

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
FEBRUARY 21, 2006  
TOWN HALL**

Board Members Present: Janet G. Stanton, Chairman  
David D. Macy, Selectman  
Julie M. Hannum, Selectman

Others Present: Beverly Gilbert, Recording Secretary  
Hillary and Jenny Russell

Selectman Stanton called the meeting to order at 7PM.

**APPOVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Selectman Hannum moved to approve, as written, the meeting minutes for January 17, 2006. Selectman Macy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**JENNY RUSSELL RE: PROPERTY ON BERKSHIRE SCHOOL ROAD**

Jenny and Hillary Russell of 98 Berkshire School Road approached the board for help concerning recent flooding of their basement. Mrs. Russell stated that it was the first time in 33 years that they experienced a wet cellar, and they had 1' of water. The Russells believe that removal of two great silver maples from their property in conjunction with the Berkshire School Road construction project completed this year caused the flooding. Mrs. Russell indicated that although they attended and reviewed plans for construction of Berkshire School Road at Mass Highway Department's public hearing at the town hall, only one of the silver maple trees was slated to be cut down according to the plans they reviewed at the Town Hall, and it was not until the day before construction when Mrs. Russell saw and inquired construction plans to Dave Smith of Maxymillian who informed her that both trees were coming down. They stated that according to their research with local authorities, the silver maple trees absorb enormous amounts of water -- approximately 450 gallons per day.

Mrs. Russell reported that Mass Highway Dept. Berkshire School Road Project Engineer Joe Mastroianni spent an hour looking in her cellar, and agreed that removal of both trees did precipitate water, and he agreed to ask his boss at District 1 to provide 30 cubic yards of 3 quarter 1" stone to fill up their basement above the level of water. However, she was later informed that Mass. Highway Dept. would not provide, and Mr. Mastroianni suggested that she approach the town. Mr. and Mrs. Russell stated that because they had not been informed about both trees in advance (only one was on the plans in the town hall), they did not receive information needed to take proper action.

Discussion ensued regarding the below:

- Why flooding has occurred?
  - Heavy rains
  - Trees
- What has been happening to neighbors? And other homes in town?
- Impact of Construction?
  - Water Table
  - Groundwater shift
  - Runoff from roadway
- Who is responsible (Mass. Highway Dept. vs. Town) – Should town talk to Mass Highway Dept?
- What would be proper remedy, and cost of such?
- Must take construction of the Russell's basement into account (possibly seek advice of engineer) Will stone really help or could it cause additional damage (collapse of walls)?

The Board will take this matter under advisement, and will place on the agenda in approximately one month.

#### BOARD OF HEALTH ARTICLE FOR TOWN MEETING WARRANT

This matter will appear on a future agenda.

#### CURBCUT PERMIT

Selectman Macy moved to issue a curb cut permit to Spark Management LLC for a new driveway at 48 Business Park (Map 8, Block 4, Parcel 20.1), pending the approval of the Highway Superintendent and Police Chief, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

#### SELECTMEN'S ITEMS

Selectman Hannum updated the board on the Master Plan Implementation Committee, and stated that she welcomes feedback concerning priorities, and focus.

Selectman Macy moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Stanton adjourned the meeting at 7:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert  
Recording Secretary