



**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
Tuesday, July 8, 2014 at 7:00PM
Town Hall Meeting Room**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair, Stu Sklar in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Selectmen Ron Ricci, Lucy Wallace and Leo Blair were all in attendance as well as Town Administrator Tim Bragan and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet.

MINUTES

On a Wallace/Blair motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the 6/3, as presented.

On a Wallace/Blair motion, the board voted to approve the 6/17 minutes along with the executive session, as presented.

BARE HILL ROWING ASSOCIATION (BHRA)

Request for changes to contract with town for use of the Town Beach.

Stu Sklar invited BHRA to make a short presentation. Jim Ware spoke about their interest in working cooperatively with all committees/boards and organizations involved at the pond. He reviewed the programs BHRA offers and explained there is a “no cut” policy for Bromfield students. Ware described the benefits their programs brings to Harvard but also acknowledged some concerns the town has. He explained the novice program requires a specific number of participants thus having Acton/Boxborough students participate provides the stability and financial support the programs need.

BHRA is requesting the following contract changes:

School year: Eliminate ratio, keep no cut policy
Increase allowable number of launches on pond
Eliminate requirement to provide roster 10 days in advance of season
Make 85 degree day limitation more administratively feasible

Summer: Expand time allowed for programs to 7am – 12pm
Replace ratio with exclusive time for Harvard resident sign up
Increase numbers in 7am-9am time to 30 and in 9am-12pm time frame to 16

Ware understood the Park and Recreation Commission were in favor of the requested changes after discussion with them at their meeting on Monday night. He also had spoken with the School Superintendent who he said was also in agreement with the changes.

Sklar asked Park & Recreation Chair Wyona Lynch McWhite, Harbormaster Bob O’Shea and School Superintendent Linda Dwight to come forward and discuss the changes specific to their sections within the contract.

Lucy Wallace requested the agreed upon changes be captured and submitted to the Selectmen in writing. She said this way there will be no confusion or misunderstanding. She also asked that

the Board take the time at this meeting, as all parties were present, to walk through the requested changes. After some discussion, the board agreed to do so.

School Superintendent Linda Dwight was not in complete agreement on the wording presented by BHRA. They briefly discussed revised language.

Park & Rec committee member, Joe Schmidt, speaking as a resident expressed his reluctance to reduce ratios to less than 51%. He said it would no longer be a town program if that is the case.

Park & Rec Chair Wyona Lynch McWhite admitted she had not seen the proposed language distributed this evening but it did seem to agree with what they had discussed.

Ron Ricci was under the impression this contract had recently been negotiated and signed by all interested parties. He advised BHRA to come back to the Selectmen when they have a clean version that has been finalized by all parties. Leo Blair noted the agreement is for permissive use of the pond therefore he is not surprised BHRA is asking for additional permissions. He agreed with Ricci and suggested BHRA work out the details with the Park & Recreation Commission. Ricci and Blair recommended BHRA attend another duly posted meeting of the Park & Recreation Commission where the public can provide input. Ricci also suggested they seek feedback from the Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee.

Anne McWalters, asked why the discussion about revising the contract was not listed on the Park & Recreation Commission agenda for Monday night.

Sklar asked BHRA to provide the Selectmen with a redlined and final version of the contract for approval prior to their August 5th meeting. Leo Blair asked to have the permits issues by the Harbormaster referenced in the contract.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Joe Schmidt, Park & Recreation Commission, asked if the commission could get a town email address.

Steve Gordon, Park & Recreation Commission, asked if the board was going to discuss transferring ownership of the beach. The board decided to not discuss at this time.

ELECTION OFFICIALS

On a Wallace/Blair motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint officers for unenrolled, Republican and Democratic as requested by Janet June 2, 2014.

ELM COMMISSION – re-appointment

On a Wallace/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to reappoint Dennis Collins to a new two year term.

RESIGNATIONS

On a Wallace/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to accept resignations of Chris Cutler, Eric Broadbent, Pete Jackson and Elinor Stapleton and send letters of thanks.

TOWN HALL UPDATE

The Selectmen were surprised by responses they received from LLB related to bifurcating the town hall project handling the exterior and structural first. They questioned the estimated costs and time necessary to prepare bid documents. The board decided to request a meeting with LLB to further discuss the project. Blair and Wallace volunteered to set this up.

Tim Bragan reported contractor John Holland needs a lift to examine the southeast corner of the building as part of the envelope analysis. Bragan said Holland's report will include the best course of action to stabilize the building.

Ron Ricci strongly advocated for securing the building's exterior as soon as possible. He said it is important we show the voters we can get something done.

Town Hall Construction Task Force

The board reviewed a draft charge presented by Ron Ricci. They made a few revisions. On a Blair/Wallace motion, the board voted unanimously to approve charge as amended and recited by Lucy Wallace.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Bragan reported National Grid is offering assistance to cities and towns who are interested in providing electric car charging stations.

Bragan informed the board a public hearing is required if they decide to transfer their right of first refusal on the Lawton Chapter land sale to the Harvard Conservation Trust. If the hearing is necessary it will be held at their August 5th meeting.

Bragan informed the board the cable license transfer documents from Comcast have been received. He explained a public hearing is required within 60 days of receiving the documents. He expects to hold the hearing at the August 5th meeting unless the deadline can be extended. Bragan is interested in moving the hearing date out to September considering many residents are out of town for the summer.

PAYROLL SIGNATURES

The board decided to not designate one member of the board for signature on the payroll warrants.

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

On a Wallace/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to adopt as amended by Ron Ricci.

BRAVEHEART ROADRACE

On a Wallace/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the Braveheart Memorial Ride on July 26.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN VACANCY

On a Blair/Wallace motion, the board voted unanimously to choose November 4th for the date of a special election to fill vacancy on the Board of Selectmen.

FY15 GOALS

After a few revisions, the board voted unanimously to approve goals as amended.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Documents referenced:

BARE HILL ROWING ASSOCIATION (BHRA) – presentation & changes outline July 2014

ELECTION OFFICIALS – Request from Town Clerk dated 6.2.2014

RESIGNATIONS – Cutler dated 6.12.2014, Stapleton dated 6.16.2014

Broadbent dated 6.17.2014, Sobalvarro dated 6.17.201

Jackson dated 6.9.2014

TOWN HALL UPDATE - LLB responses dated 7.3.2014

BRAVEHEART ROADRACE -Request dated 6.23.2014