

SELECTMEN'S WORKSHOP
Minutes of 04-20-09
4:15 p.m.

Selectmen:

Peter F. Brothers, Chairman
Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman
Robert C. Flanders
Charles G. Palm
Colette Worsman

Co-Interim Town Managers:

(Tardy)

John C. Edgar
Brenda L. Vittner
Karin Landry

Recording Clerk:

Call to Order: Chairman Peter Brothers called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. He introduced the Board, Co-Interim Town Managers, and the Recording Clerk. Brenda Vittner joined the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

W 09-17 Greater Meredith Program Beautification/Conservation

The Greater Meredith Program (GMP) came before the Board to present a tree planting proposal in the Town of Meredith. President & Treasurer Chris Kelly introduced Mal Merrill, who recently took on the role of Executive Director of GMP.

Rusty McLear, past president and economic development chair, outlined the Meredith Beautification and Conservation Fund. The Fund was established to achieve the following:

- Repopulate Village core area and 3/25 corridor with large/medium size streetscape trees.
- Prune, fertilize, and maintain currently established treescapes.
- Assist with efforts of other organizations and Town's beautification and conservation projects (donated \$5,000 to community center garden).
- Assist Conservation Commission where missions intersect (donated \$500 to the conservation of Page Pond and Forest)

The Fund is generated by voluntary donations from visitors who patronize local businesses including Harbor Hill Campground, The Inn and Spa at Mill Falls, and Meredith Inn. A minimum of 50% of the funds generated must be applied towards the beautification and conservation program. The funds remaining support the general goals of the GMP. It is hoped that eventually 70-80% of the funds generated will be applied to the program. The Fund is administered by the GMP. The sites identified for planting and maintaining trees are on homeowner, business, Town, and state property. GMP will coordinate the tree planting effort with Dig Safe and local landscaping contractors. A volunteer will be assigned to maintain the tree until it is established. Local businesses will be asked to donate what they can to reduce the cost of the program. The tree planting service will be available at no cost to the Town. The Program expects to plant 15-20 trees per year. The first tree planting will be a 5-7" caliber in the roundabout. The Department of Transportation applauds the efforts to work cooperatively to

enhance roadway amenities, and agrees that the gateway into Meredith will be enhanced with the planting of a tree. The Board reviewed a list of the types of trees that will be considered for use, as well as a partial list of suggested planting sites. The program will work to encourage private property owners to take over the responsibility of maintaining trees planted on private property. Chris Williams and the design committee will work with landowners to identify what type of tree will be planted and where it will be placed. The GMP wishes to have the Town participate in the tree planting program, and asked for the Board's direction in doing so.

Selectman Flanders emphasized that no taxpayer money will be involved in the project. He thinks it is a great idea. He fully supports moving forth in a prudent manner.

(Co-Interim Town Manager Brenda Vittner arrived.)

Chair Brothers believes that landscaping and trees are a positive aspect of a community. It is important that the trees are maintained properly over the long term to ensure they present the right look and feel for the community.

Selectman Lovett asked about the long term care of the trees. The number of trees planted over the years will accumulate, adding considerable maintenance as the trees age and die off. Mr. McLear told the Board that the GMP will continue to be raising funds that will be available to plant new trees and maintain existing trees as long as the GMP is there to administer it. Most of the trees will not be located on Town property. It is up to the Town to decide how many trees it wishes to have planted on its property.

Co-Interim Town Manager John Edgar thinks the project will complement the scenic qualities of the Town. As the project continues, tree planting will reach out from the central core of the Town and will include a comprehensive plan for scenic roads and parks.

Selectman Worsman agrees that concept is wonderful and aesthetics are important, but is concerned that ongoing maintenance will generate significant work for various departments. Leaves need to be removed in the fall, and shaded roads will require the use of more salt to keep them clear. She would like input from the Highway and Parks & Recreation Departments regarding additional maintenance, as well as a well-publicized public hearing to see if there is community support for the project. She does not want the community to be responsible for future maintenance if the GMP is no longer available to coordinate the program. She suggested an escrow fund be established to maintain the treescapes in perpetuity.

The Chair agreed that it is important to ask the Town to support the concept. The program will be a long-term aesthetic contribution to the Town. The Program is also an opportunity to replace treescapes that would otherwise disappear as they reach their life expectancy.

In summary, Mr. Edgar pointed out that agreeing to participate in the program does not necessarily mean in perpetuity. The Town can choose to stop participating in the program at any time. He will obtain input from the applicable department heads regarding ongoing maintenance.

Chair Brothers views it as an excellent opportunity for cooperative partnerships. He looks forward to it as a positive challenge and opportunity. He expressed appreciation to the GMP for presenting the concept. Mr. McLear will follow on the matter.

W 09-18 Easement – Monitoring Well

Mr. Edgar introduced the matter. Acadia Environmental Technology, agent for Cobalt Properties, LTD (aka Irving Oil Corporation) is investigating soil and groundwater quality at the former Irving Gas Station on the corner of US Route 3 and Lake Street. Their work is related to petroleum discharges that were discovered in 1991. The site is subject to an existing New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Groundwater Management Permit. Two monitoring wells currently exist in the Town parking lot at the municipal docks. NHDES has requested that one of these wells be removed, and an additional well be installed. There will be no effect on parking. The Board reviewed photographs of the site. Acadia is seeking authorization from the Town for access to Town property to install and sample monitoring wells as requested by NHDES. The Agreement, which is specific to this request, has been reviewed by Town Counsel. Public Works, Water & Sewer, and the Health Officer held an on-site coordination meeting with the drilling contractor. The Town will be given a 48-hour notice to coordinate activities in the parking lot. The project will move forward in April or May and be completed well before the peak summer season. Arcadia is responsible for coordination with all other parties including Dig Safe, the Winnepesaukee River Basin Project, and the Electric Coop.

Selectman Flanders suggested the Town be given a 72-hour notice that the project will begin, in accordance with the standards set forth by Dig Safe. Mr. Edgar pointed out that Dig Safe needs additional notice in order to mark the pavement. It might not be possible to know 72 hours in advance when the drill rig will be on site.

Selectman Worsman suggested adding the following provision to the sample motion: Arcadia shall be responsible for any repair, replacement, or upgrade necessary to this specific well installation. In addition, she suggested that the area where the existing well is removed be hot topped, which is longer lasting than the proposed cold patch. Selectman Flanders expressed concerns with increasing the risk for potential problems by expanding the patch to allow for hot topping. The Public Works Department will sign off on the final technique for patching.

The Board will take action on the matter at the regular meeting following the workshop.

W 09-19 WWAC – Hazardous Material Trucking

Bruce Bond of the Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee and Angela LaBrecque, Committee member and Town Planner, reported that the Committee has identified large transport trucks traveling down Winona Road and across Waukewan Road to NH Route 3 and 25B as a potential hazard to Lake Waukewan. The route is used as a bypass to avoid the 3/25 intersection during the busy summer months. Ms. LaBrecque identified the area with visual aids. Mr. Bond and Ms. LaBrecque met with the Paul Susca of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to discuss the potential hazard to Lake Waukewan. Mr. Susca followed up with a call to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation inquiring about a solution to

the risk identified by the Committee. It was recommended that the Town express their concerns in writing to Mark Morrill of the NHDES District 3.

Dialogue ensued regarding the increase in traffic on the 3/25 corridor in recent years, and how it has increased the use of the Waukegan/Winona bypass by large transport trucks carrying toxic chemicals and waste materials. The issue is with thru trucking as opposed to delivery trucks. The roadway is not designed for the heavy loads, and the Snake River Bridge does not accommodate two-way traffic when a large truck is passing through. The bridge is not rated at this time. The proximity to the Lake increases the risk to the water supply. The objective is to better manage that risk. A formal request by the Board to open dialogue with the DES to identify issues and potential solutions will carry more weight than a request from the Committee. The Board reviewed the proposed letter to the DOT, which indicates that the Board is open to any options that will help minimize the risk.

The Committee has communicated with officials in the Towns of Center Harbor and New Hampton, who are concerned with safety issues regarding bypassing the 3/25 intersection. Both Towns support the efforts to minimize risks to the watershed.

Selectman Worsman inquired about accidents at the Snake River Bridge. Although there haven't been any truck transport accidents on the bypass, truck traffic on the road has only been increased for the past few years. She is concerned that the community will be viewed as being business unfriendly if it restricts thru trucking, and prefers that the DOT consider a multi-faceted direction to address the problem that includes improvements to the bridge and slowing down traffic. She suggested that the Town contact the companies that are using the bypass and explain the problem to them in order to get them involved.

Selectman Flanders does not agree with Ms. Worsman's comments. The Snake River is the headwaters of the Lake and a spill at that spot will spread more quickly than any other place. He pointed out that there was a serious dye spill at Wickes Lumber. A similar spill into the Snake River would have tinted the entire Lake. He believes that it is the responsibility of the Board to take action to protect the Town's drinking water supply.

Selectman Palm reminded the Board that the purpose of the letter is to get DOT looking at alternatives, not to solve the problem.

There was a consensus among the Board that they wish to start dialogue with the DOT regarding the options that are available to address the matter.

Selectman Flanders motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Palm.
5-0. *Motion* *passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Edgar, Co-Interim Town Mgr.

Peter F. Brothers, Chairman

Brenda L. Vittner, Co-Interim Town Mgr.

Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman

Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

Robert C. Flanders

Charles G. Palm

Colette Worsman