

Selectmen's Meeting
December 21, 2010
4:00 pm

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in the Fred B Morgan Jr. Meeting Room, Town Hall. Members present were Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman; Arthur Smadbeck; and Michael J. Donaroma. Also present was Ms. Pamela Dolby, Town Administrator.

At 4:00 p.m Ms. Serpa opened the meeting. There was a scheduled public hearing for the Stiassni on South Water Street. Ms. Serpa read a letter from Mr. Steven Pogue, the Stiassni's architect, withdrawing their application to remove public parking spaces in front of their house.

With that, Ms. Serpa moved on to the next item. Mr. Bob Burnham, Builder, had previously received permission to excavate under Morse St. to hook up sewer. The Board had stipulated that he needed to bore under the road surface and not dig it up. Mr. Burnham was returning to ask to dig up the street. His contractor Mr. Farrisey needed to dig up the road to get to the "saddle".

Mr. Burnham stated that he had a discussion with Mr. Stuart Fuller, Highway Superintendent, and he had approved digging up the section of road to lay the pipe. In his discussion with Mr. Fuller, he had indicated that Morse St. was going to be paved in the spring. Mr. Burnham promised to maintain the cut area until it could be patched when the asphalt plant opened in the spring.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to approve the changes to the excavation permit with the condition that Mr. Burnham maintain the cut area until it could be patched in the spring. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

The Board then approved the minutes of November 22, 2010.

Ms. Serpa then recognized Mr. Matt Poole, Health Agent. Mr. Poole was in to talk about the shell pile at the old town dump and the problem of deer carcasses showing up there.

Mr. Poole stated that the town needs to create an appropriate means to keep the shell pile tidy. He would like to address the deer carcass issue. There is not an easy answer. He would like to work together with the Shellfish and Highway departments. Signs don't seem to work.

Ms. Serpa asked if there was anywhere they could legally be disposed.

Mr. Poole replied that if there were only one or two they can be disposed with the household trash but more would probably not be well received on the other end of the trash cycle.

Ms. Dolby asked if the Highway Department could bury them.

Mr. Poole answered that was not advisable.

Mr. Paul Bagnall, Shellfish Warden, stated that he agreed with Mr. Poole that signs do not work. The responsible hunter can bury in his own back yard.

Ms. Dolby asked about the Martha's Vineyard Refuse District (MVRD).

Mr. Poole replied it's the same as household trash. It catches the eye of the receiving end and they don't like it.

Ms. Claudia Cannerdy asked if they could be compacted.

Mr. Poole replied they could not. There had been talk of freezing and rendering, but that never panned out. The problem is irresponsible hunters abusing the shell pile. He would like to focus on a solution.

Mr. Smadbeck would like to get an idea of legal options available to the Board.

Mr. Poole replied that he can look into it, but he would like a prompt cleanup of what's there by the Highway Department.

Ms. Dolby stated she would call them the next day.

Ms. Serpa suggested coordinating a meeting of the Highway, Board of Health, and Shellfish Departments through the Selectmen's Office.

Ms. Serpa then moved on to the next item on the agenda, which was the Shellfish Committee. Mr. Bagnall was present.

Mr. Bagnall stated that the Shellfish Committee had voted unanimously to close a section of Cape Pogue on January 1, 2011 and he presented a map which is attached. The area to be closed has a lot of scallop seed in it and they would like to preserve the area so the seed can grow for next year's harvest.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to close the area per recommendation of the Shellfish Committee. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then moved on to the next item which was the Library Building Committee (LBC). Present from the LBC were: Mr. Carl Watt, Mr. Laurence Mercier, Mr. Mort Fearey, & Mr. Chris Scott. They were present to discuss the LBC's decision to focus on the Old School site instead of the current Library site.

Mr. Watt explained that the LBC had gone to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), The Planning Board, and the Historic District Committee preliminarily with their plans for the new library project at the current site. The MBLC did not like the plans for various reasons including the lack of expansion room in the future and the restrictive aspect of how much parking would be available. The Historic District Committee did not like the plans and stated that they would not allow the Warren House to be torn down without the façade or a similar façade staying in place. They also did not like the parking plan. The LBC has now chosen to focus on the Old School Site. The architects originally wanted to keep the structure of the school but, because of the new state building code, there is a seismic load issue. It is more economical to take the building down and start with a clean slate. Demolition would cost \$100-125,000 with an abatement of \$100,000. The new site would meet parking requirements. He doesn't see asking the Town for any more than \$2 or \$3 million.

Mr. Smadbeck pointed out the need for a detailed cost analyses. Also, if the Committee wants to focus on the Old School it is important that the Warren House be sold.

Mr. Watt stated that the grant application is due around 1/19. The LBC didn't feel it was their business to recommend or not selling the Warren House. He thinks the New Library at the Old School is a better proposal with more parking and room for future expansion.

Mr. Smadbeck again asked for the money information.

Mr. Donaroma stated that the current Library location doesn't work. The LBC tried and the State and the HDC didn't like it. He thought they owed it to the town to try for the grant. He would like to ensure that they can't save part of the Old School. There are three questions before April; 1. What to do with the Carnegie, 2. Selling the Warren House, 3. Tearing down the Old School.

Mr. Watt stated that the strongest option for the site is to start with a purpose built building fresh.

Mr. Donaroma stated that there was a chance to make changes after the grant process.

Ms. Dolby wanted to know what the options are to keep the school building.

Mr. Mercier stated that the roof would have to come off and the building gutted and reinforced. He estimated it at an additional \$1 million at least.

Ms. Serpa stated that there were two questions that needed to be answered by town council to ask if they needed a town meeting vote: The first is tearing down the Old School Building and the second is selling the Warren House.

Ms. Dolby stated that the Warren House definitely needed to go to a town meeting.

Mr. Fearey pointed out that the town owes \$3 million on the Warren House.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that the debt would move from one project to another after the Warren House was sold.

Ms. Tyra didn't want to sell the Warren House until after the current Library moves into the new one.

Mr. Donaroma stated that if the town doesn't get the grant they would have to keep the parking anyway.

Mr. Scott stated that there needed to be an article to accept the grant on the town meeting warrant. He stated that one thing that the committee did agree upon is that they have exhausted all options at the Carnegie site. He thinks a vote to accept the grant would be a vote to demolish the old school and move the library all in one.

Ms. Serpa thanked the Library Building Committee for keeping close communications with the Board and asked them to continue to do so.

Ms. Courtney Brady stated that the Historic District Committee deemed that the Warren House needed to stay. She pointed out that the Carnegie Building needs to remain a library or it goes back to the family, according to the rules when it was given. She thinks that the Committee is rushing the new plan and thinks they should wait for the next round of grants in 5 years.

Ms. Serpa stated that last year the Library wanted \$5 million and it was too much. This year it seemed to be the same.

Ms. Brady stated that donations were given in affection for the Carnegie Building. She didn't see the same happening for the Old School site.

Mr. Mercier pointed out that the Library Trustees promised when the town bought the Warren House that they would come up with the rest of the money. They couldn't and came to the town for \$5 million. The grant was not going to be given at the Carnegie site. He wanted to know if the Trustees wanted a library or not and pointed out that a lot of people had put a lot of work into this project.

Mr. Watt pointed out that the state already said no to the Carnegie site. The architects say they can meet the new design schedule. The projected cost is \$408/sf. The Library Building Committee felt that the town would want to proceed. The Library staff has whittled the program down from 25,000sf to 12,000sf.

Mr. Mercier states that they are asking to use the Old School site.

Mr. Smadbeck commends the nimbleness of the Library Building Committee. He thinks that the effort that the Committee is putting into getting the grant is great and that having the library near the Edgartown School is a great idea.

Mr. Watt stated that after the January 27th deadline, the Committee would put together public informational meetings.

Mr. Donaroma thought that starting with a blank slate would produce the best library.

Ms. Serpa encouraged cost awareness and is glad they are going to go to the community with informational sessions. There is a lot of interest.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to accept the recommendation of the Library Building Committee that the application use the Old School site for the grant application for a new library. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

The Board then approved the following items:

A Used Car Dealer License for Russell Swartz

A permit to put a culvert under Chappaquiddick Rd. for the Chappaquiddick Community Center. The work was being done for free by the company that was doing the work for NStar.

They recognized a letter from Ms. Pat Rose, Chairman of the Library Trustees, nominating Ms. Ellen Kaplan for the Library Building Committee. The Board thanked Ms. Rose for her suggestion but stated that there were currently no vacancies.

Ms. Dolby then gave her update. She started with the Martha's Vineyard Commission. She was aware that Oak Bluffs and Tisbury were discussing changes to the DRI Checklist. She would like to have Edgartown join the discussion. She would also like everyone to make a list of the issues they have with the MVC so they can be discussed at a future date. She also would like to have a meeting between the MVC and FINCOM.

Mr. Donaroma stated that Tisbury and Oak Bluffs have invited Edgartown to join the DRI Checklist discussion.

The FINCOM recently had a long meeting discussing a possible Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) for the town employees for the next town meeting warrant. They would like to discuss it with the rest of the towns at the All Island Selectmen's meeting scheduled for January 13th.

Mr. Donaroma moved to adjourn at 5:00pm. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous

Approved:

Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman

Arthur Smadbeck

Michael J. Donaroma
Board of Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose
Assistant

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