

TOWN OF HAMILTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
JANUARY 17, 2012

Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 with Jennifer Scuteri, David Carey, and Jeff Hubbard present. Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena also present.

Patton Family Gift Committee

Applications of interest have been received from land use boards recommending members to serve on Patton Family Gift Committee including Peter Clark from Planning Board, Bill Bowler from Zoning Board of Appeals, Peter Britton from Community Preservation Committee, who is also an abutter, and John Cusolito from Recreation Board.

Two Selectmen will be appointed to Committee at Board's next meeting. A representative will also be from Conservation Commission. There are three at-large positions and applicant experience could include: real estate law, development, conservation or recreation.

An outline of what Town will be accepting in gift from Patton family will be completed by Annual Town Meeting. Committee meetings, where Mrs. Patton's representative will attend, will be held every other week and a public walk of property will be done.

Sign Gift Acceptance Agreements for Patton Park Playground donations

At Town Meeting, \$5,000 was appropriated as seed money from Meals Tax revenue toward new playground equipment at Patton Park. Gifts have also come into Town from private donations. Playground committee already has commitments of \$23,000. Goal is to raise close to \$100,000.

Jennifer Scuteri entertained a motion for Board to accept a gift of \$2,500 from Brook and Robert Carol of Tally Ho Drive. David Carey so moved. Jeff Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Scuteri entertained a motion for Board to accept a gift of \$5,000 from Timothy and Elaine Peterson of Wellesley, Mass. Carey so moved. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

### Board Goals and Objectives

Carey listed goals Board members are working on for short-term, some done by ATM or end of fiscal year on June 30. For Jeff Stinson these included open budget process with schools, increase services for seniors, and increase communication with public (i.e., upgrade Town website. Each department is responsible for their section).

Carey suggested Town give School Committee its basis for a recommendation for school budget. Selectmen should agree on benchmarking, budget line item and /or growth rate for school budget.

Also, Community Development Corporation is likely to be approved by state soon. Once in place, CDC will replace Economic Development Committee. This would allow improvements to occur in Hamilton's downtown without having to go to Town Meeting first for approval.

Other goals are to sell town parcels, implement recommendations from Town Manager Michael Lombardo on efficiencies as well as enhance website. As well as if there should be a revision to number of members on School Committee.

Hubbard reviewed his goals including four items to be implemented for downtown including: trees, gas lanterns, benches and Winthrop arch. These improvements would have to receive Historic District Commission blessing and could be reimbursed through Community Preservation Act – historic preservation category. Quotes would be gathered for proposal to CPC. Meals tax revenue is also a possibility.

Discussion was about best use of \$50,000 coming into Hamilton annually from meals tax. EDC had mentioned possibility of expanding sidewalk near Connelly's pharmacy to make downtown at Bay Road and Railroad Avenue more visually appealing and encourage people to slow down when going through Town.

Hubbard mentioned spending from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for developing a Discover Hamilton brochure and for the fall festival that could be combined with Myopia hunt events. He noted that Essex buys chrysanthemums for each retail location. Also mentioned was burying utility lines downtown to improve streetscape and that this was done in Chelmsford and cost was paid through electrical ratepayers.

Discussion about developing a more systematic method for budget recommendations for school district, importance of relationship between per pupil expenditure number of \$14,300, and maintaining level or possibly decreasing tax rate.

Goals mentioned by Scuteri were to have Patton gift ready for ATM, develop marketing plan for Hamilton, and create educational campaign for new trash program.

Goals for Marc Johnson included recruiting 15 new residents to serve on Town boards, consolidating Town and school budget to come in below 2% inflation index, roll out Capital Improvement Plan that can be adopted for capital spending and help Planning Board resolve permitting of senior housing.

Hubbard also mentioned a list of mandates for Town and school district. This emphasizes need for lawsuit being driven by Lynette Fallon and Tracey Mayor on state's allocation of Chapter 70 funding where school district is losing \$1 million. Other mandates were for transportation (school busing) and English language learners. He'll highlight items that can be addressed by Town in future.

When full Board is together Selectmen will discuss Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary providing Chinese and Korean tutors to defray regional school district's cost to educate seminarian children who are English language learners.

Other business

Next BOS meeting is on January 23, 2012. Scuteri entertained a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Hubbard so moved. Carey seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk