

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER 13, 2006**

7:00 p.m. - Selectmen's Meeting Room, 63 Main Street, Northborough, MA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Rand, Chairman
William Pantazis, Vice Chairman
Leslie Rutan, Clerk
Jeff Amberson
Fran Bakstran

*Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 23, 2006 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the October 23, 2006 Regular Meeting as submitted; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**7:00 p.m. – VIRGINIA SIMMS GEORGE, COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE AND PATTY MURPHY, STRUT**
Presentation on Holiday Trolley Program.

Ms. Murphy spoke about the 2nd annual Holiday Trolley scheduled for December 9th along Route 20 with singing and caroling sponsored by the Community Affairs Committee. Ms. Murphy indicated there were 18 participating merchants and restaurants this year along the Trolley route from the Northborough Shopping Plaza to the west, to the Purple Rose to the east. She noted the trolley loop took about 20-25 minutes and held 32 people at a time. She said it was a great Town activity while providing a unique shopping and restaurant promotion for the community.

Ms. Simms George noted the tree lighting ceremony at the site of the "Ellsworth" tree on Blake Street would be at 5:30 p.m., but the trolley would be operating from 12 Noon to 6 p.m. with maps available indicating all the stops.

Chairman Rand said she had gone last year and it was a lot of fun for kids and adults alike, and extended her thanks to them for doing it again this year. Board members agreed.

Selectman Amberson asked that they notify the Ellsworth family about the scheduled tree lighting ceremony.

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to authorize the operation of the Holiday Trolley on December 9, 2006 from Noon to 6 p.m., and to approve the proposed Trolley Stop locations; Selectman Bakstran seconded; all members voted in favor.

REPORTS

Barry M. Brenner, Town Administrator

- No report.

Fran Bakstran

- Went to the Community Preservation Committee meeting and was impressed with what the Trails Committee has accomplished to date.
- Felt the quilting display put on by the Historical Society was amazing.
- Requested the Police Department observe East Main Street for speeding now that the Allen Street Bridge was closed.
- Spoke to Betty Tetreault of the Recycling Committee asking if they could look into a bin for recycling books which might return a profit for the Town.
- Met with the Shine group concerning prescription advantage and Medicare, noting the open enrollment ends on November 15th. She told the home audience that, if they were a senior, now was the time of year to call the Senior Center for help for affordable prescriptions.

Jeff Amberson

- Noted there was a free Harvest Dinner sponsored by the Lions Club on Wednesday night for the Seniors at the Lincoln Street School,
- Went to the dinner sponsored by the Interfaith Clergy honoring Tom Lowe and promoting the food bank. He thanked Tom and congratulated him for all he does for the Town, and thanked the Clergy for sponsoring the dinner.

Leslie Rutan, Clerk

- Thanked Linda Salvucci who resigned from the Council on Aging for having served.
- Noted at a meeting of the Library Trustees that DCU had made a \$5,000 donation, and that soil borings have been completed for the Addition/Renovation project.
- Congratulated Walter McKenzie, Technology Director at the Schools, for having received the Innovation Award.
- Got a notice from the Central Office that the Schools were not meeting with the Board of Selectmen, and that they are planning to meet with both Boards of Selectmen from Northborough and Southborough together. She wondered where the negotiations stood now with the Bonding Company because it had been indicated that they were close to settlement in the summer.
- Understood that two vacant buildings across from Dunkin Donuts are in the process of being demolished.
- Asked Mr. Brenner about the status of new businesses in Town, and what can the Board do to make them feel welcome. Mr. Brenner indicated that they were going to ask the Industrial Development Commission to work on that since not every new business in Town needs a business certificate. He stated he would put that on a future agenda when information is known.
- Went to the Northborough School Committee meeting. She noted they wanted more information on the money coming to Town from Avalon Bay. Chairman Rand indicated this was to be on the agenda but wanted clarification from Mr. Brenner first, is this being scheduled for November 27th. She stated there still is no money coming to the Town as long as it is in litigation. The intention is that what was agreed as a group be honored.
- Indicated Kevin Conway had returned from Iraq, and wondered if something was being done to welcome him home. Mr. Brenner said he was talking to Dick Perron about the returnees but that a letter will be sent from the Board to Kevin Conway.

Chairman Rand agreed they were in the process of wanting to recognize everyone returning home.

- Noticed there was a new “no left turn” sign on Church Street from Pierce Street.
- Stated there had been a Senior Center Building Committee meeting where the architect was receiving input for the plans. Eventually, there will be FAQ’s on the Town’s website concerning the status.
- Mentioned that the Boys Varsity Soccer Team had won the Division 1 Championship.
- Stated she and Selectman Bakstran had met and interviewed applicants for Board appointments. She moved that the Board vote to appoint Normand Corbin to the Historical Commission for a partial two-year term; Selectman Bakstran seconded; all members voted in favor. Selectman Rutan moved that the Board vote to appoint Marjorie Markson to the Scholarship Committee for a partial three-year term; Selectman Bakstran seconded; all members voted in favor.

William Pantazis, Vice Chairman

- Asked residents to be aware of the signs at the end of Pierce Street, and asked Police to take notice.
- Mentioned the Whitney Street detour to Winter Street and asked residents not to cut through the cemetery but to go around.
- Requested the Regional School District give us an update on the High School Addition/Renovation Project. He felt they were avoiding us, and suggested it was good to be up front with the Board and the residents. Selectman Amberson agreed that it was good to show the public everyone was working together and trying to maintain an open dialog. Chairman Rand asked Mr. Brenner if he had the reimbursement figures. Mr. Brenner indicated the figure was either 55.9% or 56% - he didn’t have the final number with him tonight. Chairman Rand requested Mr. Brenner verify the number and how it would be credited to both communities. Selectman Rutan noted the complicated transition between the SBA and MSBA with now a lump sum being issued rather than over 20 years. She acknowledged the Financial Planning Committee’s memo trying to get answers to various questions. Selectman Rutan also mentioned her displeasure with the way the Regional School Committee meeting was handled recently.

Dawn Rand, Chairman

- Mentioned the proceeds from the dinner dance that was recently sponsored by the Interfaith Clergy Association goes into a voucher system for residents. She added that Tom Lowe was one of the first merchants to participate in this system, and still does. She noted he just recently moved his store to the Northborough Shopping Plaza.
- Noted that the Senior Center Building Committee was having a meeting in December. They continue to review the specifics of locating the building on a flat piece of the property at 119 Colburn Street and revising the plans for a smaller structure.
- Asked Police Chief Mark Leahy if he could speak about the upcoming Spelling Bee in his role as Rotary President. Chief Leahy said the 3rd annual Spelling Bee was being held on Friday, November 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Proctor School. He noted it was a fun evening for all with many Town departments and charitable groups participating.

- Noted that the manholes on Allen and Hudson Street had been paved over and water was accumulating under the Aqueduct. She requested that the manholes be retrieved if they were not being used.

NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING POLICE SERGEANT

Chief Leahy first mentioned the changes on Pierce and Church Streets. If residents are exiting Pierce Street, there is no left turn onto Church Street. If residents are going south on Church Street, there is no left to enter Pierce Street.

Regarding the appointment, the Police Department has four sergeants now – currently two of the four are out on medical or injury leave. This situation impacts the shifts when less experienced individuals are on so he wanted to recommend the next Police Officer on the promotional list Police Officer Demosthenes Agiomavritis as Acting Sergeant. Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to appoint Police Officer Demosthenes Agiomavritis as Acting Police Sergeant effective October 26, 2006; Selectman Bakstran seconded; all members voted in favor.

RENEWAL OF AUDIT CONTRACT

Mr. Brenner indicated that the contract for audit services with Bill Fraher, CPA required renewal. This was a continuation of services previously provided to the Town with a modest increase from \$21,000 to \$22,000. Mr. Brenner stated any increases from Mr. Fraher were always modest except when the GASB 34 was implemented which involved substantial changes to the financial statements and schedules. Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve the contract between Bill Fraher, CPA and the Town of Northborough for the Audit Services for fiscal years 2007 – 2009, and that the Town Administrator be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the Board of Selectmen; Selectman Amberson seconded; all members voted in favor.

WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSAL OF CHRISTOPHER SENIE TO PURCHASE TOWN'S OPTION ON 4 WEST MAIN STREET (OLD TOWN HALL PROPERTY)

Mr. Brenner referred Board members to his memo outlining the entire issue regarding 4 West Main Street and Mr. Senie's subsequent withdrawal of his proposal to purchase the building. Therefore, there won't be an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant concerning this. Selectman Rutan was pleased Mr. Senie withdrew his offer. She knew many people in Town were pleased too because they felt relinquishing the building would have been a bad move.

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE – NAMING SUBCOMMITTEE, APPOINTMENT OF NORTHBOROUGH COMMUNITY MEMBER

Selectman Bakstran stated she and Selectman Rutan met and interviewed three applicants for the position. They were ready to put forth a name as the citizen-at-large from Northborough, but then was referred to the Regional School Committee policy manual and saw an indication that 2-4 names were to be submitted.

This prompted a discussion among the Board if it was 1 name or 2 names or all 3 that should be submitted, or even if it was a Selectman that was to be the citizen-at-large. Mr. Brenner read the email from the Superintendent's office which contained the advertisement for applicants. He recalled that this issue was discussed at the October 23rd Selectmen's meeting where a decision had been reached to extend the deadline for applicants to November 6th with a decision to be made by the Board on November 13th. He noted that the Regional School Committee's policy was just received this week which complicated the question of the number of applicants for the position. Mr. Brenner indicated that the Regional School Committee would be anticipating a decision from the Board this evening.

Selectman Bakstran moved to pass over the nomination of an individual to the Regional School Committee until they received further clarification; Selectman Rutan second; the rest of the Board opposed.

Selectman Bakstran moved to nominate Adele Beatty as the citizen-at-large; there was no second. Selectman Amberson felt there should be a minimum of two names submitted; Chairman Rand agreed. Selectman Bakstran withdrew the motion.

Selectman Rutan moved to put forward the names of Adele Beatty and David Gobron; Selectman Bakstran seconded. The rest of the Board opposed.

Selectman Amberson moved to put forward the names of Adele Beatty and Beryl Krouse; Selectman Pantazis seconded. Selectman Rutan suggested putting forth all three names. Selectman Amberson disagree indicating the policy stated 2-4 individuals. On the vote: Chairman Rand, Selectmen Amberson and Pantazis in favor; Selectmen Rutan and Bakstran abstained.

Mr. Brenner again indicated he did not know what to anticipate – if the Regional School Committee wanted 1 or 2 names, and suggested the Board might want to consider which applicant would be the primary choice, and who would be the alternate. Selectman Amberson moved the Board appoint Beryl Krouse to the Regional School Committee Naming Subcommittee as the primary candidate and Adele Beatty as the alternate; Selectman Pantazis seconded; all members voted in favor.

ZONING STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE STATUS REPORT – SELECTMAN BAKSTRAN

Selectman Bakstran informed the Board that the Committee was unable to meet today but they were making progress. Before getting to Town Meeting, there would be plenty of opportunity for people to know what zoning changes would be recommended so the downtown area has the right esthetics. She noted their task is to put forth articles that encourage development in the style and composition what the people in Town are looking for. She complimented Judy Barrett, the consultant, on the tedious work involved.

CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING SELECTMEN LISTENING SESSION

Chairman Rand's recommendation was to have an open meeting to listen to the public's concerns, maybe on a Monday evening in December. Selectman Pantazis agreed, but

that it should not be one of the Board’s regular meetings. Selectman Amberson was all for it – possibly residents could write or call in their questions to the Selectmen. Selectman Bakstran agreed it was a good idea, but noted meeting with all of the Board may not be a comfortable forum for everyone. She suggested even a call-in session on cable might work as a more modern way of getting people involved. Chairman Rand suggested Monday, December 4th, even though Mr. Brenner was not available. Selectman Pantazis moved the Board have a Selectmen’s Listening Session on December 4th from 7-8 p.m.; Selectman Rutan seconded; all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEEDS A726 AND A727

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to approve/execute Cemetery Deeds A726 and A727; Selectman Amberson seconded; all members voted in favor.

8:22 p.m. – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Subsection 23B, Subsection 3, Legal Matter; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Bakstran	“aye”	Pantazis	“aye”
Amberson	“aye”	Rand	“aye”
Rutan	“aye”		

Chairman Rand announced that the Board would return from Executive Session only to adjourn.

9:30 p.m. – RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to adjourn; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. J. Fredette
 Executive Assistant to the Town
 Administrator and the Board of Selectmen