

1. Convene the meeting; introduce Board.

Chairman Ingram convened the Board at 7:00PM in the Nowak Room, and introduced those present: Robert Eastman, Paul Binette, William Campbell, Joseph Pace and Town Manager Russell Dean.

2. Minutes of May 23, 2005 meeting.

***Mr. Binette moved to accept the minutes as submitted; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.***

Chairman Ingram noted an omitted item was a presentation by Peter Smith, representing the Historical Society, concerning a proposed structure at Town House Common/Heritage Park. Mr. Smith was present.

The purpose of the project is to preserve two of Exeter's artifacts and enhance the importance of Town House Common, informing residents and visitors of the historical events happening in and around the Common area. The artifacts include: 'First Church Steeple', designed and built by Ebenezer Clifford, one of Exeter's most famous builders and architects. The steeple is being replaced and retaining the lantern section would be preserving an example of Clifford's work and provide a protective receptacle for the bell. "Presbyterian Church Bell", saved from the recent church fire, it was cast by George Holbrook of East Medway, MA in 1848. The history of the former Town House and area will be depicted upon 8 granite posts arranged in front of the lantern/bell section on an octagonal base.

Mr. Smith provided information regarding the markers, as well as photos with the steeple superimposed to show its location (attached). The estimated cost will be \$10-15,000 and organizations have already expressed interest in fund raising. He offered a site walk for the Board in the near future.

Mr. Campbell asked if the Historical Society would be the sponsor of the project. Yes. Is the bell being given by the Church to the Society? Yes, they are not going to use it. Does the cost include reconditioning of the steeple? Yes, some work will be needed for the 19' top and several companies have volunteered their services.

Mr. Binette noted the Board has been given permission to accept gifts and inquired on whether this is the path the Society is going: raising funds and reconditioning, then turning the monument over to the Town. Yes, however, maintenance of the Park structure would not cover this, so funds would be added to that Park's account in the future. No Church Trust is being formed to handle this.

Mr. Ingram suggested there are a lot of pieces to this project and suggests the artifacts be considered gifts to the Historical Society and, when complete, the Society gift to the Town with Board acceptance. Mr. Eastman suggested no decision be made this evening as it was not an agenda item. Mr. Campbell expressed interest in a site walk.

Chairman Ingram directed Mr. Dean to craft a motion for the Board to "accept the gift" but to have a legal clause included to protect our interests should this be something contrary to the Town's interests.

3. Bid Awards: Wastewater Treatment Plant exhaust fan:

Mr. Dean recommended the award to R. C. Bonner, Inc., Derry NH for \$19,300. This is the low bid with the ability to meet or exceed the specifications. They have demonstrated a high level of professionalism in prior contracts and sub-contract work for the Town. Mr. Campbell stated his notes read \$250.00 for their bid; Mr. Dean noted this was a miss-read.

***Mr. Pace moved to award the bid for the wastewater treatment plant exhaust fan to R. C. Bonner, Inc. of Derry NH for \$19,300; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.*** Mr. Dean noted the warranty on the fan and maintenance is one year.

4. Presentation of Squamscott Community Block Project: Nathan Szanton:

Nathan Szanton, developer of the Squamscott Community Block project, was present to provide an overview to the Board. In order to secure financing, the developer is seeking the Board's approval of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application (public hearing on this will be June 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7PM). Mr. Szanton showed historical photos of former buildings at the site (Irma's Grill and apartments above, demolished in 1969; original Exeter Inn and added retail, taken down in 1959).

The Zoning Board of Adjustment has given significant relief during the proposal process and the remaining issue of a 20-foot set back between the property line of the Church and the project will be discussed at their meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup>. If approved, the project will include 30 units of housing, 15 of which are low-income rental units and 15 offered at market rates. The project will feature "kiosk" style retail.

The developer is also proposing an expansion of parking adjacent to the Bank drive-thru. There are now 5 spaces; the developer is proposing a joint effort to develop 14 'head in' spaces. A small portion of Town-owned property would be required to make this work. If approved, 8 of the 14 spaces would be dedicated to the Town, with 6 for use by 'retail.

Mr. Szanton explained the need for the Town's authorization to apply for certain grants to assist in financing, some from NH Community Development Financing Authority (CDFA) and the Town would serve as "grantee" under the Community Development Investment Program (CDIP). Deadline for CDIP application is 6/14.

Mr. Pace stated if the Board agrees to be 'grantee' in order to apply by 6/14 for CDIP funds, but public input at the public hearings on the 20<sup>th</sup> is not in support of the project, what obligations does that put on the Town? Mr. Szanton stated the issue would end there. He noted the 'grantee' serves as a pass-through role with funding. Mr. Binette cautioned the Board as nothing has been approved yet and there are lots of uncertainties. He suggested a CDBG rep present on the 20<sup>th</sup> to explain any questions. Mr. Szanton stated Debbie Lane would be present and has over 15 years experience with CDBG granting.

***Mr. Pace moved to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support to CDFA for CDIP funding for the project by the 14<sup>th</sup> application deadline, noting it will not obligate the Board prior to the public hearing on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and also have the Town's action as "Grantee" contingent on the passage of all review Boards' obligations, along with receiving input from the public; second by Mr. Campbell.*** It was suggested the Manager contact Warren Henderson for further information.

Mr. Dean noted he has administered CDBG grants before and once the application is completed and the grant is approved, the funding goes to the Town and the Town administers payment. We would not release the funds until we know what the payment is for and to whom paid (i.e. billing, inspections, etc.). All of this is covered under Federal guidelines. The Board also reserves the right to see the final project and any amendments must be acknowledged by the Board. Mr. Szanton noted the Board could undo, at any time, what they agree to tonight; the decision is not binding the Town to the project. **VOTE: Unanimous.** Chairman Ingram asked Mr. Szanton to work with Mr. Dean in preparing a letter for the 14<sup>th</sup> deadline.

5. Meeting with the Board: George St. Amour

George St. Amour, 4 Stoneybrook Lane, returned to inform the Board the parking issue along Stoneybrook Lane connector was continuing, disrupting the repair work of DPW to the grass and roadway, again forming ruts. He recommends a 'no parking' sign along that area, to protect the roadway, with possible curbing installed to save the corners. He stated McDonald's has signs behind their building for 'no truck parking'.

Mr. Binette noted the Board suggested Mr. St. Amour contact the police when trucks were parked there again. He does: they can't get there in time to catch the trucks parking. They have more important things to take care of in town. Also, with no signs posted, they can't ticker or ask them to move.

Chairman Ingram agreed that posting would be good. As it stands now, we are allowing retail parking because vehicles are blocked from using the retail area and he does not like supporting businesses in that fashion. Mr. Eastman noted they may be delivering to Gibbs and can't get into their lot. Mr. Campbell stated if for Gibbs and can't get in, they should return to Planning Board to address the space issues.

Mr. Binette questioned who owns the road – Town or State? Prior to the Town posting any signs, ownership should be resolved. The Town Manager will research the matter and place on the next agenda.

6. Water/Sewer Abatement request: Howard Tunstall, Jr.

Mr. Tunstall, 49 Epping Road, had requested abatement through the W/S Advisory Board and was denied. Appeal process is to the Selectmen. He explained he has 4 units, living in 1 of them, and a tenant had a leak which he did not know of. He feels he answered all questions and provided paperwork as required in the policy (00-30 attached). He requests \$209.76 (difference between higher bill and average bill for the same time period).

The Board explained abatements are not granted unless one of the conditions is met (see policy) and those conditions were not present in this circumstance. No motion was made.

7. Meeting with Grace Rogers, Swasey Parkway Trustee.

Ms. Rogers was unable to attend. Barbara Blenk presented the new Exeter T-shirt on sale at the Parks Discovery Day this Saturday. After visiting all the parks, head to Hampton Road for festivities and to purchase the shirt (\$15 for adults; \$13 for juniors. Part of proceeds to the Swasey Parkway Pavilion.

8. Meeting with the Board: Herb Moyer:

**Bill of Rights warrant article, March 2005:** Mr. Moyer was present to discuss the results of Article 47 (1219 yes (59.8%); 821 no (40.2%)). Mr. Moyer explained the issues of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> amendments, in particular, and though we are in the midst of extraordinary times, we are forced to look at how we work, act and face the enemy. The US Patriot's Act affects the rights of individuals to their privacy. Five other towns in New Hampshire have reaffirmed support through Town Meeting and more are in the process of doing so and he urged the Board to also do so publicly. We may have no control over the US Congress but people are concerned and the Board should be also.

Chairman Ingram did not personally agree. He noted the petition did not mention the Patriot Act and, though he opposes the war in Iraq and events associated with 9/11, he's concerned people voted due to how the article was stated. He does not feel the public understood what they were voting for. Mr. Moyer stated the public should be given more credit and it's a statement from concern over what is going on. Patriot's Act undermines privacy and we need to be reminded of what the country stands for.

Mr. Campbell noted if the Board reaffirms the Bill of Rights and Constitution, then that could be turned around and used to say the Board is against the Patriot's Act. Mr. Pace stated the Board takes the Oath of Office to uphold the Constitution and, though still flawed and still being fixed, and he has issues with the Bill of Rights, the Board members operate under them both. He has difficulty with a blanket statement of political issues, which may not be appropriate. Just as it wasn't the forum at Memorial Day services for the speaker to say what he said, he's not sure this is the right place to do this action.

Mr. Eastman stated he was part of the 40% saying no, he feels during these troubled times the government has the right to do some things, even though the Patriot Act may not be all okay. Mr. Binette preferred to keep his feelings to himself. Mr. Moyer thanked the Board for their comments.

**Cable TV – Community Access:** Mr. Moyer stated the current policy for display of items on Channel 22 is via sponsorship by either School or Town. The vote (50.7% vs. 49.3%) suggested broadening this out for other groups to use the medium to educate the public.. He would be happy to serve again on the Committee.

Mr. Pace (unofficial chairman of the Committee) stated he has had no chance to reconvene the Committee or discuss the issue with the Manager. Much of the discussion is felt to be associated with the cable contract renewal (2009), upgrades to the system being sought (and how to expend the funds), increase of membership – who decides the standards and watches for politically-biased issues, etc.

Chairman Ingram noted the Board has been interested in expanding coverage of Committee meetings (just included ZBA) as a start, and the Manager has been right out straight with River and other issues. Mr. Dean stated he has been prioritizing issues, most being time-sensitive. Mr. Pace hopes to have a meeting before the end of summer.

9. Board Discussion: Amended RSA regarding Exemptions/Credits:

A new version of RSA 72:33 was recently adopted by state legislature changing the timeframe for requests for exemptions/credits against property tax. John DeVittori summarized the issues (attached) and requested the Board develop a framework to implement the new law. It was noted most towns have opted for the April 15<sup>th</sup> date. Mr. Dean suggested a rolling date in 2005 till the tax rate is set (October) but a firm date beginning in 2006.

A variety of scenarios were presented. [Clarify: event must be by April 1<sup>st</sup>, application by 15<sup>th</sup>. -bb] Mr. Eastman suggested a firm date of April 15<sup>th</sup> beginning with 2006 but consider this a 'grace' year, operating as usual, and publicize heavily the changes.

10. Sign Warrant for unlicensed dogs.

Chairman Ingram read the warrant, noting 449 unlicensed dogs vs. 246 at signing last year. ***Mr. Eastman moved to sign the warrant and pass along to the Police Chief for processing by the Animal Control Officer; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.***

11. Town Manager's Items:

- It's yard sale season and a reminder to remove signs once the sale is over;
- E-Registration is available for motor vehicles and it's easy and friendly to use via the link at the Town's web site.
- Flag Day is June 14<sup>th</sup> and the Boy Scouts will hold their annual "Flag Retirement" ceremony at 6PM on the 14<sup>th</sup> at Swasey Parkway. Torn and worn flags are being accepted in the lobby of the Town Office or may be brought to the ceremony that evening.
- Farmers' Market begins this Thursday from 2:15-5:30PM at Swasey Parkway, through October.
- Alewife Festival was this past Saturday and appeared to be a big success, and a good time.
- The initial cut of the CIP (Community Improvement Projects) sub-committee took place today, with meetings to follow this week.

12. Permits:

- Ice cream vendor from Plaistow requests permission to serve Exeter.
- Use of the Town Hall is requested by the EHS Music Boosters for their December 3<sup>rd</sup> craft Fair from 9-3.
- Chamber of Commerce requested permission to place bunking on the Bandstand during July. Mr. Binette stressed no nails or wires. That will be noted on the permit.

***Mr. Pace moved to accept the permits as read; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.***

13. Selectmen's Committee Reports:

Mr. Eastman: Planning Board held a joint meeting with Kensington to discuss a development off Powder Mill Road. Exeter has concerns that will affect the mutual aid of police and fire. CIP met today with DPW and will meet Tuesday and Wednesday mornings also. Tuesday afternoon, the Town Office Space Study Committee meets at 2PM.

Mr. Binette: Parks Discovery Day is this Saturday. A good weather forecast is predicted.

Mr. Pace: Arts Committee meets Wednesday, to discuss participation in Parks Discovery Day at Town House Common. Seahawks will run the Punt, Pass & Kick competition that day at Gilman Park.

Mr. Campbell: None.

Mr. Ingram: None.

14. Public Comments: None.

***Mr. Eastman moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 9:30PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Blenk  
Admin. Asst/H.R. Dir.