

Board of Selectmen – September 9, 2009
Present: Searle, Mills, Dugan, Tsagaris
Also present: Larsen, Ketchen, Robinson

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Warrants: None.

Citizen Speak: None.

Minutes: None.

Business:

A. Babson College Special License Application

- Mr. Larsen briefed the Board on the annual request from Babson College for several autumn events.
- The Board voted to grant the request for 4 (four) One-Day Special Licenses from Babson College for the events described in the September 4th memorandum from the Executive Director.

B. National Grid Petition to install 40 ft. gas main in Woodlawn Avenue and Washington Street

- Ms. Searle opened the public hearing at 7:09 pm.
- Mr. Dennis Regan addressed the Board on the elements of the project.
- Mr. Larsen, in response to a question from Mr. Dugan, informed the Board that MLP and DPW had been apprised of the project.
- Ms. Searle closed the public hearing at 7:12 pm.
- The Board voted to approve the Petition of National Grid to install and maintain gas mains along Woodlawn Avenue to Washington Street in accordance with the plans submitted to the Board on August 24, 2009.

C. Local Option Meals Tax

- Ms. Searle gave an introduction of the meals tax issue.
- Ms. Maura O'Brien of the Wellesley Chamber of Commerce, Nancy Goodall of Captain Marden's Seafood, and a representative from Bertucci's came before the Board to express opposition to the meals tax.
- Other representatives of the restaurant community speaking in opposition to the tax were:
 - Ming Tsai of Blue Ginger
 - Charlie Papakonstantinou of Maugus Restaurant
 - Isaac Gilliard of Alta Strada

Mr. Dugan reported to the Board his observations from attending Selectmen's meeting in Needham where the meals tax issue was discussed.

D. Procedure on Building Moves

- Mr. Ketchen explained the details of an updated draft procedure for buildings moving along a public way.

- Mr. Mills suggested including the Zoning Board of Appeals among the list of departments involved in evaluating a building move application.
- Ms. Tsagaris requested that the requirement of a security deposit be included in the “Policy” section of the document.
- Ms. Tsagaris also asked about trimming private trees encroaching in the public way without the owners’ consent. Mr. Ketchen stated, and Mr. Robinson agreed, that the Board would make the final decision about the building move plan, weighing both public safety and public interest aspects of trimming trees.
- The Board agreed to schedule an opportunity to receive public input at an upcoming meeting.

E. Community Preservation Act (CPA) Legislation

- Mr. Jack Morgan gave a presentation on Senate Bill 90 “An Act to sustain community preservation” sponsored by Senator Cynthia Creem and co-sponsored by Senator Scott Brown and Representative Alice Peisch. Mr. Morgan was joined by Allan Port of the Community Preservation Committee and James Conlin of the Recreation Commission.
- Mr. Morgan, in his presentation, stated that the Act would guarantee a 75 percent match from the state generated from additional registry fees. He also indicated that the Act would encourage cities to adopt the CPA as well as better define the eligibility of funds for recreational uses.
- Board members agreed to provide a letter to Mr. Morgan indicating the Selectmen’s support for the legislation.

F. Old Business/New Business:

- *High School* – No report
- *27 Washington Street* – No report.
- *Senior Center* – Ms. Tsagaris reported that the American Legion demolition is complete. The revised traffic and parking study is done and will be forwarded to the Permanent Building Committee shortly.
- *DCR Bridge* – Ms. Searle will be attending a meeting with the relevant boards and committees on Tuesday. She also reported that Mr. Robinson has advised that CPA funds are appropriate for this project.
- *Advisory Committee Update* – No Report.

G. Executive Director’s Update:

Design Home Proposal

- Mr. Larsen informed the Board of a proposal for a design home at 169 Grove Street. This proposal would require a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals. The charitable beneficiary is the Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps.
- The Board members discussed several parking, compliance, public safety and payment concerns. The Board decided to forward those concerns to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Non-Accessory Use Parking

- Mr. Larsen also informed the Board of concerns regarding non-accessory use parking as a potential problem developing around the High School while construction is on-going.
- The Board decided to have the building inspector review violations and handle them on an individual basis.

At 8:46 pm the Board was polled all aye to go into Executive Session to discuss the potential acquisition of real property and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.