

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
6/15/09**

The Board of Selectmen met this evening at the Easton Town Offices, Selectmen's Office, 136 Elm Street, with Chair Colleen Corona presiding.

Members present: Colleen Corona, John Haederle, Chuck King, Ellen Barlow, Irwin Cohen and Town Administrator David Colton.

Corona called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Presentation of retirement plaque – Chief Thomas Kominsky

Chief Kominsky was present.

Corona presented a retirement plaque to Chief Kominsky for his 29 years of dedicated service. Kominsky spoke of his employment with the town as a privilege and an honor to have served the Town of Easton.

One day liquor license request – Mary MacLeod

Applicant Mary MacLeod was present.

Voted: (Haederle/Barlow) voted unanimously to approve a one day all alcohol license for a family reunion to be held at the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall on 6/27/09 from 3pm – 11pm

One day liquor license request – Stonehill College, Inc.

Voted: (Barlow/Haederle) voted unanimously to approve a one day beer and wine license for the Roche Scholarship Dinner to be held 6/23/09 from 5:30pm to 10pm at Donahue Hall

Annual license renewal – Dean Weinstein

Colton referenced the license renewal request and recommends approval contingent upon certain conditions.

Voted: (Haederle/King) voted unanimously to approve the Junk Dealers License renewal subject to the following conditions:

- * Final comment/ approval by the Board of Health*
- *The dealer must maintain a 14 day holding period on all transactions; (Police Dept.)*
- *Photo copies of picture identification shall be taken for all those who sell any item; (Police Dept.)*
- *A list of all transactions shall be submitted to the Easton Police Detective Bureau within one week of the transaction; (Police Dept.)*
- *The applicant can acquire precious metals and jewelry but cannot actually operate a "junk yard" as defined in the Town of Easton Zoning By-laws. (Inspectional Services)*

Application for Junk Dealer's License – Gold Buyer's Inc. – 35 Acorn Rd. Easton

Applicant Jason Weinstein was present.

Voted: (King/Haederle) voted unanimously to approve the Junk Dealers License subject to the following conditions:

- * Final comment/ approval by the Board of Health*
- *The dealer must maintain a 14 day holding period on*

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all transactions; (Police Dept.)

**Photo copies of picture identification shall be taken for all those who sell any item; (Police Dept.)*

**A list of all transactions shall be submitted to the Easton Police Detective Bureau within one week of the transaction; (Police Dept.)*

**The applicant can acquire precious metals and jewelry but cannot actually operate a "junk yard" as defined in the Town of Easton Zoning By-laws. (Inspectional Services*

Vote to convey portions of the Depot Street and Foundry Street roadways

Vote to layout Cornerstone Drive as a public way

Corona explained that this was as approved at town meeting.

Voted: (Corona/Barlow) voted unanimously that the Board of Selectmen discontinue as a public way that portion of Depot Street as shown on a plan entitled "Roadway Discontinuance Plan of Land in Easton, Massachusetts" dated June 5, 2008, revised through June 12, 2009.

Voted: (Corona/Barlow) voted unanimously that the Board of Selectmen convey the discontinued portion of Depot Street to 682 Depot Street, LLC for nominal consideration of \$50, and reserve to the Town easements rights in the water line as shown on the entitled "Roadway Discontinuance Plan of Land in Easton, Massachusetts" dated June 5, 2008, revised through June 12, 2009".

Voted: (Corona/Barlow) voted unanimously that the Board of Selectmen discontinue as a public way that portion of Foundry Street as shown on a plan entitled "Plan Showing Portion of Roadway to be Discontinued Easton, Massachusetts" dated April 27, 2009, revised through June 15, 2009."

Voted: (Corona/Barlow) voted unanimously that the Board of Selectmen convey the discontinued portion of Foundry Street to Ramanbhati K. Patel for nominal consideration of \$50, and reserve to the Town temporary construction easements and permanent drainage and maintenance access easements and rights shown on the entitled "Plan Showing Portion of Roadway to be Discontinued Easton, Massachusetts" dated April 27, 2009, revised through June 15, 2009"

Voted: (Corona/Barlow) voted unanimously that the Board of Selectmen lay out Cornerstone Drive as a public way in the Town of Easton and accept a deed from George Fossella for the fee and any easements in the way".

Refer to Traffic Safety Committee – request to consider safety options North Main Street/Harlow Street intersection

Colton explained the request to study the area of North Main Street and Harlow Street.

Voted: (King/Cohen) voted unanimously to refer the request to the Traffic Safety Committee

Annual Appointments

Voted: (Barlow/King) voted unanimously by roll call to appoint Stephen Merlin to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board

Barlow-Merlin; King-Merlin; Cohen-Merlin; Haederle-Merlin; Corona-Merlin

Voted: (King/Barlow) voted unanimously by roll call to appoint Michael Sullivan to the Audit Committee

Cohen-Sullivan; Haederle-Sullivan; Corona-Sullivan; King-Sullivan; Barlow-Sullivan

See the attached list of uncontested annual appointments referred to as the slate.

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Voted: (Haederle/Corona) voted unanimously by roll call to appoint the slate
Cohen-slate; Haederle-slate; Corona-slate; King-slate; Barlow-slate

Constable reappointments

Slate: James Hartford and Brent Peterson –

Voted: (Haederle/Barlow) voted unanimously by roll call to appoint the slate
Cohen-slate; Haederle-slate; Corona-slate; King-slate; Barlow-slate

Reappointment of Special Police Officers

See the attached list of proposed special officer reappointments (slate-term expiration 6/30/2010)

Colton explained the role of the special police officers.

Voted: (Cohen/King) voted unanimously by roll call to appoint the slate
Cohen-slate; Haederle-slate; Corona-slate; King-slate; Barlow-slate

New electric supply bid

Colton explained the opportunity to extend our current electric supply bid contract and asked the Board to give the Town Administrator authorization to execute the contract extension if the bids are favorable.

Voted: (Barlow/King) voted unanimously to seek pricing and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute a contract extension if the bids are favorable

40B frequently asked questions document

Corona explained the Chapter 40B Frequently Asked Questions document and noted that the ZBA, Planning Department and citizens have been reviewing the information for accuracy. Corona hopes to post the final document on the town's website very soon. The Board commended Corona for the well prepared document.

Vote to declare surplus items

Colton referred to the Police Department's request to declare a 1999 motorcycle surplus.

Voted: (King/Barlow) voted unanimously to declare the item surplus and to sell it at the next auction

Liquor License Revocation Hearing – Brennan's Restaurant dba The 402, 402 Turnpike Street, Easton, MA

Corona explained that the Department of Revenue has requested that we not move forward with the hearing; they have seized the property and the license.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:20pm and reconvened at 7:22pm.

Comcast Tentative License Agreement

Chairman Paul DiNicola was present.

DiNicola updated the Board on the negotiation process to date. They now have a final license agreement with Comcast and are seeking the Selectmen's final approval.

DiNicola credited the entire committee for their hard work. He suggest that the Board approve the license agreement contingent upon final review by counsel. The committee has been working toward a studio, equipment and a budget for the studio.

Colton commended DiNicola for sticking with the negotiation process. Colton noted that this contract with Comcast paves the way so that we can move forward to negotiating with Verizon.

The Board also thanked DiNicola for his hard work.

Voted: (Corona/Barlow) voted unanimously to approve the agreement contingent upon final approval by Special Counsel

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Conservation Commission interviews

John Haederle left the room and did not participate in discussion or vote. (7:30pm)

Patricia Haederle

Ms. Haederle spoke of her enjoyment while serving on the Conservation Commission. She has a lot of experience in hydrology with respect to wetlands and feels that this experience rounds out the commission.

Barlow asked Ms. Haederle to give an example on how this has helped the commission. Ms. Haederle noted the technical details that she reviews and her experience is something the other members do not have.

King asked how to respond if citizens state that the Conservation Commission has taken too much of a bent when it comes to reasonable development. Ms. Haederle replied that she feels we owe it to future generations to be sure that we care for growth. She would have a healthy debate and would consider things on a case by case basis; looking at the whole picture.

Cohen asked if she has oversight responsibility for all of the wetlands. Ms. Haederle explained how the process works. She explained the process that the commission goes through when reviewing applications. They review the documents and determine if an order of conditions can be granted.

John Grant

Mr. Grant noted that he has been associated with the Conservation Commission since 1969. Grant spoke of all the land acquisitions over the years and the fact that he knows the land and the land totals. He is reapplying for the position because he is interested in seeing some very important projects come into fruition. He would like to solve the recreation needs with a complex of some type. He is the currently the representative from the Conservation Commission on the CPA Committee. He knows the land that the CPA Committee has identified as priorities.

Barlow asked how the longevity is knowledgeable compared to a new voice on the commission. Grant spoke of longevity and how it can have a positive or negative affect. He has had a positive affect; he has reached out to the Board of Selectmen for support, the Finance Committee and the Natural Resources Trust. Grant feels that people trust him and he has the reputation of doing what he says he's going to do.

Cohen asked for specific information on what projects to complete. Grant spoke of major acquisitions, specifically two that the Conservation Commission may be interested in. They have hired a consultant, Diane Boretos, Call of the Wild, who has identified a few things that are quite unusual, and they seem to be returning to Easton.

Robert Murphy

Murphy introduced himself and said that he believes public service is public duty. He spoke of his other services. He has worked in wetlands for 33 years. His firm has been hired by the Town of Canton. He supplies the Town of Canton with a Conservation Agent. While working with the Town of Canton, they wrote regulations and bylaws. He believes in this and feels that Conservation Commissions and people in the business are regulators. He feels it is his duty to regulate.

King asked about the tension that takes places between the applicant and government and sometimes supporting the environment at all costs can work against the applicant. King asked how Murphy would deal with that friction. Murphy suggested that this happens when some people want to get their way. He feels that with reasonable minds, things can be worked out.

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Barlow asked if there are things that the Easton Conservation Commission could be done differently. Murphy replied that in all his dealings with the Easton Conservation Commission, he has always been treated fairly.

Cohen asked about the hydric soils and what that it. Murphy explained. Cohen asked about his service to the MDC Conservation Commission, Quabbin Reservation. Murphy noted that they had a very difficult time with the state on that issue.

The Board thanked the applicants for their interest in serving.

Mr. Don Bennett of 2 Chickadee Lane was present and stated that he is totally in support of the reappointment of Grant and Haederle. He feels it would be a tragedy to change the structure of the Conservation Commission. King noted for the record that Bennett's wife serves on the Conservation Commission.

Voted: the Board voted unanimously of those present by roll call to reappoint Grant and Haederle to the Conservation Commission

Cohen – Haederle/Grant; Corona – Haederle/Grant; King – Haederle/Grant; Barlow – Haederle/Grant

The Board thanked Mr. Murphy for applying and thanked Haederle and Grant for their hard work.

John Haederle returned at 7:50pm

Town Administrator's notes

Colton read a letter from the Executive office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to Operations Manager Jack Marsh dated June 3rd regarding our water system. Colton congratulated the DPW Water Division and Jack Marsh for achieving this award.

Press notes

None

Selectmen's notes

Corona thanked all of those who applied for vacancies of various boards and committees.

Public participation

None

Voted: (Barlow/Haederle) voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Southworth