



Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
697 Pleasant Street, Paxton, MA 01612
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Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 6, 2014

Meeting Location: John Bauer Senior Center 17 West Street, Paxton, MA 01612

Members Present: Julia N. Pingitore, Madam Chairman
Peter Bogren, Jr, Vice Chairman

Carol L. Riches, Town Administrator

Attendees: Attendee List

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Scenic byway kiosk

- Paul Robinson provided an update from the last meeting. An onsite meeting was held on September 29th. In attendance from the Town was Anita Fenton, Paul Robinson. Rich Fenton and Carol Riches. Mr. Carlson and Mr. Rigiero from Camp Street were also present.
- Chief Desrosiers spoke on the traffic concerns in the area of Camp Street and Pleasant Street. Motor Vehicle accidents in this area are high. There were concerns over parking and visibility. I recommended that the kiosk be placed back as far as possible and there is enough area to park without any concerns.
- **(JP)** The residents of Camp Street have expressed their concern that the kiosk may increase criminal activity in this area. Do you think the kiosk would affect this?
- Chief Desrosiers replied that they have looked at the statistics and with the incidents that have occurred and they have other ties to them other than the nature of the location. There are random acts all along the major routes coming out of the city. I don't see a connection with the kiosk creating more crime.
- Paul Robinson asked if residents from Camp Street were going to be appointed to the committee?
- **(JP)** No, not at this point in time.
- Chief Desrosiers stated that they don't anticipate a large crowd of people stopping at this at any one point in time.
- Bonnie Farrell is a resident of 3 Camp Street and wanted to propose three other locations that could be an option for placing the kiosk. 1. Just to the right of the Public Safety Complex. 2. The Town Common. 3. Route 56 and 122 at the corner of Reservoir Rd on the land that was recently cleared.
- Paul Robinson replied that the Town Common is too far up into town. The land on the corner of 56 and 122 belongs to the City of Worcester.

- **(PB)** The Public Safety Complex would be difficult with the emergency vehicles.
- Paul Robinson stated that the septic system is right there as well and the kiosk would have to be set back to far.
- Bonnie Farrell provided some statistics from the Corridor Management Plan that did a traffic analysis of Pleasant St from the Worcester town line up to Route 56. With a rating from A to F. This area was rated a D and was also noted that the crash statistics were high as well.
- Cindy Bajkowski of 131 Pleasant Street stated that they were asked by the US Postal Service to move their mailbox to Crystal Street because of the traffic.
- Michelle Robert of 44 Howard Street, Holden expressed that her mother almost had an accident turning into this area.
- Susan Davis of 8 Dunanderry Way inquired about the Muir Meadow site and getting on the Scenic By-way Committee.
- **(JP)** Muir Meadow is not owned by the Town.
- **(CR)** We are just looking for people to assist with the site location at this time because all the other work on this committee is done.
- **(PB)** Concern about line of site. Will meet with Paul Robinson to review the area.
- George Rigiero, Camp Street resident, expressed concerns over who will pay for the upkeep of the kiosk should it get vandalized, because you know it will.
- **(JP)** This was paid for by a grant and we will not use town money to replace it.
- Michael Putnam spoke as to the approval from MA DOT to use the existing entrance from Howe's.
- **(PB)** Is this considered a fair weather kiosk?
- Paul Robinson replied, yes.
- **(JP)** Peter will meet with Paul and come back to this at our next meeting.
- Bonnie Farrell stated that to pick the lesser of all evil's is still not the right choice.

250th Anniversary

- Jerry Ryan was present to request that a float of a cake be placed on the common for the 250th celebration. The cake will remain there from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, and will be decorated by a local artist.
- **(JP)** Concern over location so that the view of traffic is not a problem.
- **(PB)** Are there other possible locations? The parking lot of the Congregational Church?
- Mike Putnam stated that he has transported it and it is very unstable and should stay in one place.
- **(PB)** What about the fenced area up by the ball fields?
- Mike Putnam expressed concern that it could get vandalized in that area. If you put it on the common between the monument and the Christmas trees is should be ok.
- **(CR)** suggested that the board members stop by the DPW barn and see the float first.
- **(JP)** Put it back on the agenda for our next meeting.

Planting daffodils for the 250th

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to approve the planting of daffodils for the 250th Anniversary in front of the Town Hall and on the Town Common.**

Unanimous, all in favor.

Muir Meadow

- Collin Novick from the Greater Worcester Land Trust was present to give an update on the Muir Meadow project. Volunteers worked together and put up a sign for Muir Meadows. We have been monitoring traffic in this area and have not noticed any problems. We are directing people that wish to access Muir Meadows to go down to the large turn around at the end of Walbridge St to access Southwick Pond which connects to Muir Meadow.
- **(PB)** We had some concern from a resident on Indian Hill that people were parking in her front yard to get over to Muir Meadow.
- Collin Novick replied that we have monitored Indian Hill and have seen limited traffic. There really is no area for parking where the sign is. There is a small area of crushed stone where the maintenance vehicles enter but it is not really suitable for parking. Perhaps a state sign opposite of Walbridge St would help direct people where to enter.
- **(CR)** Collin said that if we get any complaints that we can direct them to him.
- **(PB)** If need be we could look at putting up a no parking sign on Indian Hill.

Sign request for Sweetpea

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to allow Sweetpea to place their sign on the common from October 12th to October 26th. Unanimous, all in favor.**

CIC Grant for DPW

- Michael Putnam presented the Board with a grant application that would acquire a piece of equipment for DPW that would be shared by the participating towns. With this piece of equipment you can place other attachments on it.
- **(JP)** Would the towns need to purchase attachments individually?
- Michael Putnam replied that yes they would.
- **(JP)** Where are we at with the bucket truck?
- Michael Putnam replied that it is still being set up.
- **(JP)** Has a division of use been set up?
- Michael Putnam replied that we do not have a schedule yet.
- **(JP)** This is purely grant funded?
- Michael Putnam replied yes, with a \$1,000 put in to cover items like insurance.
- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to sign off on the CIC grant application. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Trash Liens

- **(JP)** We will sign off on these on at the end of the meeting.

Extended Sunday hours for Paxton Liquors

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to approve the extension of Sunday hours for Paxton Liquors. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Social Media

- Pass over until next meeting.

Warrant for the Special Town Meeting

- Make recommendations for the warrant articles.

Article 1.

WRSD Budget

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 2.

Water Enterprise

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 3.

Water Enterprise

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 4.

Paxton Fire Department

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 5.

Stabilization Fund

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) will make recommendation at meeting. All in favor.

Article 6.

Capital Depreciation

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) will make recommendation at meeting. All in favor.

Article 7.

MGL Chapter 40 Section 57

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 8.

MGL Chapter 29 Section 23D

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

Article 9.

Unreasonable Noise

Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to recommend approval. All in favor.

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to close the warrant for the Special Town Meeting. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to approve the Meeting Minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 22, 2014. Unanimous, all in favor.**

Town Administrators Update

- **Audit**

Scanlon & Associates are unable to conduct the Town's FY14 audit due to the resignation of one of their key partners.

I contacted Roselli, Clark & Associates out of Woburn and they are willing to prepare an audit at the same rate as provided by Scanlan & Associates. (Mr. Rossi stressed that he generally charges \$15,500 but is willing to give us the same rate as Scanlon charged last year whilst ever Donna Couture is our accountant).

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to approve the hiring of Roselli, Clark & Associates to complete the town audit. Unanimous, all in favor.**

- **John Bauer Senior Center**

I have received a quote to repair the roof over the entrance of the building in the amount of \$1600. The shingles will all need replacing and the ceiling reinforced to stop the leaking.

- **Recreation Commission**

Will you please authorize an increase in the Recreation Revolving Account under MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½ from \$75,000 to \$85,000. Due to a successful summer program utilizing the Paxton Sports Center, the Recreation's revenue account increased over the previously voted amount (\$75,000). The account is not expected to stay with such a high balance as there are major expenses that need to be paid following the recent playground inspection.

- **Recommended motion:** to authorize the Recreation Commission revolving account established under MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to have a maximum expenditure of \$85,000 for the year ending June 30, 2015.

- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to authorize the Recreation Commission revolving account established under MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to have a maximum expenditure of \$85,000 for the year ending June 30, 2015. Unanimous, all in favor.**

- **Committee Openings**

We currently have openings on the Capital Committee and Finance Committee, anyone interested can send a letter of interest to the Town Administrator and the Moderator respectively. If anyone is considering applying for either position I would be happy to answer any questions that they may have.

- **Employment Opportunity**

The Town Hall/Senior Center custodian has resigned, so we will be advertising this position.

- **Other Items**

The State removed the dead tree on the Common on Friday.

The Lions Club is once again planning to hold their annual Halloween party and bonfire on Friday October 31st at the old Wentworth Pool area next to Illigs Pond.

Other Items

- (JP) We have a sign request from Bay Path for their Open House.
- **Motion (PB) seconded (JP) to allow Bay Path to place a sign for their open house at Paxton Center School. Unanimous, all in favor.**
- (PB) The Collaborative School Committee is up and running. There will be a meeting held at Davis Hill School on October 23rd at 6:30pm.

Correspondence

- (CR) There is a letter in your folder about the FY15 salt bids.
- Michael Putnam explained that due to the price increase and shortage of product this year we are going with the lowest bid. This is a pretreated salt that is environmentally safe, but it is not what we used last year.
- (PB) Will there be product availability at the end of the winter.
- Michael Putnam stated that the co-op meets a couple of weeks ago to discuss this and this is what we ended up with. The salt needs to stay under cover so we can only purchase what we can store. They can meet all of our minimums right now.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2014 at 7:00pm.

Adjourned Meeting at 8:46 pm, Unanimous all in favor.

Documents from the Meeting filed in BOS office:

Meeting minutes

Agenda

Attendance list

Town Administrators Update

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Graf-Parsons
Administrative Assistant