

Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
November 1, 2007 – 12:30 PM
Town Hall

MINUTES

- 1.0 The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM by First Selectman Joyce Okonuk. Selectmen John Bendoraitis and Russ Blakeslee were present as well as Professional Engineer Wesley Wentworth and Town Planner Phil Chester.
- 2.0 Town Meeting authorized earmarking \$20,000 for open space appraisals. The Conservation Commission has recommended three properties for appraisal consideration. The State provided preliminary approvals on these properties. Phil to provide Selectmen with evaluations done on the three properties, keeping the property owner names anonymous.

Moved by John Bendoraitis, seconded by Joyce Okonuk to authorize the release of up to \$12,000 in the Capital Non-recurring Budget, Open Space, for three property appraisals on farms that have applied to the State PDR Program, as recommended by the Conservation Commission. Vote: yes, unanimous. Motion carried.

- 3.0 Professional Engineer and soils scientist Wes Wentworth was hired to provide the Selectmen with an analysis of two potential future cemetery sites – the town-owned property adjacent to the easterly side of the Middle School and another property located at the intersection of Kick Hill Road and Babcock Hill Road that is privately owned by the Jamroga family.

Wes looked at the LMS site which showed seasonal high water – February through May – resulting in concerns about groundwater. He reviewed NRCS mapping, walked the site and augured sample holes 3-4 ft. deep. Site has very wet soils, six to eight months of the year. Main body of area drains to back of property with small water course. Wes pulled 6-8 soil samples all showing soils with ground water at 18-28" depth. Sub-soil very firm on hardpan—water will sit on this hardpan. High water indicators weren't strong but other physical surface indicators were of high water table. Wes stated for the record, the LMS site is simply too wet for cemetery consideration—only small sections would be dry enough for burials.

The Jamroga site is drier than the LMS property, has hard pan layers, but at deeper levels. Ground water depths are 32-42". Soils are sandier texture, firmer upper soils – better than LMS. Groundwater table down into hard pan level, not fluctuating into upper soils. Wes feels this site worthy of further investigation and suggests mid-February re-test for ground water. John asked if any evidence of ledge on either site – per Wes would need further depth digging to be sure, but soils don't appear to be ledge type.

Moved by John Bendoraitis, seconded by Joyce Okonuk to request the Town Planner to contact the Jamroga property owners, asking that the Town be granted permission to conduct further soil analyses on the property, and to further indicate to the owners that the Town has a strong interest in this property as a future cemetery site. Vote: yes, unanimous. Motion carried.

At 1:00 PM the Selectmen were joined by the following employees of the Ct. State Departments: Suzanne Blancaflor, Chief, DEP Environmental Health; Pamela Kilbey-Fox, DPH; Jeff Curran, DPH; Robert Scully, DPH; George Hicks, DEP and Lebanon staff Dr. Robert Powitz, Director of Health, David Coughlin, Sanitarian, and Phil Chester, Planner.

- 4.0 The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with state officials (DEP and DPH) the outstanding Administrative Order (Abatement Order) against the Town of Lebanon and to discuss the recommendations made in the Wright-Pierce Final Draft Report on the Amston Lake Water Quality Study. Jeff Curran of the DPH Contamination Unit discussed past tests of Amston Lake showing no serious contamination of the Amston Lake water but a recent test pulled by a member of the Amston Lake Association, Reggie Miles, showed e.Coli at very high levels near #229 Deepwood Drive. Much discussion ensued. Reggie feels strongly Town should pass ordinance requiring regular pumping of systems in lake area. Town and state discussed other properties of concern along lake and Dr. Powitz will do follow-up and communicate in writing to Reggie with cc to Suzanne Blancaflor to keep state in the loop.

Re the Amston Lake Water Quality Study and the outstanding Abatement Order, George Hicks said the Selectmen need to endorse the report and implement the work schedule listed in the report in order to comply with the Order. Financial assistance is available through the CT Clean Water Fund and the town may be eligible through USDA Rural Development or funds through a special Act. The Selectmen will need to approve project, develop an Ordinance forming a Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) and enter into an agreement with a design consultant. Selectmen wish to have more time to review report and plan on taking action at their next meeting.

- 5.0 Moved by Okonuk, seconded by Blakeslee to adjourn the meeting at 3:07 PM. Vote: yes, unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce R. Okonuk
First Selectman