Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
7/2/07

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, Charles King, Ellen Barlow and Town Administrator David Colton.

Members not present: Irwin Cohen

Corona called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Patriot Guard presentation
Richard Keniston, State Captain of the Patriot Guard Riders members was present. He spoke of the passing of Sgt. William Callahan. Every person in Town including the families, citizens, Police Department and the Hanson Police Department were wonderful throughout the funeral process. He spoke of Sgt. Callahan and stated that he deserved every bit of this recognition. He presented a commendation to Officer Nunes, who was injured while escorting the funeral procession to the TF Green Airport in Rhode Island. A certificate of appreciation was presented to the Easton Police Department. Chief Kominsky was specifically commended for his efforts and support to the Guard Riders; Bagpiper Chris Spitilere was given a certificate of appreciation for his contribution. DVD's of the funeral were given to the Board of Selectmen and the Police Department. Sgt. Callahan's mother, Mary Ellen Callahan, received a special gift from the First Congregational Church in New Hampshire. Corona thanked the Patriot Guard, the citizens and Town employees for all that was done. It was noted that a fund has been established at the North Easton Savings Bank on behalf of Sgt. William Callahan.

Introduction of new firefighters
Chief Stone and new firefighters Jeffrey Dupuis, John Dzialo, Patrick McGovern, Charles Snow and Darren Stone were present. Stone thanked the Board and the entire Town for the opportunity to hire the new firefighters. He gave background on the civil service list and the hiring process involved and it became obvious his son's name would be on the list. He immediately contacted the Ethics Commission and it was very clear that Stone would not participate in the hiring process. He thanked the screening committee consisting of current firefighters and the Town Administrator, Chief Tom Kominsky and Detective Michael Fox for their help in the hiring process. The new hires are going through a training session. Stone noted that they are all experienced paramedics. Stone wished the new hires a long successful career with the Town of Easton. Corona noted that it is good to see the Town moving forward with fulfilling some of the staffing needs.

Common Victualler license application – Target Store T2267
Target representative Don Aldridge was present. The Grand Opening date of July 29th was announced.
Colton noted that the application was circulated for comment and there are no outstanding issues relating to the license application other than the need for the Board of Health to conduct a final inspection.
On Barlow's motion, seconded by Haederle, the Board **voted unanimously** to approve the common victualler license pending a final inspection by the Board of Health.

Appointment to the Fair Housing Committee – Paula Piccinin
Colton referred to her volunteer form.
On King's motion, seconded by Barlow, the Board **voted unanimously by roll call** to appoint Paula Piccinin to the Fair Housing Committee.
Corona-Piccinin, King-Piccinin, Haederle-Piccinin, Barlow-Piccinin

Reappointment to the Cable Advisory Committee - Leonard Berkowitz
Colton referred to the reappointment of Berkowitz to the Cable Committee.
On Haederle's motion, seconded by Barlow, the Board **voted unanimously by roll call** to reappoint Leonard Berkowitz to the Cable Advisory Committee.
Haederle-Berkowitz, Corona-Berkowitz, Barlow-Berkowitz, King-Berkowitz

National Grid - Amendments to Easements for Moreau Hall, Center School and Parkview School
Colton referred to additional language added by Town Counsel Ellen Doucette.
"The Grantee shall exercise its rights hereunder so as to minimize interference with the use and occupancy of the Property by the staff, students, guests and invitees of the Parkview Elementary School. Similarly, the Grantor agrees that it shall not unreasonably interfere with the rights of the Grantee granted hereunder."

On Haederle's motion, seconded by King, the Board **voted unanimously** to approve the easements as amended.

Minutes
On Haederle's motion, seconded by King, the Board **voted 3-0-1** to approve and release executive session minutes dated 4/9/07. **Barlow abstained.**

Municipal Visioning and Strategic Planning Discussion – Madeline Snow
Colton referenced Snow's proposal and noted her excellent credentials. Corona asked if she had any experience working with other communities. Snow stated that she has not worked with other towns but she has with other schools and other agencies. She noted the process of putting together a strategic planning session by taking the people out of their regular environment. She would ask the participants to look out 25 years and try to visualize what you want to the Town to look like. After that picture has been established, she would ask the group to think about what could be done in 10 or 5 years. She referenced the work required to achieve this goal. She noted the importance of realizing that you cannot do everything at once. She would like at would could be done in the next 6 to 12 months and what we need to do now to get where we want to be. Haederle asked about the exercise and if it could be used as a starting point at looking at the Town's Master Plan. Haederle noted it has been 25+ years since we have updated our Master Plan. She stated yes, updating the master plan is a potential outcome. She noted the exercise should be viewed in other ways so it can be used in context with other visions we are trying to create. Barlow asked for Snow's recommendation of participants. Snow suggested 25 or 30 people; choosing participants that represent many in Town. Snow expressed the importance of having a diversity of opinions. In terms of reaching out into the community, she suggested lots of different avenues. Snow suggested having a booth at the annual back to school night meeting; reaching out to the community and get their advice. Snow cautioned that you don't want to take on a huge communication; you have to be concerned about time and resources. Colton reiterated that it needs to start with something informal like a survey and then take the group participants away and come up with a basic understanding of what we want to the future to look like and then come back to the public with the group's vision. Colton noted the public process, seeking public input before the session, after the session, as well as in the future. King asked how she would characterize her personal style. Snow sees herself as a espectful facilitator with wonderful ideas on how to craft a town; she uses an interactive way and she helps move the group toward some type of consensus or action. King asked how the municipalities may be different from the other organizations she has worked with. Snow noted that most groups seem to behave in a similar fashion. She helps them understand what they do have control over and what can be done. Corona asked about preliminary work to be done before the meeting. Stone responded that she spends a lot of time up front trying to find out what they want to get out of the session and then she designs the agenda from that point. Snow commended the Board and the Town Administrator for evening considering a strategic planning session; many communities cannot get out of the every day stuff to look into the future. The Board thanked Ms. Snow for her presentation.

Restaurant All Alcohol Alteration of Premises Hearing – T and K Casa, Inc., dba Doyle's Bar & Grill
956 Washington Street, Easton
Haederle read the notice of hearing into the record. Attorney Michael Sites was present along with applicant Tom Doyle. Marc Rousseau, Director of Planning & Community Development was also present. Sites spoke of the proposed additional outside dining area which has been approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals. The outside dining will be accessible only from the inside of the premises, not the parking lot. Sites spoke of the gate outside the perimeter of the structure. Corona referenced the Planning Board's concerns about the safety issue. Sites noted the lack of detail from the Planning and Zoning Board. Corona asked if there is reinforcement so that a car cannot go through the patio from the parking lot. Doyle explained the raised parking lot. Rousseau explained the Planning

Board's concern of the outside dining as proposed. He noted that the Board was concerned abut the bollards and the location of the seating. Corona noted that this was not put in the ZBA decision and asked if there would be something that could be done to reinforce the Planning Board's concern. Corona also asked about smoking outside in the dining area. She noted the enclosed area. Corona suggested that if it is enclosed as part of the dining area, the smoking issue should be addressed. Sites noted the open air way. Doyle noted the efforts to get the smoke out of the tent structure. Corona asked the question again and expressed great concern as to the legality of smoking in the proposed new dining area. Colton suggested that the Planning Board's comment regarding safety could be addressed by a condition of the approval. Colton suggested that the smoking issue would be under the Board of Health's jurisdiction. Corona stressed the importance of protecting the employees from the second hand smoke. Haederle asked about the structure and noise barrier and what it would consist of. Doyle spoke of the tent structure as 12' to 15' high. Sites referenced the issue of noise and stated that the ZBA decision gave approval for one year only. Sites suggested that sound studies would need to be done before renewal will be considered. No concerns have been raised by the abutters. Doyle noted that the inability to smoke would impact his restaurant. Doyle suggested that many restaurants in other towns allow this type of structure without a problem. Sites suggested the addition is not primarily a dining facility, its primary use is more for smoking. Corona expressed her concern that the Board of Health may review this and say it needs to be a non smoking area. Corona expressed concern with Mr. Doyle expending money on the outside patio only to find out that the smoking would not be allowed. King asked for clarification on how they would draw the smoke out of the tent structure. Doyle suggested that smoke usually dissipates and escapes outside the awnings in these types of structures. He noted the windows that zip out and or roll down. Doyle spoke of other towns and how they have accommodated these types of structures for the smokers. Corona noted she is not inclined to act on this issue until she gets clarification from the Board of Health. Haederle suggested we send something to the Board of Health asking for clarification Barlow suggested that she understands the Board's concern but speaks favorable about outside dining in general. The Board discussed their options further.

On Haederle's motion, seconded by Barlow, the Board **voted unanimously** to approve the alteration subject to no outdoor serving pending the requested Board of Health with respect to the smoking information; the door remain closed at all times and the bollards be installed per the Planning Board's request. Rousseau asked to see an updated site plan showing the bollards.

Cable Advisory Committee update

Chair Paul DiNicola was present along with member Len Bercowitz. DiNicola spoke of the recent Easton Journal article and Easton's current set up. DiNicola suggested that we should take advantage of what can be provided for public access. DiNicola referred to the Committee's new Special Counsel, Peter Epstein. DiNicola spoke of the need to come up with a budget and start to think about a new cable studio; we no longer will have access to Easton's studio as of November of 2008. We need to know what the cost would be to run this type of studio and look at what type of facility we would like to have. The proper location is important. Barlow asked for clarification on what Comcast will no longer provide. Di Nicola referenced the new agreement; they will give up to 5% of the revenue on a yearly basis. The Town received 2% which provided $120,000 this past year. They will not turn money over without looking at some type of investments the Town will be making. DiNicola spoke of regionalization and suggested that he knows of one community willing to work with us. He spoke of the challenge of where to put the facility. Lots of money can be saved in personnel while working with other communities. Without having a studio, the money will no longer come to the Town. He hopes to have a contract for the Board to review in November or December of 2007. King asked about budgeting and questioned if we can afford a studio. King spoke of how the money has been broken down in the past and the schools use of the funds to purchase computer equipment. He asked what other communities use the money for. DiNicola stated that most communities are not using it the way Easton does. DiNicola suggested that in the future, we will not be able to continue to do the same thing with the money based on the changes in the law. Corona noted that she has looked at other communities, specifically Norton. Corona asked how the committee established the budget numbers. DiNicola noted that they have spoken with other communities. Colton spoke of other ways to run and manage the studio through another corporation within the revenue generated by the Comcast agreement. DiNicola noted that they are being very conservative with the money. Barlow noted that no tax money would be used to supplement the program. DiNicola agreed that no tax money would be used and some current cable programs may need to be cut. Colton suggested we may be able to wire the upstairs meeting room to televise other meetings like the Board of Health or Planning Board. Corona agreed with regionalization and consolidation of staff and equipment. King spoke of televising other committee meetings and the fact that the meeting room space is very limited; televised meetings would give citizens the ability to understand what is going on in town government. DiNicola spoke of the need for equipment consultants and the need to spend money up front that will come back to us when we purchase the equipment. DiNicola suggested that UMASS Dartmouth may be helpful in this process. Corona offered a volunteer phone bank. DiNicola spoke of the

need for guidance with respect to the actual contract. The Board agreed with regionalization concept. Barlow spoke of the facility which may be used to help the students learn how to run the equipment. Corona noted that in general, the capital technology has been under funded. The Board thanked the Cable Advisory Committee for coming and providing the update.

Selectmen's notes
Corona spoke of the new trash program and stated that 2,600 people signed up for the trash program to date. Citizens can still participate in the new trash program with a cost of $260 year or $350 for two bins. Colton noted that the Town program allows for more recycling, we have extra bags available for purchase at various locations.

Town Administrator's notes
Colton announced the four affordable units available in the Easton Country Estates Development and the lottery process about to take place. There are income limitations and other restrictions that apply. The informational meeting will be held at the Olmsted Teachers Lounge on August 2, 2007 at 6pm; the lottery will be held on September 11, 2007. Applications can be picked up at the Town Hall and the Library. He noted that the lottery is run by an outside agency so interested people can contact the agency with questions.

Press notes
None

Public participation
None

Executive Session
On Corona's motion, seconded by King, the Board **voted unanimously by roll call** to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing real estate, collective bargaining and litigation, not to return to open session. (8:20pm).
Corona yes, King yes, Barlow yes, Haederle yes

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Southworth

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APPROVED

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DATE