

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
1/12/09**

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, Irwin Cohen, Ellen Barlow and Town Administrator David Colton

Corona called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

One day liquor license/fee waiver request – Unity Church of North Easton Restoration Committee

Colton referenced the Unity Church Restoration Committee's request for a one day license/fee waiver for their function on 2/14/09 from 7-11pm at the Martin Institute.

On Cohen's motion, seconded by Barlow, the Board **voted unanimously** to waive the fees associated with the one day license.

On Barlow's motion, seconded by King, the Board **voted unanimously** to approve the one day license as requested.

One day liquor license request – Stonehill College, Inc.

Colton explained the Men's Basketball Coach's request for a one day all alcohol license for a fundraising event on January 31, 2009 from 6-9pm at the Martin Institute.

On King's motion, seconded by Barlow, the Board **voted unanimously** to approve the one day all alcohol license as requested.

One day liquor license request – Easton Chamber of Commerce

Colton explained the one day license for the Business Appreciation Night function at Alumni Hall on 1/29/09 from 6-10pm. Colton referenced the invitation for each of the Board of Selectmen.

On Haederle's motion, seconded by King, the Board **voted unanimously** to approve the one day liquor license.

Refer to Traffic Safety Committee – Williams Street

Mr. Andrew Simms of 43 Williams Street was present and petitioned the Board for a traffic study regarding Williams Street. Mr. Simms read a prepared statement outlining his concerns and distributed a map of Williams Street. Other residents from Williams Street were present and showed their support for the study.

Haederle asked Simms if the motorists are using excessive speed when traveling on Williams Street. He stated that he was not sure but suggested this may be the case.

Barlow asked if the traffic volume increased after the Central Street Bridge closed. Simms could not confirm this with certainty. Another resident in attendance confirmed that the traffic continues to increase.

Mr. Dennis McMenemy of 46 Williams Street asked what kind of things may be recommended after conducting the study.

Colton spoke of his own DPW experience and suggested that the committee could look at education, increased signage may be an option. With respect to enforcement, the Police Department may be able to issue tickets. Lastly, the engineering piece may come into play by adding something physical such as stop signs; the committee may look at the potential for one way street. The committee will look at the history of accidents in this area and make a recommendation.

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Jane Looney of 53 William Street spoke of a time, back in the 1980's, when they requested a "slow sign". She's had vehicles come into her driveway while children were playing. She reflected on the dangerous situation over the years.

On a final note, Simms spoke of the wide range of suggestions and suggested a middle ground of possibly three way stop signs at Jenny Lind/Williams Street; Bridge/Williams Street and Reynolds/Williams Street.

King asked how the Traffic Safety Committee studies the information. Fire Chief Tom Stone was present and suggested that they will review the letters submitted by residents. They will study the cause and effect. Stone spoke of the importance of looking at everything when they review this; like all the streets in town, streets often times do not support the traffic.

On Barlow's motion, seconded by King, the Board **voted unanimously** to refer the traffic study request to the Traffic Safety Committee for their review and recommendation.

Bid/contract award- ambulance

Chief Stone was present and explained the request for the bid/contract award to Greenwood Emergency Vehicles in the amount of \$179,970.00. Cohen asked for an explanation as to why only one bid was received. Stone explained the process of the bid speculation process and the review by Town Counsel and stated that he is not sure why there was only one bidder.

Corona noted for the record that the bid is well under the amount approved at town meeting.

On Barlow's motion, seconded by Haederle, the Board **voted unanimously** to approve the bid/contract in the amount of \$179,970.00.

Ambulance bill abatements

Corona referenced the ambulance abatement request in the amount of \$5,961.35.

On Haederle's motion, seconded by King, the Board **voted unanimously** to approve the abatements in the amount of \$5,961.35.

Historical Commission Interviews

Corona noted the two volunteers for the vacancy on the Historical Commission.

Barbara Imbriani

Ms. Imbriani of 11 Partridge Way was present. Imbriani gave a brief summary of her background and noted that she worked with her husband in the insurance business for many years. She attended Stonehill College and majored in history. She spoke of her love of history and the Town of Easton. Imbriani is an avid reader and raised three children; one still lives in Easton. She has ten grandchildren and is an active grandmother and cook.

On behalf of the Board, Corona thanked Ms. Imbriani for coming in. In addition, Imbriani noted that she also volunteered in the Easton Schools.

Timothy Hurley

Mr. Hurley of 134 Lincoln Street was present and noted his involvement with preservation of historic buildings. He would like to see things preserved in the Town of Easton. He's experience with historic buildings involves work on the Oakes Ames Hall, Ames Free Library and the Unity Church. He also noted his volunteer experience while coaching softball for the school and recreational leagues and his past service in coaching basketball.

King asked about any conflict with the Historical Commission in terms of his job. Hurley noted that he had a discussion with Corona about this issue and suggested that he doesn't represent clients that come before town boards.

King asked if he was familiar with Demolition Delay Bylaw. Hurley stated that he is familiar with this and spoke of the recent removal of a home on the corner of Prospect Street/Bay Road. He was shocked to see that it was torn down. Corona clarified that the house was deemed unsound, therefore, it was demolished. Corona noted that we need to remember that property owners have certain rights. Hurley understands the rights of the homeowners and further suggested that there should be some incentive to save some of these properties,

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On behalf of the Board, Corona thanked Mr. Hurley for coming in.

The Board **voted unanimously by roll call** to appoint Timothy Hurley to the Historical Commission.
Cohen-Hurley; Haederle-Hurley; Corona-Hurley; King-Hurley; Barlow-Hurley.
(term expiration 6/30/2010).

Municipal Building Committee appointment

On Haederle's motion, seconded by Barlow, the Board **voted unanimously by roll call** to appoint Michael Belanger to the Municipal Building Committee for a term expiration of June 30, 2009.
Cohen-Belanger; Haederle-Belanger; Corona-Belanger; King-Belanger; Barlow-Belanger

Easton Affordable Housing Trust Fund appointments

On Corona's motion, seconded by King, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to appoint Christopher Dunlea to the Easton Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board with a term expiring 6/30/2011.
Cohen-Dunlea; Haederle-Dunlea; Corona-Dunlea; King-Dunlea; Barlow-Dunlea

On Corona's motion, seconded by Barlow, the Board **voted unanimously by roll call** to appoint Amy Rodrigues to the Easton Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board with a term expiring 6/30/2011.
Cohen-Rodrigues; Haederle-Rodrigues; Corona-Rodrigues; King-Rodrigues; Barlow-Rodrigues

On Corona's motion, seconded by Barlow, the Board **voted unanimously by roll call** to appoint Thomas Caron to the Easton Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board with a term expiring 6/30/2010.
Cohen-Caron; Haederle-Caron; Corona-Caron; King-Caron; Barlow-Caron.

On Corona's motion, seconded by Barlow, the Board **voted unanimously by roll call** to appoint David Colton to the Easton Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board with a term expiring 6/30/2010.
Cohen-Colton; Haederle-Colton; Corona-Colton; King-Colton; Barlow-Colton

On Corona's motion, seconded by King, the Board **voted unanimously by roll call** to appoint Susan Horner to the Easton Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board with a term expiring 6/30/2010.
Cohen-Horner; Haederle-Horner; Corona-Horner; King-Horner; Barlow-Horner

On Corona's motion, seconded by Cohen, the Board **voted unanimously by roll call** to appoint Ilisabeth Bornstein to the Easton Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board with a term expiring 6/30/2011.
Cohen-Bornstein; Haederle-Bornstein; Corona-Bornstein; King-Bornstein; Barlow-Bornstein

On Corona's motion, seconded by King, the Board **voted unanimously by roll call** to nominate Ellen Barlow to the Easton Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board with a term expiring 6/30/2011.
Cohen-Barlow; Haederle-Barlow; Corona-Barlow; King-Barlow; Barlow-Barlow

South Coast Rail update

Colton noted the recent update for the South Coast Rail and the Stoughton Alternative, the simple Middleboro extension and the third alternative which is the Alternative 44, the Bus Rapid Transit. The Selectmen, Town Planner, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission submitted comments to the appropriate state and federal agencies. We also put out a public call through the Town Crier for comments. This issue is currently in the hands of both the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers and the MEPA Office.

Barlow suggested that we outline for the public, what steps have been taken. Barlow noted the meetings attended by the Board of Selectmen Chair, the Town Administrator and the Director of Planning and Community Development. Colton suggested that there is nothing else we can do now. The state needs to decide what type of scope will be required when they do the Environmental Impact Study. We've asked them to be sure that they appropriately scope the wetlands implications in the swamp and we've raised every possible issue. Colton is hopeful that they will write a really tough scope so that everything is considered.

Cohen asked about the timeline of the decision. Colton suggested that the Environmental Impact Report has been suggested to be complete by the summer although he feels that the time frame very short. Cohen asked if the town should be considering mitigation at this point in time. Corona noted that we've always had this at the forefront; we have to be prepared. Colton suggested it is too early to get into details with respect to mitigation; there will be

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plenty of time to do that. Corona noted that we've always made it clear that as a community, we are opposed to the train.

Haederle noted it will come down to the analysis of the Environmental Impact Study. Right now it's in the hands of MEPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA. They will look at the impact and hopefully they will do the right thing.

Minutes

On Haederle's motion, seconded by King, the Board voted 4-0-1 to approve general minutes dated 11/10/08. **Cohen abstained**

On Haederle's motion, seconded by King, the Board voted unanimously to approve general minutes dated 12/15/08, as amended by Barlow.

On Corona's motion, seconded by Haederle, the Board voted 4-0-1 to approve executive session minutes dated 12/15/08. **Cohen abstained**

Town Administrator's notes

Colton spoke of the budget issues and the anticipated state cut to local aid. Colton noted that we've been working hard going through the budget looking for places to cut so that we can meet a local aid cut. At this point in time, we expect a cut but we just don't know how much.

Press notes

None

Selectmen's notes

None

Public participation

None

On Haederle's motion, seconded by Cohen, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Southworth