

Selectmen's Meeting
March 17, 2008
4:00 P.M.

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in a temporary meeting room on the second floor. Members present were Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman, and Selectman Arthur Smadbeck. Selectman Michael J. Donaroma was absent. Also present was Town Administrator Pamela M. Dolby.

Chairman Serpa opened the meeting and asked the Board to deal with regular business matters before the first scheduled public hearing at 4:05 p.m.

The Board voted the following:

To approve the minutes of March 3 and 10, 2008 and also the Executive Session minutes of March 3 and 19, 2009 as written and dispense with the reading of same.

To grant Steamship Authority travel vouchers to the Police Department for in-service training.

To grant a request for Change of Manager at McWinery, Inc. to Brion McGroarty.

To grant a request from the Newes from America at the Kelley House to close between March 24 and 28, 2008 for maintenance and repairs.

The Board voted to authorize Chairman Serpa to sign a grant proposal from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community-Based Restoration Program to restore critical habitat in Sengekontacket Pond so there could be fishing, scalloping and clamming in the summer. They are hopeful that eelgrass restoration and limitation of runoff in the pond will be a major step in restoring the Pond's diverse life.

The Board received a letter from the Nature Conservancy regarding the prescribed burn on Mazar family land near Town property, 130 Meetinghouse Way, to take place between March 21 and May 23, 2008 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The Board voted to approve the burn so long as it had the approval of the Fire Chief and the Police Chief.

At 4:05 p.m., Chairman Serpa opened a public hearing on a request by NSTAR Electric to install cable, conduit and two pull boxes for underground service to lot 342, Assessor's Map 20D, North Summer Street between Main and Winter Streets. Linda Coutinho was present representing NSTAR. Highway Superintendent Stuart Fuller was present and expressed concern about the size of the pull boxes if they were on public property which could create a problem in the future. Selectman Smadbeck thought Mr. Fuller and Ms. Coutinho could work this out. Chairman Serpa asked if anyone wished to comment for or against. No one did. The Chairman then closed the public hearing. Selectman Smadbeck moved to grant the request provided that it is approved by the Highway Superintendent and the Police and that the location of the pull boxes is on the owner's property and it was so voted.

Mark Hanover, Martha's Vineyard representative to the Steamship Authority Board of Governors, was present to speak about the sailing schedule of the M/V Pied Piper, a passengers only ferry service between Falmouth and Edgartown. They propose reducing the number of trips from 36 to 29 between June 30 and September 1, 2008 and provide service weekends between May 23 and June 15, 2008 and September 5 to October 13, 2008. Selectman Smadbeck said he was glad they were continuing to run the service and said the Board supports it. Selectman Serpa observed that they were basing the changes on usage in the past.

The Board received information that Cape Cod Marine Services is interested in having a marina in the Harbor. Attorney Marcia Cini is representing them. It was observed that the Marine Advisory Committee would be interested and decided to set something up for a future meeting. Town Administrator Dolby said she would let Ms. Cini know.

At 4:15 p.m., Chairman Serpa opened a public hearing on a request by 91 NWS Trust, Kristine Reiman and arborist Josh Kochin representing the petitioner, to remove a Sycamore

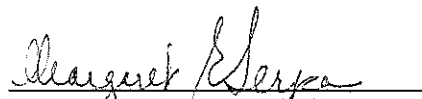
maple at 91 North Water Street, Assessor's Map 20D, parcel 282. Ms. Reiman said the tree's roots were compromised by emergency work done to the entire foundation of the house. She said that it is their opinion and that of the lead arborist of Bartlett Tree that this is a good time to replace the tree. She showed pictures of the tree and indicated decay and canker. She said they proposed to plant in its place a small to medium size tree, 3 1/2 - 4" caliper. She said the owner is willing to replace the tree. She recommended Amur Maackia. Tree Warden Fuller was not familiar with this tree but suggested a larger caliper. Jane Varkonda, Conservation Agent, was also present.

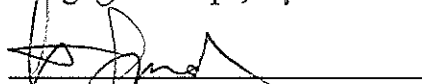
Ms. Reiman noted that North Water Street is a prime example of loss of trees in town. She said the building will be exactly the same size as before. She said the area where the tree is to be removed is not the best place to put a new tree, because of a new retaining wall. She said she would like to put it on the west side of the property but that would block a neighbor's view.

Chairman Serpa said that in most cases the Board has recommended replacements with the agreement of the Tree Warden. Town Administrator Dolby added that in some cases they have also asked for a larger caliper. Selectman Smadbeck said that Tree Warden Fuller had improved the record on trees and we can keep track of them and maintain some so we have some control over the canopy. He added that we haven't had to replace many at our own cost. Chairman Serpa noted that there are a lot of trees in that area and the plan is to do removals in a cycle, not all at once. The Chairman asked for comments pro or con from the audience. Christina Miller expressed her concern over maintaining the canopy effect. The Chairman then closed the public hearing. Josh Kochin said this Sycamore maple is in decline because of its age, as well as the damage to the roots. Selectman Smadbeck moved to grant the request by the applicant and choose a replacement with the recommendation of the Tree Warden and this was so voted.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 4:35 p.m.

APPROVED:



Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman


Arthur Smadbeck

Michael J. Donaroma

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Respectfully submitted,


Hope Waingrow, secretary