

Final Minutes
Exeter Board of Selectmen
January 27, 2014

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Don Clement called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices building. Other members present were Vice Chairman Dan Chartrand, Selectman Frank Ferraro, and Selectman Matt Quandt. Town Manager Russell Dean was also present. Selectwoman Gilman was absent.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Minutes & Proclamations

a. Regular Meeting: January 21, 2014

The Board tabled the minutes until their next meeting, as they did not have enough time to review them prior to the meeting.

No proclamations.

4. Appointments

No appointments.

5. Discussion/Action Items

a. New Business

I. Lincoln Street Area Parking Discussion

Chief Kane said he visited the area a few times and read his analysis. He said from 6:15-6:40 am is when the commuters arrive. He said it is hectic during this time. He had several observations that he read. There are 72 regular spots and 4 handicap spots in the Amtrak parking lot. He said he has heard it is easier to leave if you are not parked in the lot. When the train left, he said the commuters took up 10-12 spots out of 20 on Lincoln Street. There were four parked on Daniel Street. There are 78 total spots on Lincoln Street. The majority of the

parkers were commuters. Business owners on Lincoln Street have reached out to commuters asking them not to park in front of their businesses. The commuters have tried to be cooperative.

Chief Kane said it is easy to find the problem but not easy to find the solution. After talking to the business owners on Lincoln Street, he said most of them want a time limit on the parking spots. Now, the question is how far to take the two hour limit. He said if they put timed parking spaces, the commuters will go elsewhere. He concerned they will start parking in neighborhoods. If he puts up a two hour limit, that will go for everyone; customers, owners, and employees. If he marks two hour parking on only the business side he said it will give the owners some relief. That is somewhat of a compromise solution. He talked about encouraging carpooling and for commuters to get picked up and dropped off. He talked about posting a sign suggesting not to park, but he said with no ordinance people will still park there. He talked about clearing the lot of snow as soon as possible.

Chairman Clement opened the discussion to the public.

Bob Priar, an Exeter resident and Amtrak commuter, spoke first. He said the average number of pass riders is 135 per day. The total number of boardings in 2013 was roughly 49,500. He said ridership has been increasing every year. The bulk of commuters are going to work. He said 60% of the riders are Exeter residents. A lot of people are from Kingston, Brentwood, and other surrounding towns. Ridership is going to go up. He said the train is fabulous. He wants to propose the Board look at a long term solution. He said the owner of a business which is abutting the train parking lot is willing to discuss selling to extend the parking lot. Public transportation is part of our future.

Ed Doris, of Good Karma Café, said he is a proponent for public transportation. He just wants to stay in business and the commuters are taking up all his parking. He wants a solution that is good for everyone. He said he has met with several business owners and they all agree they want to see parking be a two hour limit.

Paul Moore, of Trackside Café, said he doesn't agree with some of Chief Kane's numbers. He thinks the two hour parking should be on both sides of Lincoln Street. Mr. Moore has done a lot of work collecting data. He said this is not an easy solution. He said 60% of his customers are senior citizens and they shouldn't have to walk a long ways to get to the café. He thinks the best solution would be to make all the parking two hours. His business has been there for 2.5 years and the numbers keep getting worse. He suggested going angled parking all the way down Lincoln.

Chairman Clement said the Board needs to look both a long-term and short-term solution.

Mike Ward, resident of Exeter and Amtrak rider, put together a handout with data supporting ridership. He said he spoke to Bob Burnham of Burnham Dry Cleaners who said

people won't want to drag their laundry far down the street and going to the Laundromat sometimes requires being there more than two hours. Mr. Ward said some of the American Legion customers have disabilities and won't want to walk far if they are there longer than two hours. Since 2008, the ridership numbers have gone up. He said some of the commuters have tried to mitigate by carpooling, but it's just not enough. He did a survey based on revenues and gave the results to the Board. He said they need a solution. The businesses are pitted against their potential customer base.

Lori from Gerry's Variety Store said she has been with the company for 26 years. From 11:30am to 2pm it is very busy and it is very hard to find parking. She gave some examples of the no parking situation. She said it would be helpful to have painted lines on Daniel Street so people use them correctly. She wants to have two hour parking on the business side of Lincoln Street. She said she was previously on the Train Committee but had to step out. She said the train is wonderful, but trying to find out where to park can be a challenge.

Brandon Stauber said he is an occasional train rider. He gave some solutions suggestions.

Arthur Belageron said there should be limited parking as there is no parking now. He also reminded that delivery trucks come in and block parking. Daniel Street is becoming congested.

Mr. Doris said nobody is pitted against anybody here. He wants to work together to solve this.

Chairman Clement proposed creating a task force, i.e. someone from Planning Dept, DPW, etc. The long term goal is to create more parking. The short term goal will be handled by Chief Kane and DPW.

Mr. Ward said if people start getting tickets for going to work then ridership will go down.

Vice Chair Chartrand said he is loathed to go against department heads. He said in terms of long term, he suggested having some conversations with Lincoln Street School and see if they have some extra parking spaces. Also, he suggested talking to the handkerchief factory and see what they can do. This is an urban space. Urban spaces are a symphony of sharing.

Selectman Ferraro agreed that marked spaces on Daniel Street is a good idea. He also suggested signage on Tremont Street. He suggested asking DPW to explore to see if they could do any more angled parking. He said if they try something and it doesn't work out they can try something else.

Selectman Quandt wants to let Jay Perkins work on the short term plan. He agrees with everyone else's suggestions.

Mr. Dean said he is open to ideas. He said there are only five streets in Exeter that have a two hour limit. Changing to two hour on Lincoln would require an ordinance change.

Vice Chair Chartrand asked Chairman Clement is he was looking for a motion or just instruct the Town Manager to take the next steps.

A Motion was made by Selectman Ferraro and seconded by Selectman Quandt to have the Town Manager explore the two hour parking ordinance on the west side of Lincoln Street and on Tremont. Motion carried – all in favor.

Mr. Belageron reminded that Daniel Street and Tremont Street don't have sidewalks.

b. Old Business

Nothing at this time.

6. Regular Business

a. Bid Openings/Surplus Declarations

None.

b. Tax, Water/Sewer Abatements & Exemptions

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to approve Mr. Willis's abatement and make his new bill \$301.16. Vice Chair Chartrand and Selectman Quandt withdrew their Motion and second. A new Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to grant Leonard Willis his abatement in the amount of \$268.08. Motion carried – all in favor.

There was an abatement request from Ramit Bajpai. The DPW requested not granting abatement. A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Ferraro not to grant the abatement for 6 Nathaniel Way. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectman Quandt and seconded by Vice Chair Chartrand to approve the following Veteran's Credits all in the amount of \$500.00 each: map 85/lot 93, 104/79/209, 32/33, 68/6/342, 96/24, 97/6/1, and 86/19. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectman Quandt and seconded by Vice Chair Chartrand to approve the Elderly Exemption for map 63, lot 69 in the amount of \$236,251.

c. Permits & Approvals

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to approve the permit for use of the Town Hall by Greg Bisson for a Program/Movie Star Camp Premier on 6/14/14 at 5pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to approve the use of the Town Hall by Adam Schwartz and Ashley Fay on 6/7/14 for a wedding ceremony. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to approve use of the Town Hall by Christopher Bartell for an Easter celebration on 4/20/14 at 10:30am. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to approve use of the Town Hall by the Exeter Chamber of Commerce for a job fair on March 6 and 7, 2014. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to approve use of the Town Hall by Lionel Ingram for a River Committee information meeting on 3/8/14 from 1-4pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

d. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Dean just wanted to remind everyone of Saturday's deliberative session at 9am in the High School auditorium. He also said the Town Warrant is up and posted.

e. Legislative Update

None.

f. Selectman's Committee Reports

Selectman Ferraro said Planning Board met and approved a permit.

Vice Chair Chartrand had no meetings to report.

Selectman Quandt had nothing to report but also wanted to remind of Saturday's deliberative session.

Chairman Clement said River Study met.

g. Correspondence

Chairman Clement talked about the following correspondence:

- A letter from Big Brothers Big Sisters thanking Exeter for their donation
- A closeout report from Rockingham Planning Commission
- A memo from DPW regarding Water & Sewer System 2013 figures
- A budget proposal from Rockingham County Commissioners
- A letter from New Generations, Inc. thanking Exeter for their donation
- A letter from Seacoast Family Promise thanking Exeter for their donation
- A letter from Richie McFarland's Children's Center thanking for a donation
- A letter from Constellation informing of a change in an electric supply rate
- A letter from John Bohenko, Portsmouth's City Manager
- A letter from Nora Arico

7. Review Board Calendar

Chairman Clement said the next BOS meeting will be February 10, 2014.

A Motion was made by Selectman Quandt and seconded by Vice Chair Chartrand to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Nicole McCormack
Recording Secretary