

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

*** MINUTES ***

October 16, 2007

7:00 p.m. A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman Jerry Wasserman at 7:00 p.m. at the Pollard School Auditorium for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the future of the 58 acres of Town-owned land presently leased to the Needham Golf Club. Also present were Mr. Jim Healy, Mr. Dan Matthews, Mr. John Bulian, Mr. Jack Cogswell, and Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick.

7:00 p.m. Mr. Wasserman provided an introduction on the status of the current lease and the process that the Board is following for the future lease of the property. He noted that the purpose of the hearing was to help the Board determine whether to continue to recommend the use of the property as a golf course. Mr. Jon Schneider, Chairman of the Golf Course Advisory Committee, Mr. Paul Robey, President of the Needham Golf Club, and Paul Kelly, Golf Club member, all made presentations on the role of the golf club in the Town of Needham.

Issues raised by residents included: future need for location for a middle school, location for a senior center, importance of green space on the quality of life (many residents), support for the continuation of the golf club (many residents), the possibility of having the Town manage a golf course, the environmental impact of the golf club, the impact of the club on property values in the Town in general, the fact that the Town cannot afford to maintain the property if it is not leased, the importance of the club as a social activity for teenagers, importance of protection of water lands, consideration of lease terms especially fair market rent, and the need for an appraisal.

Mr. Wasserman noted that if the Board votes to recommend continuation as a golf course, another public hearing will be held in December to discuss specific provisions of such a lease.

9:00 p.m. **Motion: Mr. Matthews moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Cogswell seconded the motion. Unanimous: 5-0.**