Town Of Needham Board of Selectman
Minutes for May 27, 2008
Needham Town Hall

6:45 p.m. Informal Session:

7:00 p.m. Call To Order
A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman James Healy at 7:00 p.m. Those present were: John Bulian, Daniel P. Matthews, Gerald Wasserman, James Healy, Denise Garlick, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Recording Secretary Greg Cooper.

7:00 p.m. Certificate of Appreciation – Gena Borson:
Mr. Healy read a Certificate of Appreciation honoring Gena Borson's contribution to the community.

7:05 p.m. Field Study Update/Memorial Park:
Dave DiCicco, Memorial Park Trustee, and Lance Remsen, Superintendent of Parks & Forestry, appeared before the Board to provide an update on the Memorial Park Field renovation and to seek approval for the removal of two trees to facilitate the construction of walkways leading off the new field. Mr. Remsen stated that several options were looked at including narrowing the walkways and elevating the walkways above roots, but the most practical solution would involve removal of two trees. The walkways are a key aspect of the renovation because of the elevated field along Highland Avenue. Mr. Remsen stated that the trees are Crimson King Maples. The Board asked several question regarding options that were explored other than removal. Mr. Remsen stated that the other options may result in the death of the two trees anyway and less than desired walkways. He stated that the Memorial Park Trustees would be voting on the issue at their meeting the next day. Ms. Garlick asked if the Board needs to vote on the item since it is under the prevue of the Memorial Park Trustees. Mr. Healy stated that the Board is just voting on recommending the removal to support the decision-making body.

Motion by Mr. Wasserman that the Board of Selectmen vote to recommend to the Memorial Park Trustees the removal of up to two Crimson King Maples to allow for the installation of an appropriately sized stairways and walkways. Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approved 5-0.

7:15 p.m. Consent Agenda:
Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to accept the Consent Agenda with the exception of the May 13, 2008 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes and a formal approval of the Certificate of Appreciation for Gena Borson.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **That the Board approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the MPO Ballot endorsing the Town of Hopkinton and the City of Newton.**
2. *** Approve minutes from March 11, 2008, March 25, 2008, and April 9, 2008.**
3. **Accept $2,500 donation from the Trustees of the Philadelphia Award to the Youth Commission.**
4. *** Approve one-day special license application for sale of Wine and Malt Beverages to the Needham Pool and Racquet Club for their New Member Reception to be held on Friday, June 13, 2008 at the Needham Pool and Racquet Club’s pool area located at 1545 Central Avenue from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.**
5. *** Approve one-day special license application for sale of Wine and Malt Beverages to the Needham Pool and Racquet Club for their annual Summerfest event, a dinner to be held on Saturday, July 26, 2008 at the Needham Pool and Racquet Club in the club area from 6:00 p.m.until 9:00 p.m.**
6. *** Approve one-day special license application for sale of Wine and Malt Beverages to the Library Foundation of Needham for their Black, White & Read Gala event being held on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at the Needham Needham Free Public Library in the Reference Desk area from 12:00 p.m. until Midnight.**
7. *** Approve one-day special license application for sale of All Alcoholic Beverages to the Village Club for their Texas Hold’em Fundraiser to benefit their Scholarship fund and will be held on Friday, June 13, 2007 at the Village Club Highlandville Hall, 83 Morton Street from 6-11p.m.**

Grant permission for the following residents to hold block parties:

Name	Address	Location	Date	Rain Date	Time
Robert Klein	11 Andrea Circle	Andrea Circle	June 22	N/A	12:00-5:00 pm
Stacey Keenan	30 North Hill Ave.	Howe Rd	June 14	N/A	4:00-9:00 pm

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

7:20 p.m. Town Manager:
Ms. Fitzpatrick appeared before the Board with two items for the Board's consideration:

1. Introduction of New Director of Facility Operations:
Ms. Fitzpatrick and Richard Merson, DPW Director, introduced the Town's new Director of Facility Operations, Chip Laffey. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that Mr. Laffey has been the Superintendent of the RTS for over a decade and prior to that had extensive experience in managing facility-based projects. She stated that Mr. Laffey has always been very responsive and proactive in his approach to his work with the Town. The Board expressed its pleasure with the selection and wished Mr. Laffey the best in his new job.

2. Town Manager Report:
Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the Town has a number of facility projects scheduled for this summer. She stated that the PPBC will be meeting on June 2nd to discuss how to proceed with the Town Hall Renovation and the new DPW building design. Mr. Healy stated that in the next three months the architects and the PPBC will begin design of the Town Hall Renovation project and there is a lot of work to do. He stated that the Board has scheduled the Town Hall Design Summit for June 23rd and the Town Meeting – Town Hall Study Committee will have its first meeting on June 26th. He hopes that a firm course can be established by September.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the DPW building design is moving quickly with plans of having a construction appropriation ready for a vote in November.

Ms. Fitzpatrick provided the Board with an update on the Newman School HVAC system. She stated that three projects are going on simultaneously and include improvements to the electrical room, procuring and installing a temporary heating and ventilation system, and routine building maintenance.

7:35 p.m. Board Reports

1. Town Hall Summit:
Mr. Healy stated that 26 different Town committees and boards have been invited to the Summit and the Board hopes for a broad discussion. Mr. Wasserman suggested the Board put an agenda together given the size of the group.

2. Town Hall Study Committee:
Mr. Healy suggested that the Board vote on appointing its member to the Committee at the Board's June 10th meeting. Mr. Matthews stated that there will be a lot of time pressure on the Committee and that the project needs to move forward. He stated that he feels the Town Hall is central to government operations and the scope of the project has expanded greatly which complicates decision-making.

Mr. Healy stated that the Board will listen to the Committee and make its decision on how to proceed. He said his opinion will be formed by gathering information, keeping in mind that the process must keep moving. He stated that he does not link the Town Hall project with the DPW building, and that both projects must be done.

3. FY09 Appointment Process:
The Board discussed the process for appointing vacancies to various boards and committees. Mr. Healy stated that he has asked Mr. Matthews to make recommendations, as Vice-Chair, on the two

open appointments in accordance with the Board's Appointment Protocol. Mr. Matthews asked Board members to provide him with any suggestions on the appointments. Mr. Matthews stated that the two current vacancies are on the Board of Health and the Housing Authority. Mr. Matthews asked the Board whether it prefers to interview candidates jointly with the other boards or individually. The Board was in agreement on interviewing and selecting candidates in conjunction with the affected board.

8:00 p.m. Executive Session:
Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to enter into Executive Session to:

Exception 6 – to consider the purchase, exchange, taking, lease, or value of real property if such discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body.

Not to return to open session prior to adjournment.

Second: Mr. Wasserman. Mr. Healy polled the Board members. Unanimously approved 5-0.

(The Board adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.)