

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**      **DRAFT**  
**Monday June 4, 2012**  
**6:30 pm Town Hall**

***The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.***

**Present** - Chairman Jack O'Reilly, Selectmen Jan Stuart and Rick Stern, Peter Wellenberger, Len Thomas, Craig Daigle, Tom Morgan, and Leila Richardson.

**Minute Approval** – *S. Stuart made a motion to approve the minutes for May 21st. S. Stern seconded the motion. Approved 3 – 0.*

**Manifest Approval** – *S. Stern made a motion to accept the manifests of May 10 \$25.00; May 22 \$17,822.83; May 29 \$74,384.68. S. Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3 – 0.*

**Mott's Pond** – Selectmen mentioned to Len Thomas that there is a tree at Mott's Pond that is leaning over, with the roots pulling up. Len will take the tree down.

**Transfer Station** – Craig Daigle would like to use the old cement blocks, which formerly held up the salt shed, to build a retaining wall at the transfer station. He does not think that they are attractive, but that it would be practical, since we have them. He would like to mortar them, to improve the appearance. The Selectmen had no issue with this use of the cement blocks, as Len Thomas said they were not needed for any other purpose.

Craig also briefly mentioned installing a 6 – 8" rock boarder along the edge of the pavement.

Craig would like to wait to do the paving at the transfer station, until after the chipper comes in, since it is heavy. This will allow time for the pavement to cure, before the next time the chipper comes. He will work with Bourassa on the timing, as they had indicated that they need only approximately one week's notice to begin work.

S. Stuart expressed concern that she had seen young people in the backhoe at the transfer station, when it was locked up. Craig said that they take the backhoe out when no one is at the transfer station, and that it may have been his daughter, who was there painting.

**Lawn Mower** – S. Stern mentioned that John Frink was concerned about the town's lawn mower. Len Thomas said that John has been concerned about the mower for a long time. S. Stern asked when the mower was last serviced. Chr. O'Reilly indicated that it was not too long ago. One of John's concerns appears to be the oil bubbling up.

S. Stuart asked if this mower was also used on Fox Point. Len said that it is used only in the front, and that the Kabota is used in the back.

S. Stuart also mentioned to Len some branches on Fox Point road, which are blocking visibility. Len will look into it.

**Rescue Great Bay** – Peter Wellenberger, of the Conservation Law Foundation, invited the Town of Newington to join Rescue Great Bay. This is not a "formal" group, but more of a coalition, whose mission is "to work together to advance and foster public support for meaningful and immediate regulatory actions and sound management of the Great Bay Estuary and associated marine resources consistent with the Clean Water Act and other environmental laws."

There would be no cost to the town, and no obligation to come to meetings. S. Stern expressed interest in attending these meetings.

There is no “home” per se for the Rescue Great Bay group. Meeting locations vary.

The Selectmen discussed concerns about their observation of the decline of horseshoe crab populations in Newington.

***S. Stern made a motion for the Town of Newington be official supporters of Rescue Great Bay, seconded by S. Stuart. Motion passed 3-0.***

Tom Morgan mentioned that he had attended a congressional hearing on nitrogen in Great Bay. He invited Frank Guinta to visit our wastewater treatment plant, which Representative Guinta said he will do.

**Library** – Langdon Library had an unanticipated maintenance expense, in the form of a repair to the security system. They asked that the Selectmen reimburse the library in the amount of \$1,113.50. The Selectmen felt that it is too early in the year to be making such reimbursements, and, instead would prefer to review the library budget in the fall.

**Cemetery Committee** – There is some confusion regarding the accounting practices of the Cemetery Committee. There are three accounts: General Fund, Maintenance Fund, and Perpetual Care Fund. It appears that lot sale revenues have been going into the General Fund. However, Peter Laughlin has stated that this appears to be a trust account, where only the interest may be used.

The Perpetual Care account is the responsibility of the town. Therefore, lot sale revenues may not be deposited into this account.

Chr. O'Reilly will send a letter on Wednesday, in order to request clarification as to where we should be depositing lot sale funds.

Also, regarding the Cemetery Committee, there is the issue of Cliff Abbott continuing to authorize purchase orders, after having submitted his resignation. Chr. O'Reilly will also send a letter regarding this issue.

**Arboretum Drive Gate** – S. Stuart asked that we put a reflector on the opposite side of the gate from Arboretum. S. Stern will order one from Portsmouth Sign Company.

**Parsonage** – Carpenter ants were seen at the Parsonage, and an exterminator brought in. The exterminator said that there is a nest in the big tree, and that they are moving from there into the house. This is the jurisdiction of the HDC. S. Stuart will speak with them.

S. Stern also noted that the bulkhead at the Meetinghouse has not been repaired, although we have already made payment. The reason is that EJ Hoyt, of Coastal Remodeling, had hurt his back. Chr. O'Reilly will have John Stowell touch base with him.

**MOU** – There was some discussion regarding Mitchell Lane. There is significant concern that this is a 400', town maintained road, which goes to a private entity. Why will the town be required to perform maintenance, when the road is to be used by the state?

This road will be difficult to maintain, due to large tanker trucks.

S. Stuart felt that, at a minimum, there should be a written understanding that maintenance of this road will not be a priority for the town.

There is a lack of clarity as to land ownership boundaries in the area, as well as questions regarding what might happen if Mitchell sells to another business. The changes to highway access will likely reduce customers, and put the gas station out of business.

S. Stern would like to ask the state why they do not offer to purchase Mitchell's.

Chr. O'Reilly would like the issue of Mitchell Lane to be further discussed with DOT, next time we meet with them to discuss Woodbury Ave.

Regarding Woodbury Ave, John Stowell had conveyed that the businesses are upset about the upcoming changes. None of the DOT agents appear to understand the level of service that is happening on Woodbury Ave.

***S. Stuart made a motion to accept the MOU agreement, leaving out part "C", regarding Mitchell Lane. This was seconded by S. Stern. Motion passed 3-0.***

**Pease** – Tom Morgan mentioned that there is a large addition being done at 100 Arboretum, which will impact wetlands. Pease abutters have been notified.

**Audit** – Tom Morgan has been collecting information, and awaiting further instruction. The only items he has so far are sewer. The auditors will be coming in June. Beatrice Marconi has organized items relevant to the audit on the table in the Selectmen's office. Chr. O'Reilly has been having difficulty reaching Bea.

**Portsmouth Computer** – Someone from Portsmouth Computer will be in on Wednesday, to discuss their findings with S. Stern.

Currently, system access is, in some instances, restricted when it should be allowed.

The computer system will be located in the main office. S. Stern would like to have it low, for accessibility purposes. It was originally proposed to be put in the ceiling.

S. Stern mentioned having seen a good laptop for \$499. All agreed that this was a very reasonable price. He will purchase this laptop for general office use.

#### **Facility Use** –

Robin Olsen      Fox Point      Wedding      August 11, 2012

***S. Stuart moved to approve all facility requests. S. Stern seconded. Approved 3 - 0.***

***At 8:07pm, the meeting was adjourned on a motion from S. Stuart – seconded by S. Stern, which passed 2-0.***

Respectfully Submitted, Leila Richardson