

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
June 18, 2008
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Peter Govert, and Emmett Lyman
Also Present: Linda Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of May 21, 2008 and Regular Meeting of June 4, 2008

Regular Meeting of May 21, 2008: Motion made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Walter, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 21, 2008 as written. Unanimous aye.

Regular Meeting of June 4, 2008: The following change was noted to the minutes:

- Item 4.A., line 1, change the second “*Mr. Walter*” to “*the Selectmen’s*”.

Motion made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 4, 2008 as amended. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

A. Sons of the American Revolution: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to an invitation he had received from the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Inc., to the Grand Opening of the permanent Nathan Hale exhibits at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse in East Haddam. Mr. Lyman indicated that he had also received the invitation and the Selectman noted their intention to attend the event.

B. Mr. Walter referenced the following additional communications:

- A letter from Mr. Todd Gelston inquiring if SOLAR could be a member of the Open Space Committee. Mr. Walter noted that he had spoken with Attorney Bennet about the request, who advised that due to existing ordinances SOLAR can not be on the Open Space Committee. Mr. Lyman concurred with that opinion. Mr. Walter stated he would review the ordinances, confirm that he has Attorney Bennet’s opinion in writing, and will send a written response to Mr. Gelston.
- A letter from Ms. Cynthia Deming regarding noise at the new Middle School construction site prior to 7:00 a.m. Mr. Walter advised that he will ask the police to patrol the area in the early morning.

- Several phone calls concerning the dust resulting from the paving work on Clark Hill Road. Mr. Walter stated he had called Mr. Thumm and Mr. Toolan who advised that the road crew was applying water to the road to minimize the dust.
- Complaints about motorcycle noise. Mr. Walter stated that he had forwarded the complaints to the State Police. They were trying to pinpoint the area of most concern so that the police could focus their attention.

5. First Selectman's Report: Mr. Walter also advised that Officer Rhodes had recently informed him that the increased police presence around Town has been positively received by the public. Further, the High School had coordinated with the police to have two officers present during the recent early-closing days to help with traffic.

A. Melissa Ziobron – East Haddam Stage Company: Ms. Ziobron was not in attendance so Mr. Walter asked Ms. Zemienieski to provide an overview of the issue. Ms. Zemienieski advised that the East Haddam Stage Company would like to hold performances in the Grange Hall under the sponsorship of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) in order to be covered by the Town's insurance. She advised that she had spoken with the Town's insurance agent who indicated that if EDC agreed to sponsor the program, other Town businesses would have the right to request similar treatment, thereby expanding the Town's liability.

She stated that the Stage Company's previous request to be sponsored by the Recreation Commission had been turned down and noted that the reason for the decision was twofold: (1) unlike other Recreation programs, the accounting for the Stage Company's performances at the Grange would not be run through the Recreation Commission's budget, and (2) it did not appear to be a program in which a majority of the participants would be Town residents and, therefore, did not fit with the Recreation Commission's stated mission.

Ms. Zemienieski advised that the Stage Company could independently book the Grange Hall for their performances if they provided a certificate of insurance and paid a refundable deposit of \$100 plus a fee of \$100, or just the refundable deposit if they were a non-profit. She advised that Ms. Ziobron would follow-up with the Stage Company to resolve the open issues and noted that EDC has not made a decision on whether or not to sponsor them.

The Selectmen agreed that they would like to be able to support the Town-based organization, however, the issue of the insurance would need to be resolved before any action could be taken.

6. Citizen's Concerns: There were no citizen's concerns expressed at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School: Mr. Walter reported that the testing of the water system did not start early enough to be completed in time for the building to be turned over to the Town on the scheduled date of July 1st. He noted that the issue has the potential to delay the detailed schedule for the delivery of furniture and equipment. In response to a question from Mr. Lyman, Mr. Walter stated that he did not yet know anymore about the issue but that he would follow-up with Dr. Solek and report back to the Selectmen.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: Mr. Walter advised that there was nothing new to report on this issue at this time.

C. Clean Energy 20% by 2010 Campaign: Mr. Walter advised that there was nothing new to report on this issue at this time.

D. Signage Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that there was a new “Welcome to East Haddam” sign on Route 82, however, he was not sure whether the Rotary had changed the slogan to the one recommended by EDC.

E. Cherry Swamp Road Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that the previously scheduled site walk had been cancelled. Mr. Walter and Mr. Lyman agreed to coordinate a date and time with the Town attorney, Land Use Officer, and the Shorthouse’s attorney to walk the site.

F. 2008 Neighborhood Assistance Act Approvals: Mr. Walter reported that a public hearing was held on the NAA proposals on June 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. He advised that the Town needed to send the proposals to the State for final approval.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve and forward to the State for their approval three projects requesting funding by the Neighborhood Assistance Act for 2008. Unanimous aye.

G. Review of Draft Plan of Conservation and Development: Mr. Walter reported that he had not completed reading the draft Plan. Mr. Lyman stated that he had attended a number of sessions when the draft was being created and emphasized that the items discussed in the Plan were not mandates but, rather provide broad guidance for the future direction of the Town. He noted that the Plan has not been updated in twenty years and recommended that it be finalized in the near future.

In response to a statement made by Mr. Govert, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the Plan was not an ordinance but was a statement of the vision, ideals, and goals of the Town. Mr. Govert recommended talking with Mr. Crary Brownell to find out why he had voted against the draft plan. Mr. Lyman stated that Mr. Brownell had informed him that he felt that there had not been a broad enough participation by the members of the commissions creating the draft. Mr. Lyman felt that Mr. Brownell did not object to the document itself but rather the process in which it was developed.

Mr. Walter stated he would like the Selectman to be prepared to recommend, at their next regular meeting, to move the draft plan forward for a Town vote.

8. New Business

A. Grant Acceptance – Senior Bus: Mr. Walter noted that before making a motion to accept the grant more information was needed from the Finance Department regarding where the 20% balance would come from. Mr. Govert recommended that the person responsible for purchasing the bus investigate hybrids or some alternative that would reduce fuel costs. He indicated that, even if the initial cost was more expensive, a cost-benefit analysis over time might show a long-term savings.

B. Committee Resignation (Green): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to an e-mail from Ruth Ziobron to Ken Simon, dated June 14, 2008, tendering her resignation from the Green

Committee because she had accepted a full-time position that would preclude her attendance at meetings.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Govert, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Ruth Ziobron as a regular member on the Green Committee. Unanimous aye.

C. Commission Reappointment (EDC): Mr. Walter referenced an e-mail from Ms. Mathiasen, dated June 12, 2008, advising that the EDC Commissioners had voted to recommend to the Selectmen Mr. Robert Scherrer's reappointment to EDC.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to reappoint Robert Scherrer for a five-year term to expire June 30, 2013 as a regular member on the Economic Development Commission. Unanimous aye. The Selectmen expressed appreciation of Mr. Scherrer's service.

D. Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets from Mr. Ken Klein, the President of the Rotary Club of East Haddam, dated May 6, 2008, nominating Mr. Fred Hunt as a volunteer of the month. Mr. Klein's letter noted Mr. Hunt's "... generosity to our civic groups as well as others ... [and] ... toward East Haddam youth and youth programs ...".

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to name Fred Hunt as a volunteer of the month for June 2008. Unanimous aye.

E. Tax Refund: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to one tax refund.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to award a tax refund in the amount of \$292.67 to Stuart and Joan Wood. Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: None.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Budget Referendum: Mr. Walter reported that the Board of Finance was scheduled to meet later in the evening. The meeting had been delayed because the Finance Director had been out of town and the Board of Finance did not have the final budget numbers.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Govert, there was a general discussion about the appropriate scheduling of the Town's budget vote. The Selectmen agreed to schedule the next vote in early August.

B. Dog Park Business Plan: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to copies of the East Haddam Dog Park Business Plan in their meeting packets. He recommended that they review the plan so that they could discuss it at their next meeting.

C. Other: Mr. Walter advised that he had received competitive bids on the Town's Property and Casualty and Workmen's Compensation insurance. He noted that there was significant potential savings on both plans by using a brokerage company that worked with a number of other towns. He noted that the renewal date for the current insurance was July 1, so a decision should be made soon. Ms.

Zemienieski noted that the Town had signed a three-year contract with their current company and Mr. Walter stated he would research the impact of canceling that contract.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Govert, to adjourn the meeting at 5:00p.m. Unanimous aye.

Tape 557A

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary