Town Of Needham Board of Selectman
Minutes for March 27, 2007
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 John H. Cogswell at 7:00 p.m. Those present were: John H. Cogswell, John Bulian, James Healy, Gerald Wasserman, Daniel P. Matthews, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Recording Secretary Greg Cooper.

7:00 p.m. Richard Merson, Director of Public Works, appeared before the Board with one item for the Board’s consideration.

1. Public Hearing - Layout Streets for Town Acceptance – Andrea Circle, Gerber Circle, Stonecrest Drive and Stonefield Court:
Mr. Merson stated that the third step of the process for laying out the streets is for the Board to sign the layout plans.
Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve and sign the street layout plans to layout the following streets; Andrea Circle, Gerber Circle, Stonecrest Drive and Stonefield Court.
Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approved 5-0.

7:05 p.m. Appointments and Consent Agenda:
Mr. Cogswell read the 2007 Arbor Day Proclamation.
Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda

1. **Approval for the Charles River YMCA to hold their annual mini-triathlon on Saturday, May 12, 2007, with a start time of 1:00 p.m. The DPW and Fire Departments have approved of request and the Police Department, which is addressing start time impact concerns with the YMCA, has also approved the request.**
2. **Accept a donation of an 8’ x 12’ American Flag for the Town Common flagpole from the Norfolk Lodge A.F. & A.M.**

3. Accept a donation of $500 from Christ Episcopal Church to the Needham Health Department's Gift of Warmth fund.
4. Accept a donation of $25 from the Needham Business Association to the Park & Recreation's Arts in the Parks program.
5. Accept a donation of $600 from RCN to the Park & Recreation's Arts in the Parks program.
6. Approve a request from the Exchange Club of Needham to sponsor 4th of July fireworks on Tuesday, July 3, 2007 with a rain date of Saturday, July 7, 2007 and to sponsor the parade to be held on Wednesday morning, July 4, 2007.
7. Approve One Day Special All Alcohol License application to Patricia A. Hadge, for the St. Sebastian's School Alumni dinner to be held at St. Sebastian's, 1191 Greendale Avenue, Needham on Thursday April 12, 2007 from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.
8. Accept $12,000 donation from Steven & Krista Alperin made to the Needham Community Revitalization Trust Fund for the Sidewalks and Pathways Project.
9. Approve request from Needham Business Association to hold their annual Harvest Fair on Saturday, September 29, 2007, with a rain date of Saturday, October 6, 2007.
10. Declaration of surplus and disposal of surplus vehicle (via sales agreement) to the Town of Dover. Vehicle is a 1997 White Ford Truck.
11. Approve and sign the 2007 Arbor Day Proclamation which proclaims the last Friday in April as Arbor Day in the Town of Needham and encourages residents to support all efforts to protect our trees and woodlands for future generations to come.
11. Water Abatement, Order #1047

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

7:05 p.m. Ms. Fitzpatrick appeared before the Board with two items for the Board's consideration.

1. Call for Special Town Meeting:
Ms. Fitzpatrick requested the Board call a Special Town Meeting for May 14, 2007. She provided a draft list of warrant articles. She stated that the Board would close the Special Town Meeting Warrant on April 11th. Mr. Cogswell asked if the Town had an estimate of the cost of the Chestnut Street turn-back project. Ms. Fitzpatrick did not have an estimate but stated that the Town may need to use some of its

Chapter 90 funding. Mr. Healy stated that a good estimate of the cost of the project needs to be available for Town Meeting.
Motion by Mr. Wasserman that the Board of Selectmen vote to call for a Special Town Meeting and open the warrant for the meeting to be held on May 14, 2007 at the Newman School. Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approved 5-0.

The Board decided to come back to the Town Manager's final item later in the meeting.

7:10 p.m. Sidewalks & Pathways Project:
Paul Good from the Needham Community Revitalization Trust Fund came before the Board to request approval of a project to improve the Willitt & Chadwick walkway. He stated that the walkway is in disrepair and the Trust Fund is interested in installing a formed concrete walkway that has the appearance of brick.
Motion by Mr. Wasserman that the Board of Selectmen vote to endorse the Willitt & Chadwick sidewalk and pathways project as presented by the Needham Community Revitalization Trust Fund. Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approved 5-0.

7:20 p.m. Senior Center at Ridge Hill:
Jamie Brenner Gutner – Council on Aging Director, Steve Popper – Director of Construction and Renovation and Ms. Fitzpatrick appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed Senior Center at Ridge Hill. John Catlin, Catlin Associates, provided the Board with a presentation on a conceptual design for the renovation of the Morse Bradley House. Catlin Associates was hired with funding from the COA and has worked under the direction of the PPBC. Mr. Catlin stated that the site is an excellent site for a senior center. He reviewed conceptual drawings and explained how the renovation could be done in a way that would not dramatically impact the exterior of the existing building and the surrounding conservation area. Mr. Catlin stated that the current septic system would need to be switched to town sewer and outlined how this hookup could be made. He outlined three proposed phases which would build

out the senior center to almost 30,000 square feet upon final phase completion.

Mr. Popper stated that Catlin Assoc. has done an excellent job and a final cost estimate should be coming soon. He stated that the initial scope of the project is just Phase I which involves renovation of the existing house with a small addition. Ms. Brenner Gutner wanted to remind everyone that the designs are preliminary and that the COA is very excited about the Ridge Hill site. She stated that the site has great potential and the senior center can be a focal point for services to elderly and many other age groups. Mr. Bulian asked about transportation to the site. Ms. Brenner Gutner stated that transportation is not seen as a major obstacle and the COA currently has a van for transportation. She also stated that a majority of visitors to the existing center either drive or are driven. Mr. Wasserman asked for a square foot comparison of the existing senior center and each of the three phases of the proposed project at Ridge Hill. Mr. Healy stated that he feels the COA needs to focus on answering why the Ridge Hill location is the right place for a senior center, how the town’s demographics show the need for a bigger senior center, and can the private funding be raised to support the project. The Board thanked the group for the presentation and discussion.

8:10 p.m. Ms. Fitzpatrick returned to present her final item for the Board.

2. Verizon PEG Access:
Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that Verizon has not yet fulfilled its obligations in its licensing agreement with the Town to carry two PEG Access Channels. Verizon is asking for a sixty day extension. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that Town Counsel and the Chair of the Television Advisory Board recommended granting the extension.
Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board vote in favor of a sixty-day (60) extension to the Verizon contract, which would allow them until July 1, 2007 to establish an interconnection

with Comcast and to provide PEG Access programming to our subscribed citizens.
Second: No second.
Mr. Healy and Mr. Wasserman both expressed disappointment with Verizon's performance and suggested limiting the extension to 30 days. Mr. Bulian suggested extending the provision until the Board's next meeting and to bring Verizon representatives in for the meeting. The Board agreed to extend the provision of the agreement until April 24th.
Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board vote in favor of an extension to the Verizon contract until April 24, 2007 to establish an interconnection with Comcast and to provide PEG Access programming to our subscribed citizens.
Second: Mr. Healy. Unanimously approved 5-0.

8:20 p.m. Coalition for Suicide Prevention Update:
Denise Garlick, George Johnson, Joe Barnes, Tom Denton, Jim McCauley and Jon Mattleman, as members of the Needham Suicide Prevention Coalition, provided the Board with an update on the Coalition's work and the recently completed action plan.

Ms. Garlick reviewed some national and state statistics on suicide and highlighted the major risk factors that can result in suicide. She stated that the Coalition has been advocating for federal and state resources to address the issue. She asked each of the members of the Coalition to inform the Board about efforts that are either underway or planned as part of the Town's Action Plan. The Action Plan includes efforts to promote awareness, develop support mechanisms, implement education and prevention programs, train school personnel and others to identify at risk people, and establish response protocols should a suicide occur. The Board thanked all those involved in the effort. Mr. Healy recommended the Town look closely at the budget and identify ways to support the efforts of the action plan as best as possible. Ms. Garlick stated that the effort will only be successful if it is sustained over time within the Town.

9:15 p.m. Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to adjourn the March 27, 2007 Board of Selectmen meeting.
Second: Mr. Healy. Unanimously approved 5-0.