

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES**

January 24, 2005

PRESENT:

Ruth I. Clough, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Douglas W. Lyon, Selectman
Mark Kaplan, Selectman
Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: NONE

Due to a meeting with Town Counsel Bart Mayer from 8:00-11:00 AM, the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen did not begin until 11:00 AM.

Meeting Minutes: The Board of Selectmen approved the minutes of January 18, 2005 and the non-public minutes of the same date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Logging Project: Ms. Levine said that Peter Stanley, on behalf of the Conservation Commission, had asked to speak with the Board of Selectmen to give an update on the Phillips Preserve logging project and to seek their permission to selectively cut a few trees on Town property on the other side of the stone wall. Due to the late start of the Selectmen's Meeting, and a subsequent fire call, Mr. Stanley is not available. Chair Clough said that she recalls Mr. Stanley and Leo Maslan discussing the possibility of going across the stone wall if additional timber were needed for revenue.

Main Street Parking & Traffic Study: Ms. Levine said that Peter Dzewaltowski will await feedback from the Board of Selectmen, Department Heads, and the public before finalizing the Parking & Traffic Study report. Chair Clough said that she thought that the report was excellent and would be very useful. Mr. Lyon said that the only point that he thought caused some confusion and should be clarified in the final report was the question of wait time at the Main and Pleasant street intersection; was it 25-seconds wait time per car or total wait time? Mr. Kaplan said that the results contained as fine information to get our heads around and pass on to the Main Street Committee.

Budget Committee Recap: Mr. Lyon said that the Budget Committee meeting on Thursday night was productive, as the Committee went over a number of changes to the budget that will be presented at the public hearing on February 10, 2005. The Budget Committee asked questions and was supportive of the overall budget. The Budget Committee gave some feedback about the idea of purchasing the Mesa property, and their reactions were mixed. In general, they were more supportive of the idea of creating green space along the Mill Pond than they were for moving the Elkins Post Office.

Citizen's Advisory Recap: Chair Clough said that overall, the citizens at Saturday's meeting were supportive of the idea to purchase the Mesa property for either a Post Office or a park/green space, and they were also supportive of transferring the Town's small parcel of land to be used as a pond/skating rink for the Community Center. She said that Bill Clough had raised the question of long-term planning for Elkins, which the Selectmen think would be a good thing to include in the Master Plan update.

Mr. Lyon said that if the Town does go forward with purchasing the Mesa property, he would favor a bond, even in a small amount, over using surplus, because a bond would have a much smaller impact on the tax rate and would be paid out by future taxpayers, whereas the surplus should be returned to present taxpayers by using it to offset the tax rate this year. Chair Clough agreed. Mr. Kaplan said that while he is in favor of moving ahead with the plan, he would not like to rush into this year's Town Meeting with an incomplete proposal, and suggested taking more time to investigate and, if necessary, call a Special Town Meeting later in the year. If it's worth doing, Mr. Kaplan said, it's worth doing right. Chair Clough and Mr. Lyon agreed.

With respect to the Community Center, Ms. Levine asked if the Citizen's Advisory Committee favored selling or donating the Town land to the Community Center. Chair Clough said that they favored donating the land, with a "swap" in that the Community Center would agree to leave a portion of their land as a buffer, which had been the purpose of the Town's land. Ms. Levine will draft language for the Town Meeting warrant.

SIGNATURES:

Building Permits:

- Clara & Patricia Cantor, 425 Lakeshore Drive (Map 37, Lot 8), amendment of building permit 04-056 to relocate pavilion – approved (Permit 04-056)
- J. Peffer/F. Beebe, 23 Castle Lane (Map 130, Lot 015-002), after-the-fact permit for storage shed 12 x 30' – Approved (Permit 05-006)

Other Items for Signature:

- Disbursement Voucher and Payroll Authorization for the week of January 24, 2005
- Contract with Local Government Center for Pay & Classification Study – Approved
- Warrant for Yield Tax in the amount of \$378.50 – Approved
- Abatement: Dorothy Shovan Trust (Map 20, Lot 3) for 2002 tax year – Approved
- Abatement: Arthur O'Hara (Map 64, Lot 14) for 2004 tax year – Approved
- Abatement: Arthur O'Hara (Map 64, Lot 15) for 2004 tax year – Denied
- Abatement: Fred Foulkes, 119 Lighthouse View Road (Map 126, Lot 12), for tax years 2002-2004 – Approved
- Abatement: Wayne Patenaude, 160 Hastings Landing Road (Map 116, Lot 12), for tax years 2002-2004 – Approved
- Abatement: Paul and Joanne Lazdowski, 40 Moyah's Lane (Map 103, Lot 15), for tax years 2002-2004 – Approved
- Abatement: Betsy Cetron, 154 Hastings Landing Road (Map 116, Lot 13), for tax years 2002-2004 – approved
- Abatement: Lindsay Trust, 185 Brookside Drive (Map 121, Lot 24), for tax year 2004 – Approved
- Abatement: Cynthia Adie, 191 Goosehole Road (Map 29, Lot 2), for tax year 2004 – Approved

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There being no further business, the Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Levine
Town Administrator