

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MAY 18, 2009
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Julie M. Hannum, Chairman
David D. Macy
David A. Smith Jr.

Others Present: Joseph A. Kellogg, Town Administrator
Rhonda LaBombard, Assistant Town Administrator

Chairman Hannum called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

BOARD REORGANIZATION:

Chairman Hannum welcomed Selectman Smith to the Board. Discussion ensued regarding reorganization of the Board. Chairman Hannum moved to nominate Selectman Macy as Chairman, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously. Selectman Smith moved to nominate Selectman Hannum as Clerk, seconded by Chairman Macy. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Selectman Hannum moved to approve minutes for the April 15, 2009 and April 27, 2009 meetings, seconded by Chairman Macy. The motion carried 2-0, Selectman Smith abstained from the vote.

PUBLIC HEARING – WINE AND MALT LICENSE – MARKETPLACE:

Chairman Macy opened the hearing at 7:05 pm. Dan Jimmerson was present to represent the Marketplace. The hours of operation are not scheduled to change. Administrator Kellogg noted that the Marketplace has a brown bag policy and no complaints have been received. Chairman Macy closed the hearing at 7:07 pm. Selectman Hannum moved to grant the Wine and Malt License to the Marketplace, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

MAPLE AVENUE CANOE ACCESS:

Neal Chamberlain presented the Board with pictures and information regarding Town owned property on Maple Avenue along the Housatonic River that he would like to promote as a public canoe access. The Police Chief has been contacted regarding parking and the Conservation Commission has been contracted regarding removing vegetation along the path to the river. Mr. Chamberlain will coordinate a group of volunteers to clear the path and will work with Administrator Kellogg to obtain a sign for the site and work with the Town highway crew to remove or chip the brush that is cut. Selectman Hannum moved to support the efforts to promote this site as a public canoe access point, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously. Selectman Hannum stated that there will be a meeting at the Covered Bridge canoe access site on Tuesday at 4:30 pm to review the changes to the plan prepared by ESS.

BERKSHIRE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT:

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association has sent an agreement for FY10 for services to the Town. The Finance Committee approved a level funded amount of \$3,096. Selectman Macy moved to amend the agreement amount to \$3096 and to approve the agreement as amended, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

BERKSHIRE BIKING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

Administrator Kellogg noted that he recently attended a meeting regarding a coalition of eleven towns to create a seventy five mile biking path from Vermont to Connecticut. No request for funding has been made at this point. The Berkshire Bike Path Council has requested that the Town sign a Memorandum of Understanding in support of the project. Selectman Hannum moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding in support of the bike path, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE BROADBAND COMMITTEE:

National Grid Non-Disclosure Agreement- Administrator Kellogg explained that the Southern Berkshire Broadband Committee has been investigating Broadband options including expanded cable services and in order to complete this process, inventories of each utility pole and the information on the utility pole must be obtained. National Grid has concerns with this information being public and has requested a non-disclosure agreement from the Town which will exempt this information from the public records law. Selectman Hannum moved to support and sign the non-disclosure agreement for National Grid, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

PAY AS YOU THROW INFORMATION SESSIONS:

Administrator Kellogg stated that the final decision on the Pay as You Throw trash disposal system had not been made and recommended that two informational meetings be held for the public to offer comments or ask questions. Selectman Smith moved to hold two informational sessions on the Pay as You Throw trash disposal system on May 27, 2009 and June 11, 2009 at 7 pm in the 2nd floor meeting room in Town Hall, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

SELECTMEN ITEMS:

Selectman Hannum stated that Inez Flinn has been recognized as an Unsung Heroine by the Massachusetts Commission for the Status of Women and she would like to invite Ms. Flinn to a future meeting.

Selectman Smith thanked all the voters in Town for the great turn out on Election Day.

Chairman Macy reminded residents that the Memorial Day Parades will be held on Monday, May 25, 2009 at 8:00 am in Ashley Falls and 11:00 am in Sheffield.

TOWN ADMINSTRATOR ITEMS:

Administrator Kellogg stated that Annual Reports are available at Town Hall and on the Town's web site.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Anna James is the manager for the Farmer's Market and has requested permission for the market to be held on Friday afternoons. Discussions ensued regarding parking and the Village Green merchants. Selectman Hannum moved to grant permission for the Farmer's Market, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Dan Jimmerson from the Marketplace was present to discuss the possibility of holding a Cheese and Craft Beer Festival at the Town Park. The proceeds would be donated to a local cause to be determined. Mr. Jimmerson was directed to talk with Michael Ovitt for open dates for the Town Park and to contact the Administrator's office with further information on the plans for the festival.

Catherine Miller gave an update on the Town Hall parking lot. The benches and the bike rack have been received and assembled. The final meeting will be scheduled soon. Pavers for the Walk of Names are still available for sale.

Selectman Hannum moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Macy adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda LaBombard
Assistant Town Administrator