

Selectmen's Meeting – June 27, 2007

Present were Selectmen Bruce L. Tatro, Nancy L. Carlson and Deborah J. Davis. Also present was Town Administrator Elizabeth Fox.

Chairman Tatro called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Monadnock Region School District. Selectmen met with the following school board members, budget committee members and administration personnel: Eric Stanley, Ken Colby, Jane Fortson, Jonathan Kenyon, Gene White, Jen Gomarlo, Wayne Lechluder, Peg Richmond, Colline Dreyfuss, Superintendent Ken Dassau and Assistant Superintendent David Hodgman. Discussions focused on actions underway to improve the educational opportunities provided Swanzey youths, steps planned to ensure retention of accreditation and common goals that officials can work toward to improve the community – Attachment #1. Whether the district should look toward full day kindergarten and its benefits in reaching AYP were discussed. Efforts initiated by the district to look at the architecture of the high school, the educational component necessary for accreditation and retention of professional planners to assist in this effort was discussed. AYP reports are expected in August; results of the “Voice of the Customer” survey are expected this summer and still pending is word on the Public School of Choice Grant. Efforts to improve communication with the public are being initiated and work is ongoing to have a point of origin established at MRHS. The district is also looking at taping its meetings for viewing on Channel 8. Curriculum changes by the state, particularly at the high school level, are moving towards demonstrating competency. Individual school principals are reviewing their practices and procedures to see whether by shifting schedules and the like, more instructional time can be gained. Board members advised that at the full board level more focus and attention is being given to educational issues and board members are investing time to become educated in the “education” side of their business. Selectmen expressed their desire for Swanzey’s representatives to work more collaboratively. District officials expressed their desire to work better with the towns and provide more readable and understandable information to taxpayers and voters. The anticipated benefits to the district the professional study being done of the high school were discussed at length. Common goals of involving our community were discussed. How to spur more Swanzey community events was discussed. How to improve communication between elected officials of the town was discussed. Investigation of before and after school programs as a collaborative program between the town and school was suggested. Elected officials serving as members of outside groups seeking to influence voters was discussed at length with some officials supporting such activity and others feeling that it was inappropriate. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to meet regularly to discuss community issues. A future meeting date of September 26, 2007 was established.

Public Hearing – RSA 41:14-a, Johnson Farm Conservation Easement. Chairman Tatro opened the public hearing at 7:40 p.m. reading the notice provided – Attachment #2. Open Space Committee members Victoria Barlow, Jeanne Thieme and Katherine Feist spoke in support of participating with Monadnock Conservancy in acquisition of the easement with formal testimony from the committee included as part of this record as

Attachment #3. The town's costs toward acquisition of the easement are estimated to be approximately \$34,000 toward the easement and between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for easement transaction costs such as surveying, environmental assessment, title work etc. Funds for the acquisition would be drawn from the Capital Reserve Account for Conservation Land Acquisitions. The Monadnock Conservancy would hold the easement and be responsible for its monitoring. The town would hold a back up interest in the easement. No other members of the public provided testimony regarding the project. Chairman Tatro closed the first public hearing at 7:50 p.m. In accordance with RSA 41:14-a, a second hearing will be conducted on July 11th.

Lane Field. Selectmen expressed concern regarding a camper parked at Lane Field requesting investigation.

Tire Amnesty Day 2007. The Recycling Center reports that 75 tires were turned in at the Center during the town's annual amnesty day held on June 16th.

Cresson Bridge. Selectmen were advised of its planned closure July 3rd to allow repair work.

Preliminary Estimate – Warmac Road Bridge. Selectmen were advised that NHDOT's preliminary estimate to replace the bridge came in at \$360,000. At this time, state funds through the municipal bridge aid program are not available until 2013 and that Town would be required to have in hand its share of \$72,000 before it could be put on the schedule for those funds.

Kendall Lane. Selectmen reviewed correspondence from Attorney Kendall Lane concurring with Town Counsel's suggestion regarding execution of a blanket easement from the developer for drainage on lots within the subdivision on and northeast of Kendall Lane. Discussion of release of a portion of the letter of credit was deferred until it could be determined if the developer responded favorably to that suggestion.

Thompson Covered Bridge. Selectmen were advised that a meeting regarding design for the dam removal had been scheduled for July 16th. Design modifications proposed for discussion at this meeting may lower the water level further at the bridge.

Carpenter Home Septic System. Selectmen approved proceeding with installation of a "Clean Solutions" system at the home authorizing release of the deposit funds necessary once the design is approved.

Richardson Park. Selectmen declined to waive policy regarding use of the park by residents and their accompanied guests to allow the Cheshire YMCA Soar program to swim at the facility. Concerns about facility capacity were expressed as well as the precedent set if this group was permitted to utilize the beach.

Bid Opening – Surplus Grounds Maintenance Equipment. Selectmen reviewed bids for surplus equipment awarding the tractor and leaf blower to bidder Bruce Fox with a bid for both pieces of \$169.00.

Non-public session, RSA 91-A:3IIb – Hiring, Police & Fire Department. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIb to consider hiring within the town’s public safety departments at 8:40 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 9:30 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the sessions indefinitely or until any offers of employment authorized are consummated.

Non-public session, RSA 91-A:3IIId, Property Matters. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIId at 9:32 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 9:40 p.m. Selectmen voted by roll seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

Minutes of Previous Meetings. Selectmen reviewed and approved as written the minutes of their meeting of June 13, 2007.

Correspondence, permits and other matters. Selectmen reviewed and executed the following:

- Parade Permit – Old Home Day.
- Intent to Cut, Tax Map 66 Lot 2.
- Raffle Permit 2007-10.
- Pole License, Massey Hill Road.
- Agreement with Cartographic Associates – GIS mapping project.
- Letter to J. Snide.
- Accounts payable/payroll manifests.
- Selectmen reviewed a list of unlicensed dogs subject to civil forfeiture provided by the Town Clerk Deirdre Geer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator