

MINUTES OF THE ALL BOARD MEETING
October 10, 2013
7:00 P.M.
Mohawk Park Restaurant

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The meeting was convened at 7:02 P.M. by Selectboard Chair David Cunningham. Selectmen Vaughn Tower and Beth Bandy also attended the meeting. The sign in sheet is attached.

Mr. Cunningham welcomed all in attendance and pointed out the meeting agenda, minutes from the July 25, 2013 and Special Town Meeting Articles were distributed on the tables. Mr. Cunningham sent around the sign in sheet.

Ms. Bandy reported that the Selectmen have requested the DOR to perform a Town wide Financial Management Review. The Review is scheduled to begin sometime in March 2014 and the Town should expect a report within 3 months after completion. This report will be used as a planning tool or roadmap for the Town rather than a punishment. Ms Bandy invited all departments to forward their policies to the Selectmen's office and suggested the departments visit the DOR website to review reports from other Towns.

Mr. Cunningham reported that the Selectmen are creating a Municipal Space Committee charged with identifying Town assets along with current and future space needs for the Town. The goal for the Committee is to have a report ready for the Annual Town Meeting in May 2014.

Mr. Cunningham stated that a Special Town Meeting has been scheduled for November 4, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. at the Hawlemont Elementary School. Mr. Cunningham stated that Article 7 is for a deficit that remains on the books for work on South River Road. The deficit is because reimbursement for the project has not been received. This deficit must be removed from the books before the tax rate can be set. No one in attendance voiced any questions regarding the articles. Planning Board Chair Gisela Walker asked if the Town has any plans to remove the Town owned rocks stored on 8 Avery Brook Road so the Town will be able to use that property. Mr. Cunningham stated that the rocks are being stored on that property due to lack of municipal space.

Mr. Cunningham reported that MassDOT has found a problem regarding the culvert replacement on Route 2. In order to keep the project on track and within budget MassDOT has approached the Town regarding shutting down Route 2 for 2 weeks and detouring traffic along Burrington Road. The shutdown is to take place the end of October, beginning of November due to the fall tourist season. Truck traffic will be detoured along Routes 112 and 116. A notice regarding the shutdown has already been placed upon the Town website and the Selectmen will be using the reverse 911 telephone system to alert residents. MassDOT has placed guardrails along Burrington Road for traffic safety at no cost to the Town. Brush along Burrington Road is being cut, lines are going to be painted and MassDOT will be using police if necessary. MassDOT assured the Town that local truck delivery will be accommodated. If the detour becomes a safety issue, MassDOT will close Burrington Road to 1 lane with 24 hour police coverage. Concerns raised were: the property owner of house living right at the construction site, blasting, signs that may give traffic the idea that the Town is closed, where detour signs will be placed, wording on signs, delivery trucks to commercial properties, safety regarding the Burrington Road structure and the multitude of traffic.

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Planning Board member Daniel Girard reported on his findings regarding Medicinal Marijuana Dispensaries bylaws. The Attorney General has received reports of problems from other states regarding the dispensaries. CD's of the Attorney General's report was handed out. Mr. Girard urged all departments need to review the report and provide feedback to the Planning Board by the first of the new year. Attorneys from Kopelman and Paige have created a draft model Medical Marijuana Overlay Distribution bylaw that was handed out. Mr. Girard cited issues regarding vegetation debris at the Transfer Station, high intensity glow lamps and fertilizer for storage that may cause fires, growing police issues. Each department that might feel the effect of a dispensary will need to increase their budget requests.

EMD Michael Walsh informed the group that the mission for the Town regarding emergencies is to prepare and recover. An emergency or disaster will activate the EOC that is located at the Firehouse. Soon the Town will have a radio that communicates directly with MEA for emergencies communications.

William Harker, Park and Recreation Commission Chair, reported that the buildings at the Fairgrounds are up to code and the Commissions are considering building an office downstairs in the Exhibit Hall to house a telephone, making the Hall available for emergencies. The tennis courts have been resurfaced and the Commissioners have taken over mowing around the covered bridge. Mr. Harker explained that due to the new surface, the Commission does not want snow placed onto the tennis courts but the Commission has given the Highway Department permission to truck snow to the fairgrounds. Mr. Tower personally thanked the Park and Recreation Commission for taking over mowing the bridge and resurfacing the tennis courts.

Gisela Walker, Planning Board Chair, reported that two meetings are coming up, one scheduled for October 17th at the Federated Church community rooms at 7:15 P.M. to discuss an Earth Removal Bylaw. The other meeting is scheduled to be held on November 7th regarding the creation of the Village District. Ms Walker was informed that if a script is sent to the BOS, the reverse 911 telephone system can be used to announce the November meeting.

Robert Lingle, Board of Health Chair, reported that all vacancies on his Board have been filled and are running smoothly. The Board of Health is currently working with public wells within tightly inhabited areas, such as the village part of Town. Other Towns are affected with the same issues. A flue clinic will be held on November 2nd. Camille White, COA Chair was thanked for her assistance with the Clinic. On line permitting is being considered.

Sarah Reynolds, Board of Assessor Chair, reported that the Board is working on revaluations. Ms Reynolds encouraged people to come to the Assessors with any tax bill or property card questions. Property card information is now on line and all were encouraged to review their cards and bring any updates to the Assessors.

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Stephen Ferguson, Block Grant Committee, reported that a Community Development Block Grant prioritized projects list will be discussed on October 15th. Mr. Ferguson will place the CDBG strategy on the Town website once it has been completed.

Lawrence Mann, Finance Committee reported that the Committee has held 2 joint meetings with the Board of Selectmen, the Committee is meeting more often, and the Capital Plan is being rebuilt.

Ruth Cannavo, Conservation Commission, reported the Commission is trying to be consistent, conducting site visits before signing off on building permits. Right now the Hawlemont Elementary School is the Towns emergency shelter although it does not have an emergency generator. The School, along with the Fire, Police, Ambulance, and Highway Departments are within the flood plain.

Camille White, COA Chair and Cemetery Committee member, reported that a flu clinic for the elderly was recently held. A public nurse is available every 2nd Tuesday of each month. The Committee has addressed the abandoned cemeteries within the Town. Funds for repair/maintenance will be needed eventually.

Selectman Vaughn Tower reported that the Selectmen are considering a public dinner at the Hawlemont School with the proceeds to purchase 2 new welcome to Charlemont signs. The date for this dinner once set, will be posed to the Town website. The Board is considering delivering the dinner to people who are not able to attend.

The Board thanked everyone for attending. A consensus of the meeting was to hold quarterly All Board Meetings, with the next one scheduled roughly for February, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy A. Reynolds
Executive Secretary

Documents reviewed during the meeting:

- Agenda
- Special Town Meeting articles
- 7-25-13 All Board Meeting minutes