

Town of Paxton
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 17, 2005

Members Present: Frederick G. Goodrich, Chairman,
Michael Quinlivan, Vice Chair John F. Malone, Clerk

Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator and Peter Dawson Town Counsel

Attendees: See attendee list

The meeting was called to order at 7:10.p.m.

- (FG) wished to clarify the situation once and for all regarding the buffer zone at the Grove Street fields. Only violation seen in respect of the path cut was that 7 days notice was not given. To the abutters. Following calls from Mr. and Mrs. Moran, (FG) asked that the work stop
- (MQ) complimented the Recreation Commission for the hard work put into maintaining the fields and keeping them in such good condition.
- John Glowik, Recreation Commission, stated that when the plans were brought before the BOS in 1997 an ultimatum was presented that in order to receive the \$200,000 contribution the plans be accepted with the 50ft buffer between Chris Stone's property (now the Moran's) due south from the stone wall and the Grove Street property. A pole on line with the Coynoyer's property depicts where line is. Not intended for the buffer zone to be around the whole Grove Street Fields as the ball fields could not be put into this configuration and an infringement would have taken place.
- It was said that the Moran's believe differently; that the 50ft buffer is around their property.
- John Glowik added that following the problems two years ago six metal stakes were placed to show the buffer zone; at this time only one stake remains. There is a conflict between the Moran's and the Parks Director whenever work is needed to be done in the area of and near the buffer zone. Moran's received money from Recreation to plant trees on their property but instead chose to plant them in the buffer zone, consequently, through clearing and maintenance some trees have had to be removed.
- (FG) It is the right of the BOS to establish rules regarding the buffer zone and asked that 7 days notice be given before work takes place in the buffer zone. The letter that was issued a year ago regarding the work never took place; better communication to the abutters should have taken place on this occasion.
- John Glowik stated that all rules adhered to, work outside of the buffer zone.
- Andy Serrato, Recreation Commission stated that John Glowik was at the meeting and rules for the fields were established now being changed by preceding BOS and asked Town Counsel (TC) whether this in fact could be done.
- Peter Dawson, (TC) responded that the care, custody and control is that of the BOS and are able to change policies.
- Andy Serrato asked (TC) if work is done outside of the buffer zone, following the letter of the BOS of August 26, 2003 do they need to contact the abutters.
- (TC) responded "no".

- (JM) asked for the opinion of (TC).
- (TC) The letter from Scott Runstrom (prior BOS) removed any doubt of the buffer zone , all around the Grove Street fields, if outside the buffer zone, no rights (abutters), rights only within the buffer zone, can do work in the buffer zone as long as seven days notice given by the Commission. Regardless of previous BOS ruling, wooded areas to remain wooded.
- (MQ) **Motion** to have no buffer zone and that Town land to be held for the general benefit of all Town's people. (JM) seconded for discussion.
- (CB) pointed out that Scott Runstrom's letter did say that there was a 50ft buffer zone around the property but currently cleared areas exempt from the buffer zone.
- Andy Serrato asked that the Moran's be told that yard waste cannot be dumped on Town land, and that the "no dogs allowed" sign be adhered to.
- Mike Ross, Recreation Commission suggested that either the buffer zone be eliminated or that all parties involved see where the stakes are put in and if work is outside of the stakes; this is the Recreation Commissions jurisdiction.
- (MQ) withdrew his motion but asked for the right to bring back up at a later dated if necessary, feels that there is a false ownership of the buffer zone, not the property of the Moran's owned by the Town.
- It was agreed by everyone present that the 50ft buffer zone is reestablished with everyone involved present.
- (CB) was asked to contact the Fence Viewer and find a time when this could be done, parties involved to include the Recreation Commission, BOS, Moran's and a Police Personnel.
- (TC) to draft a letter to the Moran's informing of decision and to address the dumping of yard waste and the Moran's dog running unleashed on the fields.
- (FG) asked that Recreation communicate at all times when work is taking place at the fields for the safety of all concerned.

Motion (MQ) seconded (JM) to adjourn meeting at 8:15pm. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by

Carol L. Riches, Administrative Assistant
Paxton Board of Selectmen