

**Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
7/27/09**

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

Request for appointment of Local Historic District Study Committee

Historical Commission members Melanie Deware and Greg Galer were present. Galer and Deware gave a synopsis of their request to appoint a Local Historic District Study Committee to begin the process of creating a Local Historic District in Easton; the Selectmen would be the appointing authority. Guidelines to establish the district are set out in a booklet on the state Historical Commission's website. After discussion, the consensus of the Board would be to consider a five member Board. Deware and Galer agreed.

**Voted:** (Corona/Barlow ) voted unanimously to establish under the provision of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40C, General Laws, a Local Historic District Study Committee consisting of (3-7) members, which shall make an investigation and report on the historic significance of the buildings, structures, features, sites or surroundings included in such proposed local historical district or districts as the committee may recommend, and shall submit a final report with its recommendations after a public hearing, together with a map of the proposed district or districts and a draft of the proposed ordinance (bylaw), to the City Council (Town Meeting).

One day liquor license requests – Stonehill College, Inc.

**Voted:** (Haederle/Cohen) voted unanimously to approve a one day all alcohol license for the Alumni Reception on August 8, 2009 from 7pm to midnight at Alumni Hall

**Voted:** (Barlow/King) voted unanimously to approve a one day beer and wine license for the Academic Convocation Reception on August 31, 2009 from 5pm to 7pm at the Atrium Science Center

**Voted:** (Barlow/King) voted unanimously to approve a one day beer and wine license for the Misiweicz Brunch on September 27, 2009 from 10am to 2pm at Donahue Hall

**Voted:** (King/Cohen) voted unanimously to approve a one day beer and wine license for the Metro South Chamber Legislative Reception on October 1, 2009 from 5pm – 9pm at Donahue Hall

**Voted:** (King/Cohen) voted unanimously to approve a one day beer and wine license for the Rick Susi Tribute Dinner on October 9, 2009 from 5pm to midnight at Alumni Hall

Fee waiver request – Pvt. George F. Schindler Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars

**Voted:** ( King/Barlow) voted unanimously to approve the building inspection fee waiver request associated with the storage room expansion at the VFW

Discharge of mortgage

**Voted:** (Barlow/Cohen) voted unanimously to approve the discharge or mortgage as stated in the document

Ambulance bill abatement request

**Voted:** (Barlow/Cohen) voted unanimously to approve the ambulance bill abatement request in the amount of \$1,516.34

Cultural Council resignations

**Voted:** (Cohen/Barlow) voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Alexander Maller from the Cultural Council

**Voted:** (King/Haederle) voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Wanda Azevedo from the Cultural Council

**Voted:** (**King/Haederle**) voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Michael Mahany from the Cultural Council

Commission on Disabilities resignation

**Voted:** (Barlow/King) voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Paul DeCouto from the Commission on Disabilities

Fair and Affordable Housing Partnership resignation

**Voted:** (Haederle/King) voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Rachel Hansen from the Fair and Affordable Housing Partnership

Budget update

Corona spoke of the current budget deficit and noted that the state is proposing mid year cuts, putting the town in a worse situation. The Board spoke of declining revenues.

Colton noted that in addition in the process of closing the books for FY09, the collection numbers have come in lower and this will affect the budget. They will continue to work with the Budget Subcommittee on current budget issues. Colton noted the need for a special town meeting and announced that we have tentatively booked the date of October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium for this meeting. Colton noted that we projected less than last year but the actual numbers are coming in even less; this never happens. The projections for FY 2010 are now off because of the FY 2009 figures. Corona spoke of the fact that we are just not collecting the taxes that we normally collect; the situation gets worse every day.

Barlow spoke of the new car purchase incentive and suggested that this may help next year. Colton spoke of municipal finance and how it generally lags with the regular economy.

Corona noted that Colton will continue with the hiring and spending freeze and is looking for grant opportunities. Barlow spoke of the proposed deficit of \$300,000+ which is down from the \$470,000. Colton reiterated that the worry of the state cutting mid fiscal year to be a problem.

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Town Administrator evaluation

Corona noted that Colton recently submitted his self evaluation to the Board. Since that time, the Board submitted their evaluations which have been incorporated into a document. Corona noted that the evaluation is terrific and the Board has been pleased and looks forward to working with Colton in the coming years. The Board agreed with Corona's sentiments. Corona noted that this has been a difficult year and the decisions have been difficult for the Town Administrator.

Colton thanked the Board very much and noted that their comments were great; he appreciates the Board's comments and suggested that he couldn't do as good of a job without them. He acknowledged it has been a very difficult year.

Minutes

**Voted:** (Haederle/Barlow) voted unanimously to approve general minutes dated 5/18/09

**Voted:** (Haederle/King) voted unanimously to approve general minutes dated 6/1/09

**Voted:** (Barlow/King) voted 4-0-1 to approve general minutes dated 6/8/09  
(Haederle abstained)

**Voted:** (Cohen/King) voted unanimously to approve general minutes dated 6/15/09

**Voted:** (Barlow/King) voted unanimously to approve general minutes dated 7/13/09

**Voted:** (Barlow/King) voted unanimously to approve executive session minutes dated 7/13/09

Town Administrator's notes

Colton reported on recent activities of the Easton Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board. The Board met several times over the last few months and recently held a workshop. The Board has an outline of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund One Year Action Plan which may be unveiled some time in September.

Press notes

None

Selectmen's notes

None

Public participation

None

**Voted:** (Barlow/King) voted unanimously by roll call to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and a potential real estate purchase  
*Cohen-yes; Haederle-yes; Corona-yes; King-yes; Barlow yes*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Mary Southworth*