

HAMILTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2012

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall on Monday, November 5, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. with Vice Chair Marc Johnson, Jennifer Scuteri, Jeff Hubbard, and Jeff Stinson present. Town Manager Michael Lombardo and Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena also present.

Call to order

Marc Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

None.

Town Manager's report – Hurricane Sandy Aftermath

Town Manager Michael Lombardo noted that a rededication of the Patton fields to a number of military personnel as designated by General George Patton would occur at Green Meadows Farm on November 10 at 10 a.m. and it would include new plaques. He also reminded the Board of their retreat on November 17 at the Hamilton-Wenham Public Library at 9:00 a.m. Lombardo noted that the Town had received an application from Emily Sumner to participate in the Patton Park Pool Committee and one other applicant is coming forward.

Lombardo addressed how the Town handled the recent hurricane Sandy that was a rain and wind event that proved to be a lot more problematic to deal with than expected and an aftermath meeting will be held to outline what worked well and what did not. A report will be created from that meeting to provide information to MEMA and National Grid. He mentioned that there were a number of power lines down and roads blocked with two houses severely damaged and another considerably damaged. The electric power was restored in Hamilton by Thursday.

He summarized that the Town departments had worked well and that there had been ongoing contact with Wenham and National Grid. Lombardo expressed his

dissatisfaction with National Grid informing the Town that all residents should have been provided with electricity by Wednesday and this occurred on Thursday.

Discussion ensued about timing of storm relative to Halloween event that was rescheduled to Saturday and that decision was not based on liability for the Town but rather on public safety since 1,600 residents in Hamilton and Wenham still did not have power on Wednesday and there was debris throughout the Town. Also mentioned was that Selectmen would appreciate receiving information from residents on these issues directly rather than through the blogs.

Discussion also addressed if the Town should designate a telephone line at the ECO to handle calls during an emergency which would be discussed at an upcoming emergency management meeting.

Lombardo added that he is working on strategy for reorganization of Planning Department where he would draft his thoughts for Board review in the near future.

Chairman/Selectmen reports

Jennifer Scuteri mentioned the letter that was included in the recent water bill from the Hamilton Foundation that describes how 6.7% of families in Town are receiving assistance.

Also, that manager from the Castle Hill Inn had met with some Town representatives at Patton property. He had been involved in a property in western Mass. that was converted to a bed and breakfast. He provided feedback as to the feasibility of Patton homestead functioning as a country inn. It appears possible to have four suites on the second floor with a small amount of work required on a bathroom and slight renovations to other bathrooms and that the third floor could house a parent/child suite. There did not seem to be any need to update the kitchen.

Discussion ensued about the need to redo the septic system and that if the barn quarters were brought up to code they could be used as a caretaker's suite. The house and grounds are in excellent shape. It was noted that action would be required to secure the military artifacts at the site. Johnson mentioned that no fatal flaws were identified that would inhibit the proposed use of property as a bed and breakfast and for specific events. Also addressed was that paperwork has been sent to the state for abandoning the Patton well.

Jeff Hubbard mentioned that a well-attended event was recently held at the Community House to honor Joanne Patton and a community service award has been specified in her name. He noted that the Community House is an under-appreciated and under-utilized asset relative to overlap with Recreation Department events and opportunity for the Town to save money. Jeff Stinson acknowledged Mrs. Patton's eloquence at the event and her role in fostering the success of the Community House.

Hubbard also mentioned the Essex County Trails Association and what the organization does to maintain trails in the area and that the trail users are transitioning from equestrians to trail runners, mountain bicyclists and hikers.

Lombardo noted that the Affordable Housing Trust is meeting at the senior center on November 8 relative to MAPC and housing production plan.

Johnson explained that later on during the meeting the Selectmen would be conducting an Executive Session to discuss if the Board is interested in negotiating with the Town Manager an extension of his contract. Since David Neill is not geographically available to attend the meeting, he will be participating remotely via telephone.

Public Hearing

Johnson opened the public hearing. A representative from National Grid presented a petition to erect a new pole, #P70/468, at 101 Echo Cove Road. All abutters were notified and invited to the hearing. There was a public discussion with one of the abutters from 80 Echo Cove Road who expressed concern about the proposed pole being located at the end of his driveway. This resident and the National Grid representative agreed to meet at the site. The representative will provide an updated sketch of the proposed site for the pole after review with the abutter. So Johnson noted that the public hearing would be continued until the Selectmen's November 26th meeting where a mutual answer would be discussed for Selectmen to base its decision regarding the pole installation.

Consent Agenda

Accept Donations

Patton Park Playground – General Donations

- Danversbank Charitable Foundation -- \$1,000
- WMSJ Company Inc. -- \$500
- Shaun M. Clarke -- \$100

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- John W. & Jane K. McWane -- \$100
- Dennis J. & Kelly R. Cunningham -- \$1,000
- Christopher A. & Holly K. Shepherd -- \$2,500
- Arthur A. Daniels -- \$1,000
- Harold & Meghan Nichols -- \$100
- Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Comparato -- \$100

Patton Park Playground – Brick Campaign

- John & Amy Desimone -- \$100
- Stephen & Elizabeth Murphy -- \$100
- Olivia Rugo -- \$100
- Amanda R. Dobbins -- \$100
- John & Jill Evers -- \$100
- Dale & Kathleen Luginbuhl -- \$100
- Leslie & John Pappas -- \$200
- Daniel & Lisa Wheeler -- \$100
- Allison & Jay Odoardi -- \$100
- Robin Ellis -- \$100
- Seth & Emily Goodling -- \$100
- Winfrey's Fudge & Chocolate -- \$300
- Lori & Jay Johnson -- \$100
- Kelleigh A. Faldi -- \$200
- L. Pierre & Margaret Teillon -- \$200
- Colin & Sarah Smith -- \$100
- S & J Sales Associates, Inc. -- \$100
- Frederick W. Steinberg -- \$300
- Christine Milligan -- \$100
- Anthony & Kara Cefalo -- \$100

Johnson entertained a motion to accept these various donations. Hubbard so moved.
Stinson seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Chebacco Woods Land Swap – Peterson Deed

Johnson entertained a motion for the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the Town pursuant to Town Meeting vote and a Special Act of the Legislature, to accept land from Nancy Peterson and Paul Driscoll, and to approve conveyance of land to Nancy Peterson and Paul Driscoll, all by exchange and acceptance of deeds as described more specifically in the deeds. Hubbard so moved. Stinson seconded motion. Discussion ensued about land swap that resulted from encroachment of septic systems from two abutting property owners built on Chebacco Woods land and that all paperwork is finalized after many years. VOTE: Unanimous.

Transfer of the Sara & Alfred Weis Scholarship Fund to HWRHS

Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena explained that fund was established in January 1981 with \$1,000 and \$100 scholarship was supposed to be given annually to a high school student. For years the fund had not given a scholarship so there is currently \$4,000 in the fund. Nippes-Mena explained that Town Counsel Donna Brewer had advised that scholarship fund be transferred to the school district with scholarships given annually at graduation since the school district is already managing other scholarship awards for high school students.

Discussion ensued about how paperwork did not say why it did not go to the HWRHS. At the suggestion of Scuteri, the Board agreed that the scholarship gift should be designated for a Hamilton high school student since the trust originally specified for a Hamilton High School student.

Johnson entertained a motion to transfer the Sara & Alfred Weis Scholarship Fund to Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School for a qualified Hamilton resident. Hubbard so moved. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

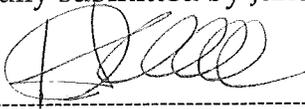
Schedule Next Meeting

The Board's next meetings are the retreat on November 17 and the regular Selectmen's meeting on November 19.

Executive Session

Johnson entertained a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. pursuant to M. G. L. c. 30A, Section 21a(2) for the purpose of conducting a strategy session in preparation for negotiating with the Town Manager, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on Town's negotiating position, not to return to Regular Session. Hubbard so moved. Stinson seconded motion. Roll call vote: Stinson, yes, Hubbard, yes, Johnson, yes, Scuteri, yes.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary.



11/19/12

Clerk