. With respect to Zoning by Citizens' Petition, Ms. Fitzpatrick asked the Board if they would like to discuss each article with the petitioners and/or the Planning Board. Ms. Garlick asked Ms. Fitzpatrick when are the Planning Board hearings, and when will the Selectmen need to make a decision. Ms. Fitzpatrick said the meetings are sometime in March, and the Board of Selectmen would meet with them sometime in April. Mr. Bulian said therefore a decision does not need to be made this evening. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented on the CPC Articles, stating the CPC is expected to vote on March 9, 2011 and that she would likely be able to provide background information on the articles by early April. Ms. Fitzpatrick also commented on the articles for the proposed feasibility study for the Cricket Field Building, the Booth Street Reconstruction, and the Wastewater Pump Station Reconstruction Reservoir B. Mr. Wasserman said the Board of Selectmen may require a presentation by representatives of Green Communities Committee and/or the Building Department.

3. Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Consultation:
Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager and Dave Davison, Assistant Town Manager / Finance, updated the Board on the status of the fiscal year 2012 budget. Ms. Fitzpatrick said she was happy to report to the Board that the Town's budget is in line with the School Department's budget and very similarly in line with the Finance Committee's draft balanced budget of $112,243,325. Ms. Fitzpatrick noted a few items differed. She said the Finance Committee recommended funding for $4,000 for attendance software system. She said the Finance Committee agreed with the recommendation to increase the School Department budget by $300,000 to reduce the reliance on-one time funds in FY12, and in turn reduce the capital expenditure recommendation for the School Committee. She commented the Finance Committee also amended its Reserve Fund in order to fund 3 other items included in the Performance Budget. These items, she said included monumentation of street layouts throughout town, purchase of crowd control fencing, and funding for opening the library at 9 a.m.

Mr. Bulian commented the system in place works because of many checks and balances. He credits Ms. Fitzpatrick and her staff as well as Dan Gutekanst, School Superintendent and his staff working with the Finance Committee, who in turn work with the Town management.

Mr. Handel asked how differences in the budgets are reconciled and if the Town is reasonably covered with respect to energy given recent world events. Mr. Davison commented energy prices represent 2%-3% of the total spending in the Town. He said estimates are developed based upon bids in place through 2012 for electricity and natural gas. He commented gasoline and oil are more volatile, but the Town is reducing its reliance on heating oil by slowly converting buildings over to natural gas or geothermal energy. He said the heating oil price is locked in through the year. He said estimates indicated the price of heating oil was going to climb, as well as the price of gasoline. He said the Town is "cautiously optimistic" that the budget for 2012, voted on by the Finance Committee, will be able to cover energy costs. The major caveat, he said, would be if the Town was hit with both a substantial spike in the cost of gasoline and heating oil, coupled with another very cold winter.

7:40 p.m. Board Discussion:

Committee Reports:

Mr. Wasserman reported on the Green Communities Committee. He said the 15 member committee represents all of the relevant Town boards and has citizens from the Town. Mr. Wasserman said the committee will look at all aspects of the Green Communities Act, but the focus will be on the Stretch Code as it is the single biggest issue. He said public hearings will be held prior to making a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Wasserman invited the Selectmen to submit questions or comments.

Mr. Matthews commented he agrees the Stretch Code is very important, but would also like to know the implications of the Vehicle Purchase Policy. Mr. Matthews said he is very interested in how the energy savings targets for the buildings are going to affect the Town. He also commented he would like to know what the long run prognosis is for the grant money.

Mr. Wasserman said he was glad for the questions, but cautions the grant money is not a primary reason for going "green". The primary reason is to save energy and money, regardless of what the state gives the Town.

Mr. Matthews commented there are also 2 other arguments, one being prestige and the other being that the State is trying to get the Town to "volunteer" to join the program. Mr. Matthews questioned whether it is worth it for the Town to participate in a state-wide "experimental" initiative to try to find energy savings strategies.

Mr. Wasserman said the Green Communities Act must be evaluated on whether it is good for the Town of Needham or not.

7:55 p.m. Adjourn:
Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen vote to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting of February 22, 2011.
Second: Mr. Handel. Unanimously approved 5-0.