

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
June 8, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Present: Tom Costley, Chairman. David A. Rempell, Jane B. Allen, Ronald Turbin, Thomas E. Sheldon

Others Present: Harris Aaronson, Robert M. Walsh, Kristen Lewis, Meredith & Tom Woodyard, Tom Mahar, Genevieve “Jean” Driscoll, Peter Mehlin, Marilyn Faulkner, Robert Stegeman, Maria Greig-Williams, Alan Marden, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

- 1. CHAIRMAN’S OPENING STATEMENT:** Mr. Costley introduced himself as the current chairman and thanked former chairmen Allen and Rempell for their excellent example for him to learn from. He also thanked Mr. Fohlin and Ms. Poirot for their help.
- 2. SELECTMEN’S MINUTES:** May 26, 2009 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the May 26, 2009 selectmen minutes as presented. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 3. PUBLIC HEARING:**

A. 7:05 P.M. – Request from Berkshire Five Corners, Inc., d/b/a The Store at Five Corners for a transfer of a Wine & Malt Beverage Package Store License from Maswood, Inc., d/b/a Store at Five Corners, 6 New Ashford Road, Robert M. Walsh, Manager.

Chairman Costley opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. for a request from Berkshire Five Corners, Inc., d/b/a The Store at Five Corners for a transfer of a Wine & Malt Beverage Package Store License from Maswood, Inc., d/b/a Store at Five Corners, 6 New Ashford Road, Robert M. Walsh, Manager. Attorney Aaronson, representing the Walshes, said there is a purchase and sale agreement subject to the approval of the local licensing authority and the state. Mr. Rempell asked Mr. Walsh if there would be any changes in operations. Mr. Walsh said he plans to expand the kitchen and will continue to serve the current fare and more. Ms. Allen asked if Mr. Walsh had ever held a liquor license. He said he had not but had experience running dining services including liquor service. He said he planned to take TIPs training and train his employees as well. Ms. Allen said Williamstown has period compliance checks and although we aren’t there yet, she said selectmen are striving for 100% compliance. Mr. Fohlin added that the license sought is for a package store and there shouldn’t be any serving on the premises. Mr. Rempell moved to close the public hearing. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rempell moved to approve the transfer. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rempell moved to approve the transfer of a Common Victualer and Background Music permit. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- 4. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN’S CONSIDERATION:**

A. Board of Library Trustee and Selectmen Joint Appointment – Ms. Driscoll stated that due to a vacancy created on the Board of Library Trustees by the resignation of Thomas Sheldon, the Board would like to nominate Peter Mehlin to serve until May

2010. Ms. Allen seconded and with no other nominations, the appointment was made by roll call vote, aye, Thomas Sheldon, aye, David Rempell, aye, Tom Costley, aye, Ronald Turbin, aye, Jane Allen, aye, Genevieve Driscoll, aye, Tom Mahar, aye, Robert Stegeman, and aye, Marilyn Faulkner.

B. US Census 2010 (Susan Hagen) – Ms. Hagen updated the Board on the 2010 federal census first stating that Williamstown had a 71% compliance rate in the 2000 census with the national average being 67%. She hopes with all of the publicity for the 2010 census taking, the rate will be much higher. Ms. Hagen said in order to be counted as a resident; one must live in that town for six months and one day. Questionnaires will be mailed out in mid-March with no follow-up mailing. Census takers will go door to door as a follow-up.

She said there are many ways for the town to become involved and handed out packets for the selectmen to share. Ms. Hagen said there will be several jobs available for the collection of census information and to find out more residents could go to the US census website at www.uscensus.org. Ms. Hagen was informed that Town Clerk Mary Kennedy was the Williamstown liaison to the US Census bureau and she should continue conversations with her.

C. Saulnier Drive Block Party – 6-19-09 (Maria Greig-Williams) – Ms. Allen moved to approve a request from Maria Greig-Williams to close Saulnier Drive for the neighborhood annual block party Friday, June 19th from 3:30-8:30 p.m. with a rain date of Monday, June 22. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Letter of Support to DHCD for Church Corner Apartments – Mr. Fohlin explained that Scarafoni Associates requested a letter of support from the Town Manager, Selectmen and the Affordable Housing Committee to accompany their application for a Chapter 40B letter of eligibility for the Church Corner affordable housing development. He asked that selectmen vote to have the chairman sign a letter to Toni Hall of the Department of Housing and Community Development in Boston. Mr. Turbin moved that Chairman Costley sign the letter as presented. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

E. National Multiple Sclerosis Society Annual Bike & Hike the Berkshires MS Bike Tour, (Saturday, September 26, 2009) – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Annual Bike & Hike the Berkshires on Saturday, September 26. He also asked that the tour manager be notified that all signs need to be removed at the end of the race. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Costley asked that Ms. Poirot also notify them that there is a “typo” at 22.16 miles on the route sheet.

F. Water and Sewer Warrant – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the water and sewer warrant in the amount of \$189,029.38. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5. LICENSES AND PERMITS:

A. Subway, 384 Main Street, Brigesh Patel, Owner
Common Victualer and Background Music –

Ms. Allen moved to approve a Common Victualer and Background Music License for

Subway, 384 Main Street, Brigesh Patel, Owner. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: See attached.

Mr. Sheldon asked Mr. Fohlin if there has been any public reaction to the Field Park project. Mr. Fohlin said a few but extremely mild. He added that there have been three car repair issues that have been taken care of by the contractor. Mr. Fohlin said the project has been long overdue and he feels most people "get it". Mr. Fohlin said the Williams Inn has been phenomenal to work with. The Faulkners have even hosted some of the contractor's equipment. Mr. Fohlin said future projects include the Latham Street culvert, Water Street sidewalks, and North Hoosac Road paving from Cole Avenue to Bridges Road.

7. PETITIONER'S REQUEST: None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Allen said that Walden Culinary, d/b/a The Red Herring did not send evidence of their employees TIPs training to the police chief by June 1. Walden Culinary failed a liquor compliance check and was sent a letter to make sure the offending bartender, the manager and all other employees who are not TIPs trained to do so before June 1. She asked that the chief notify their manager that he will need to appear at the next selectmen meeting with TIPs certificates.

Ms. Allen also announced the Massachusetts Dept. of Telecommunications and Cable will hold a public hearing for Berkshire County on the quality of telephone service provided by Verizon to Western Massachusetts counties including Berkshire County. An investigation was opened on June 1 following the DTC receiving 57 responses from individuals and towns in favor of opening an investigation into the quality of telephone service provided by Verizon. Ms. Allen said she and residents of South Williamstown had submitted complaints electronically to the DTC.

Mr. Turbin on behalf of the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce invited selectmen to march in the July 4th parade at 11. He also asked if Williamstown had a town flag. Mr. Fohlin said it doesn't. Mr. Turbin said the Farmer's Market was interested in having a permanent banner to hang up. Mr. Fohlin said the banner would need to go before the Sign Commission and he said that posts would not be allowed in the green at the top of Spring Street because there are utility wires and boxes under the grass. Mr. Turbin also reported that he spoke with Peter Milanese, of Mass. Fish and Wildlife regarding Town Meeting concerns on the Blair Lot. Mr. Milanese said the state is still interested in purchasing the property if Town Meeting approves it at next year's meeting. Chairman Costley asked Mr. Turbin to put together a chronological report of when he and former selectman Steege met with Mr. Milanese, Town Meeting questions, telephone conversations and key issues. Once Mr. Turbin presents the report to selectmen, then he should meet with representatives from other town boards and groups such as the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and COOL Committee. Mr. Sheldon said after this has been done, the Blair Lot should be placed on a future agenda so selectmen can project the next steps before the next Town Meeting.

9. ADJOURN: Mr. Rempell moved to adjourn. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen meeting will be on Monday, June 22, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Sheldon
Secretary

TES/kp