

A Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at the Adams Farm Barn located on North Street, beginning at 6:45 p.m. The following members were present.

Nancy Mackenzie, chairman
Eric Kraus, Vice Chairman
Michael Berry, Clerk
Christopher Timson
Clifton Snuffer

Also present:
James Johnson, Asst. Town Administrator

Mrs. Mackenzie called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and explained to the audience the Board is taking a tour of the garden area. After the tour she thanked all those involved for the beautiful job they have done in the gardens..

Adams Farm Committee, Expanded uses

Ralph Knobel, President of Friends of Adams Farm, and non voting member of Adams Farm Committee gave a brief history of the property. The Issacs family bought in 1950, 350 acres and kept it thru 1997. They decided they had to pay the taxes on it and develop it. Because they were getting tax breaks and the town had first refusal on the purchase of it. Mr. Snuffer chaired the committee to place an override to purchase the property and it past. He explained what they have been able to do through the work of committees. Many people have donated money and services and the construction of the barn was an old fashion barn raising. He introduced the members of the Adams Farm Committee and the Friends of Adams Farm.

Butterfly Garden, Dorothy O'Shaughnessy, explained the garden was started in late November to enhance the area for the citizens. It was all done with donations. The women's club did fundraising. Edward Collins donated his time and business, tilled the land and built the wall. The wall is harvested from farm.

Went thru all the nurseries in Massachusetts and the plants were all donated. This year everything has come up, all the mulch, stone, work has been donated. Weeds are a problem. The back Paddock, is a problem thought of a peace garden. Do not know where we are going with that now. Thanked the parks department for getting rid of the barb wire. The children's garden is growing; do not know what they are doing with the children's garden. Did enter for a contest and we came in second. We are proud of a town to come in second.

Finances, the Lions club gave us the first boost and we have been doing fundraising, the friends of A. Farm have been the constant support. Behalf of the Walpole women's club thank you for all that the citizens have done.

Tracey Firth is the manager of the "plant a row" program which was people planting an extra row and donate the produce which goes to four communities. It is an ongoing program and last year they delivered over 7,000 lbs of produce.

John Spillane donated from his collection the animals in the barn it is a great foundation of the barn. Gary Riggott from the Trails Com put some bridges over the wet part of trails and did a fabulous job. The town's people should be proud of this place.

Mr. Knobel asked if the Board would be amenable to expanding the butterfly garden and expansion of the community garden. Suggest you agree to another 16 plots going toward North St. He spoke of the use of the barn which is not used a lot. The Cub Scouts do use it. He wanted to know if the Board feels they should use it more and collect fees. Had many inquires for use, but most include alcohol, would you want to consider events including alcohol? They have received requests from alumni.

Mr. Timson asked him what his position and the Adams Farm Committee on having that type of event. Mr. Knobel stated the Adams Farm Committee was not thrilled and he is

Minutes of August 24, 2010

Board of Selectmen

very neutral on it. Mr. David Lehto stated the Committee did talk about it, if you could issue a one day Liquor license.

Mr. Kraus wanted to know other than alumni, what other requests they received. Mr. Knobel stated he has had requests for family reunions, fraternal clubs, and small wedding. It opens up a different market. The question is whether the board wants to entertain the idea of allowing alcohol on site or not.

Mr. Berry wanted to understand the relationship between the Selectmen and Adams Farm committee. The Committee is an advisory committee. Mr. Johnson noted in the current use policy for the farm alcohol is prohibited. He had spoken to the Town's insurance company and they would require a certificate of insurance from the applicant and the server's name and that server must be TIP certified. Not a major issue or concern for the insurance company.

Mr. Timson recalled when they set that policy, when it came up, the sentiment was this place was getting back to nature and not in the spirit of what we were trying to promote. He would be interested in getting the opinion from them. Mr. Berry would prefer to see something originate from the Committee. He feels exploring uses is a good thing.

Mrs. Mackenzie spoke to the use of alcohol being a policy change. They would need to set up guidelines and make that part of the policy. Functions could bring in some revenue.

7:30 p.m. Citizens Input/Open Forum

No one present

8-11 Clifton K. Snuffer III, Appointment to Ponds Committee

Mr. Clifton Snuffer III would like to get on this committee as a full time member. He feels the ponds are in dire straits, and would like to help generate funding to get ponds back into shape. He asked if the Board would consider increasing the membership from five to six members. If not I would like to be involved as an associate. The Board recommends increasing to seven.

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to increase the membership from 5 to 7 on the Ponds Committee, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie (Mr. Snuffer noted that Clifton is his son but he is comfortable voting on this as this has no financial value to him) **VOTED 5-0-0**

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to appoint Clifton K. Snuffer III to the Ponds Committee as a regular member, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, **VOTED 5-0-0**

8-12 Stephanie Mercandetti, Farmers market update

Stephanie Mercandetti spoke to the market beginning on June 16, 2010. They have vendors that sell fruits, veggies, grass fed beef, veal, homemade cheeses, flowers, arts and crafts. The web page is www.walpolemafarmersmarket.com. They are looking for volunteers to help out. The downtown businesses have embraced the market. The First Sandwich Shop brought water to the vendors. She noted the Board had previously approved an entertainment schedule and they wish to extend it be a few dates. The vendors feel the experience has been great and most have been pleased. Mrs. Mackenzie thanked Stephanie for all her work.

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to approve the revised entertainment Schedule as submitted by Stephanie Mercandetti, seconded by Mr. Snuffer, **VOTED 5-0-0**

8-13, 8-14, 8-28 MPIC, Cannon Relocation and Stone Field Update

Ed Forsberg showed a brief power point presentation of downtown park and trail improvement program. There is a need to get surveying done, and there is a letter MPIC would like you to send for assistance to the Norfolk County Engineers.

Objective- to enhance a portion of open space in the downtown that is currently underutilized by creating a town park. The park will be linked to Stone field via a pedestrian bridge across Spring Brook. This project also re- routes a section of the Bay Circuit Trail in town through this park area.

They will be required to file a notice of intent with Conservation. John Lee, instructor at Norfolk County Agricultural School would like to get his classes involved with the project by helping identifying trees, and investigate bridge options. Preliminary drawings were shown. They have looked into some options to exposed aggregate concrete for the 5' wide walkway, the cost is twenty eight dollars per linear foot. The bridge could be wooden, precast, aluminum and will expand 60-75 feet and be about six feet wide, would not be arched but have to be above flood bank. The DPW still has the forms from work on the Washington St Bridge, if they went the route to do in house. Have to put footings, piers on each ends and the cost is about \$6-8,000 to put the four piers in.

They need to get the surveying done, once they get a plot plan they have something to work off of. Mr. Snuffer suggested they work with the Ponds committee. He thinks Roger took a lot of pictures during the heavy rains. Mr. Forsberg explained they have looked at different type of plants, river bank plants. There is a lot of Poison ivy in there now. Low bushes and plantings should take care of it. Mrs. Mackenzie asked about lighting.

Mr. Nottenberg explained they are planning to do as much of this thru grants; sponsor a bench program is very active. He talked about the benches and the accessories. Before they put the benches in, they need to get the survey done, so they have a really good site plan. A lot of state representatives are looking for these kinds of project. There is money for downtown revitalization. That is what we want to pursue. He talked about the lighting and the interest from the community for the ones on the common.

Mr. Berry noted this is all part of the master plan. Part of revitalization of what pop Warner is doing. It is important to connect the dots and supports what the MPIC is doing. Mr. Nottenberg noted that Roger Turner has been very valuable. Mr. Johnson noted the cost of the bridge is approximately \$20-\$25,000. The Conservation Commission is in on board with the moving of the cannon next to Memorial Pond. Everyone is working to get this project moving.

Ms. Mercandetti noted that a recreational trails grant, provides funding, trail enhancement, construction of bridge, lighting, paving, signage, it provides reimbursement of about 80% up to \$50,000 with a 20% local match, which can be in-kind services.

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to request services from the County Engineers to prepare an existing conditions plan for the northerly side of the brook adjacent to Town Hall as requested, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, **VOTED 5-0-0**

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to support the concept and pursue a grant application under the DCR Recreational Trails Gran Program to and to authorize the Chairman or Town Administrator to sign, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, **VOTED 5-0-0**

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to approve the re-location of the cannon from the new Library site to Town property that is between Memorial Bridge and the main entrance to Town Hall, 135 School Street, seconded by Mr. Berry, **VOTED 5-0-0**

8-15, 8-16 Robert O'Brien, DPW Director, Adopt a Field and Adopt and Island Programs and General discussion of the town fields.

Mr. O'Brien presented a power point presentation called "Athletic Fields Status Report". He briefly reviewed the Field Master Plan, dated 2008 prepared by Weston and Sampson. He reviewed the twelve fields they maintain and the user of the fields. He went over the number of employees currently in Highway, Parks and Cemeteries. In 1978 there were 28 positions and now they have 14. He reviewed the daily athletic field requirements performed by staff and the scheduled field maintenance responsibilities. Some fields are

Minutes of August 24, 2010

Board of Selectmen

being overused. He explained over 400,000 people are users of the fields. The recommendations are simple to maintain. He noted that some field conditions are poor and spoke to what the playing fields need to improve. Thanked the Friends group who reconstructed the Turco field. This will help rotate the fields. Upper Turco field construction is underway. In the Stone field, irrigation has been installed, infield skinned, thanked Bob Conrad and his group for all their work. They have contracted with a Border collie company to get the geese out of there. Hamilton Trees is donating some tree trimming on Stone Field.

He reviewed his recommendations which is to purchase equipment listed through capital improvement program, higher one full time employee which was lost in 2003, budget contracted services for specialized tasks, employ seasonal laborers, and irrigate Morgan Field, Fisher Field, Upgrade Plimpton Field irrigation and town commons. We have done a lot and thanked the DPW staff, very proud what they do with the resources they have.

There was discussion on how other towns take care of their fields and what they number of employees they have are. Mr. O'Brien noted that based on what the consultants are telling them, other towns have more resources. They talked about prioritizing and it was suggested that irrigation is the first priority. The cost would be about \$76,000.00 a year.

Mr. Timson wanted to know how adopt a field comes into play. Mr. O'Brien believes it is a way to take in donations that could be used to fund summer help.

Mr. Kraus noted there is limited funding and workers and based on the Weston and Sampson report done in 2008 he does not think they are that far along with most of the fields. Eight other fields that are borderline unplayable, including Morgan Field, we have to find a solution with not a lot of hands and money. While I like comparing what we do with other towns. Have to become more creative, huge liability on the safety of the fields. Thinks the Adopt a field program would be workable. The leagues using the field are already paying fees.

Mr. Johnson commented they have put in \$128,000 into the fields over the past three years. The Adopt a field program came about from work. He thinks Bob likes the concept of the gift program. Both ideas could work, just a matter of what direction you want to go. Not asking for a vote tonight.

Mr. Timson does not see adopt a field as a unilaterally taking of a field, it is ongoing maintenance of fields. You are sitting in an area where our parks dept gave in kind services. Show me how you have paid yourself, they can do that. I am willing to invest in fields, we need to compete for their time. A hybrid situation would be the best approach.

Mrs. Mackenzie is interested in adopt a field program. The fields were in great shape in the 80's. Having seen all the work around town the DPW staff is doing a lot and it is taking away from the fields. To get back to those jewels twenty years ago. She feels we need to try something new and be creative and move forward.

Mr. Berry suggested it is easy to get caught up in investing the fields, looking at the needs of the town and what we can invest in, reminded the Board, the same staffing levels, also have to do with public safety. To him public safety should come before any further investments in new employees. Likes the Adopt a field program, takes the strain off the town. He does not want to loose sight as to where we need to make investments. He does think Adopt a field is something they can look at.

Bob Conrad is kind of on same page whether it is adopt a field or a slush fund, if you stretch yourself too thin things start to fall apart. User groups are getting hard to put money in. The adopt a field is a great program and you can see where the money is being spent. The kids deserve good places to play on. The Board will review the materials and place this matter on another agenda.

Adopt an island

Mr. Johnson spoke to the Adopt an island program. Bob O'Brien noted that either program would work. Some people would like to see the money go to single island maintenance account. The islands would be prioritized by the Selectmen. Mr. Timson thought why can't we do both option A and B. Mr. Snuffer thought this was the proposal and you could choose.

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to approve the adopt an island program with both options available to the Town, subject to Town Counsel approval and the setting up of a fee schedule for option B and signage guidelines seconded by Mr. Snuffer, **VOTED** (5-0-0)

8-17 Associate membership appointments to Council on Aging

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to appoint Victor Serena to the Council on Aging as an associate member, seconded by Mr. Timson, **VOTED** 5-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to appoint Ann Murphy to the Council on Aging as an associate member, seconded by Mr. Timson, **VOTED** 5-0-0

8-18 Walpole Sportsman's Association, One Day Liquor License & Live Music

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to approve the one day all alcoholic liquor license and live music for the Walpole Sportsman's Association for September 11, 2010, seconded by Mr. Timson, **VOTED** 5-0-0

8-19 Walpole Footlighters, Sunday Entertainment

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to approve the Sunday Entertainment license for the Walpole Footlighters for September 12, October 24, October 31 and December 5, seconded by Mr. Timson **VOTED** 5-0-0

8-20 Raven's Nest, Weekday & Sunday Entertainment License

MOTION to approve the Weekday and Sunday Entertainment License for Raven's Nest located at 998 Main Street from 8 p.m. to midnight. This approval is subject to the conditions set forth in the Special Permit granted by the ZBA Case No. 10-05 that there be no live entertainment on the outside deck and as requested by the Police Chief that the back door is closed while music is playing and no instruments are plugged in, Seconded by Mr. Timson, **VOTED** 5-0-0

Pond Gift Acceptances

8-21 **MOTION** moved by Mr. Kraus To accept the gift of the Canoe from Eric Skogseth for the Ponds Committee with gratitude seconded by Mr. Timson, **VOTED** 5-0-0

8-22,8-23 **MOTION** moved by Mr. Kraus to accept the gift from TR Miller Company Inc in the amount of \$250.00 and from William & Karen Connors in the amount of \$50.00 for the Pond Gift Fund with gratitude, seconded by Mr. Timson, **VOTED** 5-0-0

8-24 **MOTION** moved by Mr. Kraus to accept the gift from William Wickham in the amount of \$100.00 for the Volleyball courts with gratitude, seconded by Mr. Timson, **VOTED** 5-0-0

8-25 **MOTION** moved by Mr. Kraus to approve the request to hold the Alzheimer's Walk on September 25, 2010 starting at 10 a.m. with the route as approved by the Police Department, seconded by Mr. Timson, **VOTED** 5-0-0

8-26 House For Little Wanderers Letter

Mrs. Mackenzie inquired if Board members had the opportunity to review the letter. She noted that Representative John Rogers said that HFLW may agree to a moratorium. The Board may want to hold off on the letter for now. Thank you to Rep Rogers and hold off on letter and confirm the buy in. Mr. Snuffer had spoken to Representative Rogers and they hope to have clarification within the week.

Assistant Town Administrator's Update

Cost free solar panel- Should investigate it. Last week they were approached by a consulting company asking if the town was interested in pursuing a cost free photovoltaic system for all town buildings. We are looking for Selectmen approval to pursue this opportunity at no cost to the town.

Library groundbreaking ceremony was this morning. They have started leveling off. We will loose three trees on the land. The PBC has been working hard on this.

Mr. Kraus stated it was a banner day for the town, the Council on Aging was packed and Cliff made some great remarks. The event was great. With the trees gone, you see the telephone poles, has there been any discussion about putting the utilities underground.

Veterans Agent-Jonathan Cogan will start the end of September. Ted Mulverhill of Norwood is helping out. We appreciate the help he is giving us.

Library Gift

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to accept the gift in the amount of \$350,000, from the Walpole Library Trust Fund for the construction of the new library, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

New Business: Talked about bike parking spaces. Ms. Mercandetti noted through MAPC bike rack program reimbursement for the rack but not installation, they did purchase bike racks for Blackburn Hall, pools. There is ability to purchase additional bike racks.

Old Business-Green Communities program, Came before the Board last September, planning Assistance for communities, consulting services. Applications are out for these program. Deadline is October 1, 2010. The second program is the designating process. That program will start accepting applications.

Mrs. Mackenzie spoke of the planning grant to help us get a designation and then get a designation. If we go with the planning assistance no need for article, if we want to go for designation, we would probably have to have at least one article. She wants the Board to hold closing the warrant for two weeks to see if we want to do any of these articles. The planning assistance will get you one hundred hours of consulting services.

Mr. Snuffer spoke to not believing in as of right siting. If you take a look at the wind farm, may be renewable energy. It is going to cost the consumer more in their energy bills, I think this needs more scrutiny. He does support solar, but does not think we need this and would maintain his opposition to this. He does not like any as of right zoning. Mrs. Mackenzie asked the Board members to consider digesting information, consider putting a hold on closing the FTM warrant. We can always reopen and close again.

Ms. Mercandetti will invite Seth to the next meeting to come in and discuss Green Communities.

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to close the warrant on September 7, 2010, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, **VOTED** 5-0-0

Deputy Police Chief

Minutes of August 24, 2010

Board of Selectmen

Mr. Berry raised the position of Deputy Police Chief, and wanted to know if the Board should interview all four candidates for the position instead of having one candidate not interviewed. He did not know if that is something you would agree to.

Mr. Snuffer noted they have hired a firm to rank the individuals, and wanted to know if he is suggesting that we throw this out. Mr. Berry thought it was an assessment, profile, but everything else was going thru normal process. He wants the process to be the same and to be uniform. He does not think we should get less than three candidates.

Mr. Kraus wants to get back on the next steps. Update the members on what is going on. He feels like he is in the dark.

Mr. Timson is pleased the first satellite meeting was at the barn and feels there needs to be one in E. Walpole and S. Walpole. He suggested going to E. Walpole next.

MINUTES

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to approve of July 27, 2010, seconded by Mr. Snuffer

Mr. Timson wants to add some language to the minutes reflecting the Deputy Chief discussion. He wants it to reflect what he said. Mr. Kraus withdrew his motion and Mr. Snuffer withdrew his second.

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus, to adjourn at 10:02 p.m. seconded by Mr. Berry,
VOTED 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted

Michael Berry, Clerk