

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Pace convened the Board at 7:02PM on the above date and introduced the Board. Also present: Paul Binette, Robert Eastman, William Campbell, Lionel Ingram and Town Manager George Olson.

2. Minutes of meetings of September 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Mr. Binette moved to accept the minutes of the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting as submitted; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.*

*Mr. Binette moved to accept the minutes of the September 30<sup>th</sup> work session as submitted; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.*

3. Bid opening – land taken for back taxes: Lot 27 Beech Hill Mobile Home Park.

None have been received.

4. Bid Awards: Town Report; brickwork @ Stewart Park; Salt Shed @ DPW.

**Town Report:** Mr. Olson recommended Yankee Printer, low bidder, at \$6178. They were also low bidder for the addendums to the initial bid. [Budgeted figure for 2003 is \$5000]. Barbara Blenk explained the School pays for one-third of the total invoiced. *Mr. Binette moved to accept the low bidder, Yankee Printer, as recommended for \$6178; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.*

**Stewart Park brickwork:** Mr. Olson recommended Pawtuckaway Nursery Corp. of Lee, NH, for \$37,900. They were not the low bidder but that vendor had no experience with type of work. From the Parks Fund, \$33,000 has been made available, though additional funds are available due to the lower price for earlier fencing. *Mr. Campbell moved to accept the recommendation of Pawtuckaway Nursery at \$37,900; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: Unanimous.*

**Salt Storage Shed:** Mr. Olson recommended Park Lane Construction of Clyde, NY for \$115,444. Though not the low bidder, they met all specs, as the low bidder did not.

Mr. Eastman reviewed the two memos received from Mr. Noyes concerning the project and questioned how the design and demolition was funded. Keith Noyes, DPW Director, responded by noting Granite State Minerals paid for this, noting they had originally caused damage to the shed when they backed into the building. Mr. Eastman asked why the Board was not involved in the decision to demolish the building, noting the Public Works Director should not have sole decisions over demolishing town facilities. Mr. Noyes stated he does not normally consult with the Board on most issues but usually the Town Manager, and his concern over safety issues in and around the building predicated his actions, noting the Town Manager was aware of the situation. Mr. Eastman stated the building inspector had not condemned the building and actions were made on what an engineer proposed. Mr. Noyes reiterated his feelings on the safety of the area, noting children play in and around the facilities during off hours and he felt the safety issue was strong enough to made an immediate decision.

Mr. Eastman asked if there were funds in last year's budget for roof repair to the Shed and was it still there? Mr. Noyes stated it was not; it was used for demolition of the foundation. Granite State paid for demolition above the foundation and, actually, the demolition and design totaled more than what the initial repair would have been. Mr. Noyes feels it was a "blessing in disguise" when Granite State hit the building, as it not structurally sound and could have posed serious problems.

Mr. Binette questioned why a report was never made to our insurance carrier, noting he had contacted Granite State Minerals directly to inquire on the situation. They stated damages of \$5000 and a check was made directly to the Town. Mr. Noyes was not aware of any check received and Mr. Olson stated Granite State Minerals was paying for design and demolition directly to the vendor, with no check coming to the Town. Mr. Noyes stated the damage did not amount to that high a figure and would take responsibility for his department not reporting the incident to be recorded, though a police report was filed. Once all issues regarding the structure were pointed out, even the building inspector concurred with the demolition.

Mr. Ingram asked Mr. Olson if there were other Town buildings that may be unsafe and would he review, without too much of an expense? Yes. ***Mr. Ingram moved to award the bid to Park Lane for \$115,444, with expenditures being off-set by under-expenditure in the accounts noted on Mr. Noyes' memo discussed on September 30th; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: 3-1.***

5. Second reading of Town Ordinance amendment re hunting & wheeled vehicles/conservation.

Chairman Pace read the proposed amendments as prepared.

Lee Hunter, Walter's Way, addressed the Board, noting his development is adjacent to the Town Forest and questioned whether the ordinances were reviewed with respect to that development going in? Chairman Pace stated the Planning Board reviews site plans, etc., and questioned whether hunting issues were discussed. Neither Mr. Ingram nor Mr. Eastman remembers any discussion of that nature. Mr. Campbell noted the ordinances are not reviewed with developments from a Conservation Commission standpoint either, noting Sloan's Brook and Captain's Way are also adjacent to the Forest.

Mr. Ingram suggested the issue be discussed through the Technical Review Committee process, as this issue appears to fall through the cracks. He asked Mr. Olson to discuss the issue with Ms. Von Aulock, Planning Director, to find a 'home' for this review.

Mr. Campbell clarified that the amendment is to include Little River, with the Oakland's Forest and Smith-Page property already included under this hunting issue. Chairman Pace thanked Mr. Hunter for the information and his concerns. He suggested the Board consider deeper concerns before the third and final reading at the next meeting.

6. Discussion of petitioned request for 2-hour parking on Front Street.

Virginia Cori, 76 Front Street, spoke of a dangerous situation between 7AM and 3PM on Front Street from Elliott to the Inn, as the parking becomes a solid block. There is no visibility from driveways and there have been several near misses, even when turning right from the driveway and not attempting to cross traffic. She stated it is mostly High School students and construction workers for PEA projects that are parking there, and requests 2-hour parking signs for weekdays between 7A & 3P.

Holly McGrath, 80 Front Street, stated cars are also overlapping driveways, not just up to the driveway and, without high vehicles such as SUV's, it's difficult to have a sightline for traffic. She expressed concern that emergency vehicles could not get up her driveway and would probably have a difficult time passing through that area. The 2-hour parking limit would help prevent students from parking there all day.

Will Cori noted it would probably take more accidents for action on the issue.

Mr. Ingram asked why there is 1 hour parking on Pine Street? Mr. Binette stated it was because of the parking situation on Pine and Grove Streets several years ago and each time an area was posted, the students would move to the next block. Currently, seniors receive parking permits first and then, if space allows in the school lots, juniors receive them based upon grades. He noted the additional burden has been with the building projects of PEA and the workers parking all day, stating PEA had tried a shuttle service but that was not successful.

Don Briselden, Director of Facilities of PEA, stated the two projects (renovations of the Church and the Library) should be completed by late December but that a series of projects is scheduled every summer. They have tried a number of items including the shuttle service for several weeks, asking the contractors to park at the lot and even considered writing this into the contract. He noted the workers stated they could park there as citizens, as it is a public way. Unless there are signs denoting timed parking, nothing is enforceable.

Mr. Ingram asked if the Town could paint the streets showing how close a vehicle could go to a driveway entrance, as the statutes do not address the number of feet someone must stay from the entrance, it just refers to 'not blocking' a driveway. Mr. Olson reminded the Board that without 'home rule' there is little the Town could do for wording unless stated in statutes. Mr. Olson also stated the painting of spaces on the roads becomes expensive and is tough to enforce part of the year when covered by ice and snow.

David Bohn, 72 Front Street, noted he lives in the 'buffer zone' with mostly construction workers and no school parkers, except for PEA day students and professors. He feels the immediate problems could be solved with a 2-hour parking limit but also noted the additional landscaping at PEA seemed to have lessened spaces on campus to park. Mr. Briselden clarified that the number of spaces did not decrease (actually increased by a few) but they have been reassigned to faculty and dormitory residents.

Ms. McGrath also spoke of the garbage she continues to pick up in front of her home due to those parking all day dropping items when arriving in the morning. Mr. Cori suggested the residents move their vehicles from their driveways early in the morning and blocking parking spaces. This may save lives and it's legal.

Arthur Baillargeon, Tremont Street, expressed concern that the area by Seminary Road does not have a specific sidewalk delineated and vehicles have been parking in the space originally meant for walkers. The rest of the street has curbing and is marked. Chairman Pace asked Mr. Olson to have DPW review this area.

Mr. Binette expressed concern the issue will get worse as we get into the winter months and snow is piled on the sides of the roads. He feels the grader would not have enough room to plow.

Peg Joselow, 79 Front Street, asked why the Board would not do this (place 2-hour parking signs). Chairman Pace stated they are in the discussion phase and was not sure how his colleagues feel on the issue. This is the first the issue has been discussed and, if an amendment to the ordinances is proposed, it takes three readings, which allows for all points of view to be discussed.

Mr. Ingram noted the downside of this action would be the parkers would move elsewhere and the problem would continue into another neighborhood. Mr. Binette stated they might move elsewhere but not westerly on Front Street as that area is already posted. He suggested the school use the property of the old nursing home on Court Street for a lot and prepare a walkway through the playing field to the school, noting there is already a walking bridge to the school in that area.

Mr. Cori asked if the speed limit could be decreased to 15 MPH on Front Street. No, the Town must do what the State says based upon the situation.

Mr. Ingram requested the Town Manager prepare an amendment to the Town's ordinances for 2-hour parking from Elliott to Pine Street and the equivalent on the other side. Mr. Ingram will work with the Town Manager on this.

7. Request the Town maintain Pine Grove Road Common.

Mr. Olson stated correspondence has been received from Pine Brook Estates Condominium Association requesting the Town maintain the circle located on their property, as well as pick up the tree limbs at the property that fell during last winter. He noted the road is maintained by the Town; the common is not now and Mr. Dicey said it is not in their plans.

Keith Hanson, 4 Pine Grove Road, noted the common area is not grassy but has older trees in need of pruning and winterkill prevention and is about one-half the size of the Nowak Room.

Mr. Ingram asked how many dead-end areas we now maintain? Not many as the Associations handle them as proposed in their original plans. We do handle commons but they are on main streets, such as Park Street Common and Templeton Common on Center Street. Mr. Ingram asked if the Association takes care of other areas within the property? Mr. Hanson replied they handle mowing lawns. The circle has overgrowth and the roads are hemmed in, noting it is not just the circle having problems but the road around the circle.

Mr. Campbell stated he was not looking for more work for a department and if one area is undertaken, more residents will requests areas be added. Mr. Ingram asked about the responsibility of cutting back growth from the roads. Mr. Noyes responded that a minimum maintenance program is done along roadways with their sickle bar for growth near the pavement. He has no resources for high growth. They do handle dead trees and limbs but not ornamental growth at the edge of pavement.

Mr. Ingram stated that cul de sac areas are usually under the Owners' Association and is probably mentioned in the original covenants. He feels this could open a can of worms.

Janet Bernier, 15 Pine Grove Road, noted the cul de sac is one item, the edge of the road is another and they are requesting the edge of the road be maintained as any other town road, with limbs being picked up. Chairman Pace asked Mr. Olson to have this area reviewed for normal street maintenance. Mr. Ingram suggested we review what difficulties are here and address those we can.

8. Follow-up discussion and action on setting of an ambulance rate.

Mr. Eastman asked about the 66% increase in overtime and why only a 1.31% proposed increase in the number of runs for 2003 vs. a 6% increase for the past 6 years? Chief Brian Comeau noted the overtime is based upon current numbers and the overtime for this year ran out in September. There are always many variables to address each year.

Mr. Eastman asked if they have considered another provider as the primary response with the Town as secondary. Chief Comeau stated a third truck is currently being proposed on the CIP and they are at about 110 calls per month. Mr. Eastman noted it would reduce the number of calls the Town would have to make and save buying a third ambulance. Chief Comeau stated an outside provider would require an upfront retainer and revenues generated by their responses would go to the 'for-profit' agency and not to the Town. Chairman Pace stated there is also the concern over quality control.

***Mr. Ingram moved to adopt the new rate of \$200 per run, till the Charter is set and rates are reviewed again, to begin November 1, 2002; second by Mr. Campbell.*** Mr. Pace noted the Charter, if passed at Town Meeting, would state where the funds would go. Mr. Binette asked if a better date would be January 1, 2003 in order to notify Medicare and appropriate agencies? Chief Comeau stated once a start date is determined, Medicare has a 30-day lag.

Mr. Ingram noted the intent of the fees is to pay all fees associated with the runs and costs. Mr. Eastman stated the intent of the fee is to purchase a new ambulance. Chairman Paced stated the original intent was to cover the entire operating cost of the program and the intent has changed over the years. Mr. Campbell clarified the fees would only replace a new ambulance until the Charter is passed in March. ***VOTE: 4-1 (Chairman Pace wanted to vote also).*** Mr. Eastman noted he feels the start date should be January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003.

9. Discussion of warrant article in support of an exemption for the disabled.

Mr. Olson reported the passage of a warrant article establishing an exemption for the disabled will mean the Board no longer needs to address such requests on an individual basis. He noted the Assessor, John DeVittori, feels the exemption will build confidence that all exempted tax payers are being treated equally, and anticipates there are fewer than a dozen property owners who would be eligible for the exemption. It does, however, require a Town Meeting vote.

Mr. Ingram asked about the elderly and disabled and could someone get both exemptions. Mr. Olson stated they do not get double exemptions.

10. Request to place structure in Town right-of-way – Village at Sterling Hill.

Eric Katz, Manager, has noted his desire to improve portions of the right-of-way along Guinea Road, adjacent to the noted property. This would include planting of street trees, flowering trees, evergreen trees, loaming and seeding of the property and the installation of an irrigation system to maintain the improvements. They also request permission to install a real estate sign, as approved by the Town's Code Enforcement Officer. All improvements would be maintained by the Village at Sterling Hill Condominium, including the cost of replacement should any of the improvements die or be damaged.

Mr. Olson noted he and Mr. Noyes have observed the site and the signs would conform to size regulations. Mr. Noyes has no problem as long as the street trees shown not interfere with the pavement upon maturity.

Mr. Katz stated there are currently no residents and no condo documents have been filed yet but the damage clause could be added in, noting responsibility to maintain would be by the homeowners.

Mr. Campbell asked about the signs being placed by the emergency access (as shown on the plan). Would the signs direct people through this access? No, the signs are shown on the plan only in a general area and the intent is to advertise the development, with real estate information included. Mr. Katz stated he cannot place a sign at the entrance to the development as it is in Stratham and there is currently a sign there for "The Vineyards". He cannot advertise an Exeter development in Stratham. He hopes to place a sign by the Exeter/Stratham boundary marker, in Exeter's right-of-way.

Mr. Eastman asked for language regarding the landscaping responsibility, with the Planning Director reviewing the covenants to this end, updating the Board on the results.

11. Permits:

- Rockingham County Headstart Policy Council meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup> in the Wheelwright Room from 8:45-11:45AM. *Mr. Ingram moved to approve; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.*
- Chamber of Commerce – Retail Division, requested blocking parking spaces on Water Street for hayrides as part of Fall Festival on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 12-2. *Mr. Campbell moved to approve; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: Unanimous.*
- Project Prom/Graduation requested a banner for their yard sale be placed across Water Street from October 10<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>. All necessary contacts with Unitol and insurance certificate have been received. *Mr. Ingram moved to approve; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.*
- Fall Festival - Churchill's Garden Center, requested use of the road behind the Town Hall (between the Hall and the Bank) for use during the Fall Festival for activities. They had also requested use one space in front, but noted that is the handicapped space and they would not need it. *Mr. Ingram moved to approve; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.*
- Bruce Ellis Road Race on November 9<sup>th</sup>, with route approved by the Police Department. The insurance certificate has been received. *Mr. Campbell moved to approve; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: Unanimous.*

12. Town Manager's Items:

- Town offices are closed Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> for Columbus Day;
- Next meeting is October 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Political signs must be removed from the Town's rights-of-way.
- Fall pick-up is the week of October 28<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Olson read items that will be collected and what will not.
- Leaf pick-up is the week of November 4<sup>th</sup>, with leaves in brown bags from Arjays or the Town.
- Halloween Trick or Treat is October 30<sup>th</sup> from 4-7.

13. Selectmen's Committee Reports:

Mr. Ingram – none.

Mr. Eastman – none

Mr. Campbell – EDC meeting on Tuesday; Conservation on Tuesday and Budget Sub-committee meetings upcoming.

Mr. Binette – none to report, though two on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Pace – Arts Committee to discuss policies due to stewardship of the Town Hall; Master Plan, second round, will begin Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Pace had a few announcements:

The North Hampton Board of Selectmen will hold an Open House on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> and feature District 83 Candidates, at the Elementary School cafeteria from 7-8:30PM. He suggested carpooling, and more information is available at 964-8087.

The Memory Walk, whose permit was approved a few weeks ago, netted \$7,290 – almost double of that collected last year.

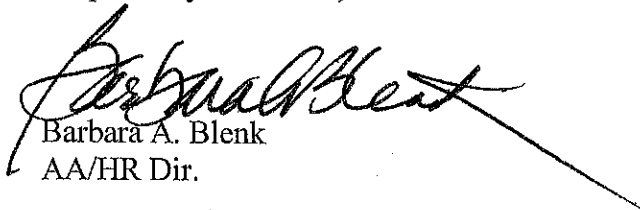
With this being election season, several requests have been received from candidates to address the board at their regular meetings. He noted this would not be the practice, though candidates could take a brief moment under “Public Comments” to introduce themselves to the audience.

14. Public Comments:

Arthur Baillargeon asked when the restrooms would be available at the Town Hall, noting they have been closed for renovations. Mr. Olson noted we are shooting for the fall festival on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

***Mr. Ingram moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 9:00PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

  
Barbara A. Blenk  
AA/HR Dir.

