

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

This regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held this evening in the Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall. In attendance were: Gregory B. Mills, Chair, Barbara D. Searle, Vice Chair, Owen H. Dugan. Secretary, Harriet S. Warshaw was absent and Katherine L. Babson, Jr. Also in attendance were Hans Larsen, Executive Director, Terrance J. Connolly, Deputy Director and Albert S. Robinson, Town Counsel. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

The following warrant was executed #29 in the amount of \$5,009,278.31.

1. Citizen Speak

David Himmelberger, 387 Linden Street, addressed the Board with a concern of a number of residents about the number of restaurants allowed at Linden Square. Mr. Himmelberger asked the Board to honor the restrictions, set forth in the Development Agreement, and not allow any additional restaurants at Linden Square.

2. Executive Directors' Report

Board to Approve 2009 ATM Warrant

Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board (4-0) voted to approve the 2009 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

3. Joint Meeting of Planning Board to review the High School Traffic Study

Mr. Mills outlined the Board of Selectmen's responsibilities in the PSI process relating to traffic and pedestrian safety. After its review is completed, the Board of Selectmen forwards their recommendations to the Planning Board. Ms. Babson, Chair of the School Building Committee, is considering herself an applicant on this project and will not be participating in the Board's discussions or decisions relating to it. The proponents were represented by: Mike Eby, Chair of the PBC, Elizabeth Peart, HSH traffic consultant, Wayne Keefner SMMA Architects, Joel Seeley, SMMA, and Katherine Babson, Chair of the SBC. Mr. Eby reviewed the PSI process relating to the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety and introduced Ms. Peart, who presented the traffic study. Ms. Peart reviewed the site plan, collection and analysis of data, impacted intersections including proposed mitigation, and condition of sidewalks within 600 feet of the high school site. Ms. Peart then reviewed some proposed pedestrian improvements and Travel Demand Management (TDM) strategies, including additional busing in an attempt to limit vehicular traffic at the site as the student population increases.

Kien Ho, BETA Group, Inc., joined the discussion as the Town's traffic consultant. Mr. Ho reviewed BETA's analysis. Their charge is to ensure traffic study is done professionally and according to industry standards. BETA focused on the pedestrian and vehicle safety analysis. BETA also reviewed the site plan relating to vehicle circulation, pick up/drop off areas, and parking space layout.

The Board asked the applicant questions relating to corner clearance areas, safety of vehicles in the area not related to the high school, opening the Peck Avenue entrance, bus and student drop-off areas, site circulation, and pedestrian safety.

Chris Chan, Chair of Planning Board, reported that the Planning Board Public Hearing would begin on Feb 9th at 7:30 pm. Don McCauley, Planning Board member, asked about traffic volumes and standards for traffic controls including 4-way stops.

Mr. Mills asked for public input.

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Linda Senecal, 5 Paine Street, asked the applicant to consider the use of Seaver Street as an access/egress point for the high school.

Anita Alden, 62 Seaver Street, expressed concerns of her neighborhood relating to the usage of Seaver Street to access the high school. Ms. Alden noted that Seaver Street is heavily traveled today without being used by the school.

Bob Sechrest, 15 Allen Road, offered the following comments:

- Traffic Report was well presented
- Enclosed bicycle racks are a good idea
- Reopening the sidewalk from the old Kingsbury School to current high school library would be a good idea
- Parking lot proposal needs to be improved
- Driveway geometry needs to be looked at for safety
- Corner Clearance Town Bylaw deals with overgrown vegetation.

Mr. Mills asked the proponent to look at site circulation patterns, travel direction of access and egress points, and the affects that different circulation patterns would have on the traffic analysis. Mr. Mills noted that this issue would be discussed again on January 28th and February 2nd.

Old Business/New Business

None.

At 9:35 p.m. the Board was polled all aye to adjourn.