

Newington Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 10, 2008 6:30pm
Town Hall

DRAFT

Chr. Jan Stuart called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

Present: Chr. Stuart, Selectman Jack O'Reilly, Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi, Conservation Commission Chr. Justin Richardson, Selectman Iocovozzi (at 6:37pm), Barbara McDonald and Terry of the Portsmouth Herald.

Tree Cutting – PDA

Mrs. McDonald spoke of the recent on going ground noise from planes since Feb 18 and her conversations with airport manager Mr. Hopper who explained that the silent jet-way is broken.

She stated that she took a walk heading north from the McIntyre Brook and was amazed to see the amount of trees downed. She called the DES and launched a formal complaint after learning the proper permitting was not in place by the PDA. Justin Richardson and the Conservation Commission have asked the PDA to halt the terrain alteration process based partly on the tree cutting issue and the fact that they have not come before the Planning Board and submitted a site plan. They were also asked to come before the Conservation Commission, to which Justin added, 'however, the Executive Director (Dick Green) told his people not to attend but did invited Justin to meet at the PDA individually'. Barbara would like the Board to write a letter informing the PDA of the concerns with the loss of the noise barrier and to ask them their intensions to mitigate. Selectman O'Reilly said that he has spoken with Peg Lamson and was told that Tosi Associates will be studying the situation and conducting a noise analysis. The town will be informed of its results. Barbara stated that the DES will soon be sending the PDA a notice of violations with a probable fine attached. Justin said that he got the impression that the contractor figured after receiving the signed timber tax intent to cut notice that it was his permission to proceed. The DES sets certain regulations regarding tree cutting in and near wetlands. The ground was not frozen and because the permitting was not retained, there were no restrictions set to prevent environmental damage. They created huge ruts and drove over streams. It was estimated that approximately 3 acres were clear cut. The process had problems from the get go.

The original notice for terrain alteration indicated the job was on the Portsmouth side however Newington was sent a copy. DES awaited Newington's comments, but because the job was listed in Portsmouth, Justin figured Newington's role was minimal. DES did not know the job had started as they were still waiting for our comments. As soon as Justin realized it was in town, he immediately contacted the DES and the PDA. Chr. Stuart said it is a shame the damage is done and we end up holding the short side of the stick again. Barbara added that with the sun light now increased, it may have a drying up effect on the wet lands. Selectman O'Reilly, after being asked, stated that he had met with Mr. Green and Peter Loughlin on Feb 20 and the discussion was not over this topic. Although mentioned briefly by Mr. Green, Selectman O'Reilly noted at the meeting Feb 20 that the tree trimming issue was a Conservation Issue. Justin suggested the Selectmen and Planning Board send a letter to the DES stating that we support the Conservation Commission's request that the PDA follow the regulations – and that we are concerned of the noise effecting the quality of life in South Newington, lack of proper permitting and the damage to our wetlands and buffer. Selectmen will talk to the Conservation Commission

regarding the details of the letter. Selectman Iocovozzi felt we will probably end up in court. Justin said that if the golf course requests expansion, the Conservation Commission will appeal to the DES to deny the request. Wetlands mitigation is supposed to be followed by the PDA per deed and observance of the 100' buffer as well. The Selectmen would like to meet with both of our Representatives to find out if the Board knew of the full scope of the job as well as relay their thoughts on Newington issues.

Police Vehicle Replacement

Selectman O'Reilly presented the Board with his thoughts of Police Department vehicle replacement whereas it is planned to get 2 cruisers in 2008, perhaps next year budget for a new detective's vehicle and giving the Chief the current blazer rather than him driving a retired cruiser. With no real concerns voiced from the Selectmen, the Chief was then going to present the idea to his Commission for 2009.

Minute Approval

Selectman O'Reilly moved to approve the minutes of February 25, 2008 with amendments. Selectman Iocovozzi seconded. Motion passed 2-0. (Chr. Stuart was absent 2/25)

Coalition Update

Selectman O'Reilly said that representation from Newington should attend the Coalition meeting slated for March 27 in Concord. Because of a previous commitment, he cannot attend. If the bill passes without constitutional amendment, we could be looking at a 1.6 million dollar contribution minimal amount. Chr Stuart & Selectman Iocovozzi agreed with Jack stating that this has been a lingering issue which reinforced the Boards 'priority spending/priority planning' philosophies.

Speed Limits – Nimble Hill

Chr. Stuart, a member of the Highway Safety Committee reported back that the school zone posted at 20 miles per hour is not enforceable. Part of town is 30, part is 35 (miles per hour).

Selectman Iocovozzi felt the roads should go to 30 to discourage people from cutting through Newington. It was the Highway Safety Committees' opinion that 35 was just fine. Selectman O'Reilly will talk to the Chief.

LGC – Request for Newington Contribution – Legal Retirement Issue

Selectman O'Reilly felt with us being such a small town, that he didn't support us sending in such a large contribution. Both Cos and Chr. Stuart felt that as members, we should help in the request as in the end, it would benefit the town. *Selectman Iocovozzi moved to send in \$ 822.63 to help in legal costs. Chr. Stuart seconded. Motion passed 2-0.* Selectman O'Reilly abstained.

Facilities Use Applications:

Border Patrol Testing-Town Hall Audi-July 16; Aug 20; Sept 17; Oct 15; 8:30 til 1:30
Middle School Basket Ball Banquet- March 13 set up (6:00pm) & March 14 – OTH 2nd fl
5:00pm-8:00pm

Selectman O'Reilly moved to approve and to waive the fees. Selectman Iocovozzi seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Beatrice Marconi informed the Board that the tables used over the weekend were put away quite dirty. Also, it looked like the legs were not being folded corrected for stacking. They had to be washed down prior to using them for Election Day. The Board felt a letter should go out and perhaps as time goes on, a 'check-off' form letter created.

Regarding Cleaning Old Town Hall, Selectman O'Reilly asked if the Board had any objections in asking Joe Walsh if he would like an extra hour or so each day this year to make sure OTH is clean and presentable for functions (the YMCA has it booked from June through mid August).

Selectman Iocovozzi said just to work it out with the Road Agent. Perhaps next year we should look at the big picture and consider reorganizing road/building operations.

Selectman O'Reilly moved to adjourn at 8:30pm. Selectman Iocovozzi seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectively Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant