

Minutes
Board of Selectmen
Workshop Meeting
October 21, 2008

Present: Selectmen – Suzanne McAuliffe, Jim Hoben, Bud Groskopf, Dr. William Marasco, Jerry Sullivan ; Town Administrator – Robert C. Lawton Jr.

Historical Commission - Annual Historical Preservation Awards

Carol Smith from the Yarmouth Historical Commission presents the award to Mr. & Ms. Reynard for their work on their home on 280 Weir Road. Ms. Smith says the house was built in the early 1700s and the Reynard's have done the all the work on the house themselves. Ms. Reynard speaks about all the work that they have put into the house over the past 8 years. She says that she really appreciates that the Historical Commission and the town have recognized this building as an asset to the town.

Appointments

Mid-Cape Cultural Council, 3 – Regular positions (2-year terms)

Mr. Hoben reviews the Mid-Cape Cultural Council appointments. Mr. Sullivan motions. Ms. McAuliffe seconds. VOTE 5-0

Library Board, 1 – So. Yarmouth Association Rep.

Mr. Hoben reviews the S. Yarmouth Association Rep. appointment. Ms. McAuliffe motions. Mr. Hoben seconds. VOTE 5-0

Selectmen Items

Ms. McAuliffe reviews the pay cuts that both the Town Administrator and the Assistant Town Administrator took in order to meet the FY09 budget. She wants people to understand that all employees even at the top levels are pulling together to help with the budget cuts. Ms. McAuliffe also speaks about the listing of the budget reductions to the police department. She says that the listing will be available online.

Cape Cod Commission - Paul Niedzwiecki Update

Ms. McAuliffe welcomes Mr. Niedzwiecki and Sharon Rooney from the Cape Cod Commission. She says that the RPP is still a work in progress and asks Mr. Niedzwiecki what is next in the process.

Mr. Niedzwiecki says that the Cape Cod Commission is required to have a Regional Policy Plan and it must be reviewed every five years. He says that the RPP sets minimum performance standards for businesses. He reviews changes to the Cape Cod Commission including restructuring. He speaks about current Commission projects including Cape Cod Pathways and STATS Cape Cod (updating their website). Mr. Niedzwiecki reviews the changes to the RPP including making the plan much easier to read and also splitting the plan into two pieces a regulatory piece and a planning piece. He also says that the new revisions to the RPP will include a map based approach. He reviews the new flexible thresholds, and mitigation predictability. He also speaks about requiring new developers to use renewable energy on buildings. Mr. Niedzwiecki also reviews some of Yarmouth's comments on the RPP including

answering fears that the RPP is anti-tourist. He also reviews questions regarding mitigation and SLOSH zones.

Ms. McAuliffe thanks Mr. Niedzwiecki for the update and says that there are further questions that Yarmouth has with regards to the RPP and she would like Mr. Niedzwiecki to address those questions possibly at the next meeting with the Commission. Ms. McAuliffe speaks to Mr. Niedzwiecki about the process to raise thresholds. Ms. McAuliffe thanks Mr. Niedzwiecki for his very in-depth presentation.

Library Board - Recommendation on Implementation of Budget Reductions

Ms. McAuliffe welcomes the Library Board members including Harris Contos Chairman and Jackie Adams the Library Director. Mr. Contos reviews the reductions that the Library had to take due to the budget cuts; he says that with the help of Ms. Adams the Library Board has come up with several scenarios to meet the budget cuts. He says that the Library Board is looking at the sustainability of the reductions for the future. Mr. Contos reviews the options including closing Yarmouth Port and increasing hours at South and West Libraries. He says that the Library Board formed a subcommittee to review the options in depth. He says after all the research the Library Board felt that West Yarmouth should stay open and Yarmouth Port should close. He reviews in detail the three options and capacity. He says that option 2 (keeping open South and West Yarmouth locations) would get the tax payers the best use of their tax dollars.

Ms. McAuliffe says that the Board has reviewed all the options and this is an emotional issue because tax payers are attached to their local village libraries. She says that there has been a huge public outcry to keep Yarmouth Port open. Ms. Adams presents the option to keep the Yarmouth Port open for 12 hours until the end of June. Ms. Adams reviews the library's five year plan and says that with the budget cuts many of the five year goals cannot be achieved. She says that the plan to keep all three libraries open including Yarmouth Port for 12 hours is contingent on the library receiving state aid and reducing services at all three locations. Ms. Adams reiterates that this option will only meet the very basic needs of the libraries and nothing further. Ms. McAuliffe says that the Library Board has not approved this decision to keep all three libraries open. Ms. McAuliffe says that this decision is meeting the needs that the citizens of Yarmouth Port have expressed.

Jerry Sullivan says that he is impressed with Mr. Contos's presentation, but he says that his analysis does not address the human factor and the history of the community. He says that he would like to see what the potential is for using volunteers to help the library staff. Mr. Hoben speaks about the lack of services due to the budget cuts including police, fire and the library. Mr. Groskopf speaks about the three private library associations. He says that it is clear that the public is dying to help support the libraries by volunteerism and donations. Ms. Adams says that it is very important to have paid staff because volunteers have obligations outside of the library. Mr. Groskopf says that a possible funding drive could help raise the level of services at all three libraries at least until June. Ms. Adams that there needs to be sustainability and one time donations are not sustainable. Dr. Marasco says that the function of the library is important to the community and overtime the services have really improved. He says that it is important to sustain the community libraries at this time and he notes that the maintenance of the Yarmouth Port building is funded partially by the Yarmouth Port Library Association. Dr. Marasco says that he would support Ms. Adam's plan but would like to look to future sustainability. Ms. McAuliffe says that what she hears from the rest of the Board is consensus that the Yarmouth Port Library should be kept open at 12 hours for a transitional period until June. Ms. Ann Petro

the President of the Yarmouth Port Association says that the Yarmouth Port Library Association will sit down with the town to discuss further funding for the Yarmouth Port Library to keep it open. She thanks the Board for all the support to keep the library open until at least June. Mr. Duncan Oliver speaks about the Yarmouth Port Association's finances. The discussion continues with regards to Cape Cod Times newspaper articles. Vita Morris asks if the Yarmouth Port Library could be open longer is the Yarmouth Port Association gives more funding. Ms. McAuliffe says that there is a possibility for more hours but there needs to be a reoccurring amount of money to have sustainability for future years.

Town Administrator's Items

Mr. Lawton says that the Chamber of Commerce is having their annual dinner on Thursday, October 23rd.

He also says that the D-Y School Committee needs a representative for negotiating the teacher contracts. Mr. Groskopf said that he will volunteer again this year.

Selectmen's Items

Mr. Hoben says that he has spoken with several candidates for the Board of Health and he says to have a better pool for applicants the BOH might want to move their meetings from 3:00pm on Mondays to 5:00pm. He asks Mr. Lawton to ask the Board of Health that question. Mr. Lawton agrees.

Mr. Groskopf speaks about D-Y School District enrollment numbers. He says that enrollment has decreased by over 400 last year. He says that Ms. Woodbury agreed to put enrollment information online for the public.

Dr. Marasco discusses the Chief Almonte's ability to upgrade services even though the Police Department has suffered budget cuts. He speaks about the grants that the Police Department has received.

Dr. Marasco also asks if the Planning Board could update the Board on possible zoning issues for the April town meeting. Mr. Lawton says that he's had conversation with the town planner about zoning for marinas and other possible bylaws for town meeting.

Adjourn

Mr. Sullivan motions to adjourn. Mr. Hoben seconds meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20pm. VOTE 5-0