

3 & 4. Reconvene regular meeting

Chairman Ingram reconvened the Board at 7:00PM following a non-public session which convened at 6:15PM on the above date (under RSA 91:A). PRESENT: Paul Binette, Robert Eastman, William Campbell, Joseph Pace and Town Manager Russell Dean.

5. Minutes – October 31, 2005

Mr. Binette moved to approve the minutes of the October 31, 2005 meeting as submitted; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Binette read two letters of congratulations to EHS freshmen sports teams, acknowledging their hard work and dedication for successful seasons, both undefeated and winning their respective Jamborees: Freshmen girls soccer and boys football. The letters will be forwarded to the Athletic Department for distribution.

6. Appointment to Arts Committee.

Mr. Eastman moved to appoint Judith Calkins to the Arts Committee to complete the unexpired term of Curtis Mackail, with her term ending 4-30-08; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

7. Appointment with Board: Nathan Szanton.

Mr. Szanton was present, along with Jeff Clifford (Civil Engineer) to request items associated with the Squamscott Block project, including additional parking, declaring a portion of the downtown as a “Growth District”, and supplying a letter of support from the Board.

Parking: The project has been approved by the Zoning Board and the developer has filed a plan with the Planning Department which includes additional parking adjacent to the Town Hall. This would include a proposed swap of easements, eliminating 6 spaces by the Town Hall and creating new ‘turned-in’ spaces with 6 designated for the project and the remaining designated for town use, including 2 handicapped spaces. Advantages to the Town would be: a) create additional public parking; b) removing outside fire escape thereby improving safety (no issue w/ice), c) better access to the Town Hall for maintenance purposes and d) aesthetics. Mr. Szanton stated they would be willing to pay ½ the cost to move the stairs inside, as proposed by DPW. Discussion followed concerning parking spaces, slope of area and extension of the handicapped ramp to the Hall. Mr. Szanton stated, with limited funding, he would not be interested in also paying for extending the ramp.

Chairman Ingram recapped the conceptual support of the proposal by adding Town Counsel should review the plans and proposed arrangement, and the Mr. Eastman will inform the Planning Board of the Board’s view for details for when the project is brought forward to them for discussion. Mr. Pace noted some negotiations should be done i.e. who pays for what, but he does not want the deal to unravel due to smaller projects within the whole scope of big picture. Mr. Eastman noted Planning Board decisions could include proper language “with conditions”.

Grant Application: Chairman Ingram read the attached proposed resolution. Mr. Eastman asked whether the Board could do this or if this must go to the voters, similar to that of Historic Districts, Aquifer designations, etc. Pace questioned whether the Town could do this under ‘home rule’, noting if an RSA does not cover the instance, we could not institute. Mr. Szanton noted the ‘resolution’ is not linked to anything, such as Zoning, etc. There are no consequences except the support of the Board would also encourage new construction compatible to the existing area – a symbolic resolution. The proposed language was developed by the Planner, Town Manager and Mr. Szanton. The application is due February 3, 2006. Mr. Szanton will find examples submitted by other municipalities, to answer the question of “can we?”

Letter of Support: It was decided to hold off till a later meeting and handle both this and the grant application at once, thereby including items that have been accomplished that indicate support of the project.

8. Approve rates for Ambulance billing

The Fire Chief was unable to attend the meeting (fire command set up at Wentworth Street fire). Mr. Eastman asked a few questions for Mr. Dean to acquire prior to the next scheduled meeting: What rate would be recommended for Basic Life Support (BLS) runs (not included in chart provided). How many ALS last year, in order to show how we lost potential revenues of \$200,000.

9. Road acceptances: Dolloff Woods Drive & Deer Haven

Jennifer Perry, Town Engineer was present to discuss the two subdivisions requesting acceptance of roads as public ways. Both developers have completed a substantial amount of the required work, with minor punch list items left. As-builts and plans have been received and recorded. She recommends both be accepted contingent upon punch list items being completed – all prior to winter plowing and required maintenance by the Town.

Mr. Campbell questioned an outstanding issue with utilities at Deer Haven. Ms. Perry noted there is one more meeting with the Planning Board to discuss whether utilities will be underground, as well as working with Unitil on a pole at the intersection of Dogtown and Brentwood Roads which may be moved. She recommends not holding up on a decision, as any contingency regarding these issues will be placed in writing. Mr. Pace clarified that the maintenance bond is kept for repairs above and beyond the norm; if digging for utilities is required, a permit fee is collected.

Mr. Pace moved the Board accept Deer Haven Drive as a public way subject to 1) full review of deeds and easements satisfactory to Town Counsel; 2) submission and approval of as-built drawings to the Department of Public Works, and 3) the proper maintenance bond being in place; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Pace moved the Board accept Dolloff Farm Drive as a public way subject to 1) full review of deeds and easements satisfactory to Town Counsel; 2) submission and approval of as-built drawings to the Department of Public Works; and 3) the proper maintenance bond being in place; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: Unanimous.

10. Sign in Right of Way request: Wendy Monroe, Great Bay Kids Company.

Wendy Monroe, Executive Director of Great Bay Kids Company, was present to request permission to locate a directional street sign at the corner of Front and School Streets. This would be two-sided, similar to other directional signs approved around Town. Mr. Dean had suggested a free-standing galvanized steel sign post but the Board suggested contacting DPW for their suggestions, as some of these signs are placed on top of our street signs. ***Mr. Pace moved to approve the request; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.***

11. Authorize Town Manager to sign agreements for wastewater grants.

Mr. Dean reported the NHN DES requires the Board to vote to authorize the Town Manager to act on behalf of the Town to negotiate and accept State Aid payments in connect with wastewater facilities in Town. We receive a water pollution grant each year from the State under RSA 486, as part of its general revenues. ***Mr. Campbell moved to authorize the Town Manager to act on behalf of the Town of Exeter in negotiating for and accepting any and all State Aid payments in connection with sewer disposal facilities in the Town of Exeter; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.***

12. Town Manager's Report:

- The Town Office/Hall study is progressing well with S.M.R.T, Architects from Portland, Maine. They have been here 2-3 times both measuring and speaking with employees. They have also toured the Tuck Building. More options are on the table and the Committee will meet again soon prior to Board review.
- Senator Hassin reported she has met with Commissioner Hall and other concerning the District Court building option. Within days, we should receive a letter. She noted in the past, options for the State building court facilities have included the Town donating land or being built on State-owned property. Mr. Dean will forward letters to Commissioner Hill indicating our part (along with Hampton's) in coordinating area towns in looking for a centralized court location. He noted we are competing with Henniker and Hillsboro in whose court will be built first.
- An initial meeting with Verizon was held, opening comments toward providing cable access. Mr. Dean noted inquiries have been made concerning TV service but they cannot provide without franchising agreements. However, Verizon can offer broadband access and phone. There are also plans to integrate across town boundaries, at least through the SAU system, allowing broadcast of school items in all areas.
- Jennifer Perry presented signs she is requesting be posted at the area of the closed landfill, disallowing use of wheeled vehicles on the cap. She noted there has been damage to the cap by ATV and dirt bikes, along with reports there have been SUV's using the land also. The police have been put on notice but they noted it was in the best interests of the Town to post. She stated a small area of the cap will need repair. The area they have been using is out of view of the attendant but if he hears any noise, he has been instructed to call the police. Residents are encouraged to also call if they view any criminal mischief.

13. Permits:

- Exeter Rotary Club requested permission to have street lights shut off from noon Saturday, December 24th to Monday, December 26th (or whatever dates agree with the Unitil work schedule) for the luminary display for Christmas Eve.
- Exeter PTO requested permission for their “Get Fit in May” road race & fun run on May 13, 2006 with 8:30 and 9:30AM starts. The Police Chief has signed off on the route.
- Exeter PTO requested permission for a banner across Water Street from April 28 to May 12, 2006 to advertise their Get Fit in May road race.
- Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce requested a banner across Water Street to advertise “Exeter’s the Place to Be Thursdays in December” promotion from November 21 through December 23rd.
- E.S.S.O. at P.E.A. requested use of the Town Hall main floor for their annual homeless vigil on February 1, 2006 from 6-9PM.
- Musical Arts (Lincoln Street) requested use of the Town Hall with stage on January 12 (12 noon) & 13, 2006 (9:00PM) for student music recitals.

Mr. Campbell moved to approve the permits as submitted; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

14. Selectmen’s Committee reports

- Mr. Pace: HDC meets this Thursday evening. He noted the Veteran’s ceremony this past Friday at Gale Park.
- Mr. Campbell: EDC meets Tuesday; Conservation Commission’s proposed clean-up of the River. Wednesday he attended the downtown presentation at the Town Hall.
- Mr. Eastman noted a W/S Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled Wednesday at 7PM and Planning Board Thursday at the Town Hall.
- Mr. Binette: Recreation Advisory Committee is discussing their next Parks Discovery Day in June. Due to recent resignations due to members moving from the area, there are openings on the Board. He suggested calling the Director if interested in serving. Mr. Binette asked Mr. Dean for an update on the Epping Road property under agreement: Mr. Dean reported Seacoast Credit Union has completed geo-technical review and site work is on-going.
- Mr. Ingram: River Advisory Committee meets at 9AM this Thursday. Council on Aging meets Thursday afternoon and RPC meets Wednesday.

15. Public Comment: None.

Next meeting is December 5, 2005. The Board congratulated Mr. Dean on his upcoming nuptials (following Thanksgiving)!

Mr. Eastman moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Blenk, AA/HR