

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES FEBRUARY 12, 2001



1. Convene the meeting

Chairman Binette convened the meeting of the Board at 7:02PM on the above date. Also in attendance: Paul Scafidi, Joseph Pace, Robert Rowe, Wendy Stanley Jones and Town Manager George Olson.

2. Minutes of the January 22, 2001 meeting

Moved by Mr. Scafidi, second by Mr. Rowe to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2001 meeting as presented. SO VOTED.

3. Doug Dicey – Appreciation

Chairman Binette invited Mr. Dicey to the mic. Chairman Binette proceeded to read an appreciation of Mr. Dicey's work with the Amateur Softball Association (see attached comments). Mr. Dicey thanked the Board, noting that he began his work with the Amateur Softball Association the same year he came to Exeter to be the Director of Parks and Recreation, 1971. He stressed how valuable his association with amateur softball has been in that it afforded him the opportunity to see how other towns in other states operated their park and recreation programs. Mr. Scafidi praised Mr. Dicey for his work, referencing his personal experiences playing league softball and how well Mr. Dicey and all of his volunteers insured that the games were played according to the rules and the players did not get out of hand. Again, Mr. Dicey was thanked for his good work.

4. Land and Community Heritage Investment Program – Eligibility Application

Chairman Binette noted the matter had been handled following last week's canceled meeting.

5. First reading of parking limitation on Front and Elliot Streets

Chairman Binette asked Mr. Olson to address this agenda item. Mr. Olson noted that at the meeting of January 22, 2001 the Board had requested he prepare two sets of changes to the ordinances in the vicinity of Front St. He referred to the two sets of changes by their proponents; Selectman Rowe and Selectmen Pace.

Mr. Rowe's proposal calls for no parking within 40' of Front St. intersections with Elliot, Elm and Tan Lane. It also calls for no parking on the south side of Front from Elliot St easterly for 220' and no parking on Elliot St. from Front to Court on the east side. In addition, the proposal calls for two hour parking on the south side of Front from Tan Lane to Elm St. 8 to 5, Monday thru Friday.

Mr. Pace's proposal calls for no parking within 40' of Front St. intersections with Elliot, Tan, and Elm, and no parking within 40' of the crosswalks at Tan, Spring and near the Historical Society.

Mr. Olson noted that in conversation with Chief Kane, the Chief recommended the distance from intersections be increased to at least 50', and that the limitations on parking associated with the crosswalks seems to be adequate as they exist now. He also felt that the parking problems on Elliot could be resolved by no parking from Front to Grove, as opposed to Front to Court.

Chairman Binette asked those in the audience if they had any comments to make. Mr. Howard Field came to the mic. He stated that the Baptist Church, of which he is a member, had little parking and many things going on not only on Sundays but all through the week. He felt that if parking were limited these Church activities would suffer. He pointed out that Linden St. suffers the same congestion as Front. He questioned where people would park during Town parades if there were no parking on Front St.

Chairman Binette explained that the parking problems on Front were the result of contractors working for the Academy and Academy day students. He stated that the Town had approached the Academy regarding their finding a solution to the problem. He went on to note PEA's efforts to address both issues. Chairman Binette stated the proposals before the Board this evening would not have a drastic affect on parking availability since the proposal called for 2 hour parking on just one side of Front St., with no limitations on weekends. Mr. Field responded that the Church and the Exeter Historical Society were busy during the week.

Mr. Rowe asked if the Historical Society had approached the Church regarding parishioners using the Historical Society parking on Sunday. Mr. Field responded that they had and that plans were underway to see that the parking was provided.

Mr. Rowe expressed his intention to amend his motion to provide for 2 hour parking along the 220' section of Front St. described in the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Gordon Abbott came to the mic. As Church Moderator he felt that the Board of Selectmen understood the concerns of the Church but emphasized the need for parking throughout the week, referring to the Women's Fellowship and Pastoral counseling that takes place on weekdays. He asked that whatever solution was found it be fair to all concerned. He reminded the Board that the Historical Society only had three off street parking spaces.

Chairman Binette asked Mr. Abbott if he had any ideas for a solution. Mr. Abbott suggested that a meeting with the Academy would be a good idea. Mr. Scafidi responded that there was little the Academy could do, that it was the Town's decision on parking and PEA had indicated it would support whatever steps the Town took. He went on to praise the Academy for doing a fine job of helping the Town understand the problem.

Mr. Pace suggested one solution to the problem is the completion of the Phelps Science Building and the end of contractors parking on Front St. He stated he was hesitant to make permanent changes to fix a temporary problem.

Discussion followed on exactly where the proposals would affect parking.

Mr. Pace suggested that in his proposal all of the references to 40' be made to read 50'. He asked if the two hour parking would be better or worse for the church if it was applied to both sides of Front St. The consensus from those present was that this would make the situation worse.

Reverend Monahan came to the mic and stated that many of the activities of the Church took more than two hours during the week, using counseling as an example. She asked the Board if the two-hour limit went into effect would it remain in effect after the construction was completed. Answer: yes, unless the Board acted again to amend the ordinance. She asked if parking on Front St. had been a problem before construction began. Answer: No, with Mr. Scafidi noting the Academy had plans for the old science building and contractors would be working in the area even after the Phelps building was complete.

Reverend Monahan suggested the problem could be addressed with parking permits, and a requirement that only compact cars be allowed to park near crosswalks. She closed by stating that if parking is a problem on Front Street, it is a problem all over Town.

A member of the audience suggested parking be limited to three hours.

John Dow approached the mic and suggested the Academy consider using some of the drive that goes through the campus by the Library be used for contractor parking. He also felt there was other PEA property that could be used for parking.

At this point Chairman Binette read Mrs. Hallett's letter to the Board (attached) and turned to the Board for any thoughts on the matter. At this point Mr. Binette and Mr. Rowe displayed a map of the area to the audience so all could understand the proposals.

William Lees approached the mic and asked if there was any one on the Board who would like to meet on Front Street and look the situation over. Chairman Binette thanked him for the suggestion.

Mr. Olson read over Mr. Rowe's proposed amendment to the ordinance, as he understood it to be. Mr. Rowe agreed to the language as read. A member of the audience asked Mr. Rowe if the time could be changed from two hours to three. Mr. Rowe stated that he did not wish to make such an amendment.

It was moved by Mr. Rowe, second by Ms. Jones to amend the original proposal as read by Mr. Olson and to consider this to be the first reading of an ordinance change. SO VOTED (see attached for amended ordinance).

Ms. Jones asked that the matter of fifteen minute parking in the vicinity of the Post Office be clarified as to when the ordinance is in effect. It was agreed to put this matter on the agenda for the meeting of March 5th.

Mr. Pace asked that his ordinance change be amended as well, deleting reference to crosswalks and making all of the references to 40' read 50' and, in addition, to consider this the first reading of the ordinance change. **So moved by Mr. Pace, second by Mr. Scafidi. SO VOTED** (see attached for amended ordinance).

6. Work in the right of way during winter months – change in dates.

Mr. Olson read a memo from Mr. Noyes recommending that the Town and individuals be allowed to work in the road beginning on March 15th rather than the current April 1. Mr. Rowe expressed his concern over this in light of the possibility of bad weather. Mr. Scafidi reminded Mr. Rowe that the ordinance change gave the authority to decide when work could be done during the new period to the Highway Superintendent. If the work was not in the Town's best interest he was not obliged to allow any cutting.

Mr. Pace suggested that the reading be considered the first and that Mr. Noyes be invited to the meeting of the 5th to answer any questions on the change. **Mr. Pace put this into the form of a motion, seconded by Mr. Scafidi. PASSED.**

7. Permits

Moved by Mr. Scafidi, second by Ms. Jones, to permit the Conservation Commission to use the Nowak Room on February 15th for a presentation by the NH Wildlife Federation. SO VOTED, with the understanding that the Conservation Commission and the HDC would work out room use.

Moved by Ms. Jones, second by Mr. Scafidi, to permit the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce to use the Nowak Room February 21 for a meeting on health care. SO VOTED.

Moved by Ms. Jones, second by Mr. Rowe, to permit the Seacoast Community Chamber Orchestra to use the Town Hall, main floor on April 22 for a concert. SO VOTED.

Moved by Mr. Scafidi, second by Ms. Jones, to permit the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee to use Founder's Park on May 19th for a festival. SO VOTED.

Moved by Mr. Scafidi, second by Mr. Pace, to permit the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee to use the Town Hall, main floor, for a festival. This in the event of rain on May 19th. SO VOTED with the understanding that there would be no food or drink allowed in the Hall.

Moved by Mr. Scafidi, second by Ms. Jones, to permit the Seacoast Wind Ensemble to use the Town Hall, main floor on May 20 for a concert. SO VOTED.

Moved by Ms. Jones, second by Mr. Rowe, to permit the Exeter Brass Band to use the Bandstand every Monday night in July for a concert. SO VOTED.

Moved by Mr. Scafidi, second by Mr. Pace to permit the Exeter Brass Band to use the Town Hall in the event of rain for their July concerts. SO VOTED.

9. Town Manager's items

Mr. Olson reminded residents that the Town Offices would be closed on Presidents Day the 19th and that the next Selectmen's meeting would be held on March 5th assuming there was no need for a special session.

10. Selectmen's Committee reports

Mr. Rowe noted last week's Planning Board work session. Ms. Jones noted the Ambulance Committee meeting of February 2nd, with the next meeting set for March 16; the Safety Committee coming up on the 21st, the Council on Aging Committee of the 15th and a meeting she had with Exeter Health Resources. A copy of a report on her meeting will be provided to the Board. She reminded all that for a \$20 donation they could sponsor Chief Kane in the "Penguin Plunge" raising money for the Special Olympics.

Mr. Scafidi noted the first meeting of the pay study committee and its next meeting scheduled for March 13th, also the upcoming meeting of the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee on the 21st. Mr. Pace noted the February 7th Legislative Forum sponsored by the Rockingham Planning Commission and the February 8th SAU Deliberative Session. As for future meetings, he highlighted the February 15th meeting of the Historic District Commission.

Chairman Binette stated that the Recreation Advisory Committee was meeting at 7:15 on the 13th. He went on to remind viewers that the Saturday Deliberative session would be shown on the Exeter Channel over the coming weeks.

Mr. Rowe noted how good the Nowak Room looks after the new ceiling was installed and the room painted.

Moved by Mr. Scafidi, second by Mr. Pace, to adjourn. 8:47PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Olson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George N. Olson
Town Manager

