

October 20, 2011

## **Board of Selectmen's Meeting**

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Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman David Muller; Selectman Dan Gilbert; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito

**This meeting was recorded and videotaped. The tapes are available in the Selectmen's office.**

**Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:35pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance-** Carol Baldwin led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance

**Update Lachat farmhouse- Carol Baldwin-** As of October they have raised \$67,570 in cash and pledges. They are receiving checks and/ or pledges almost daily. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> they had a very successful benefit that was hosted by the Christopher's who live next door to the Lachat property. It attracted a wide cross section of Town's people as well as people from surrounding Towns. Ms. Baldwin said she thought it increased awareness of the homesteads perilous position as well as getting people excited about the possibilities of a Town farm.

Their pre- application for a Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation Technical Assistance grant was approved. They are in the process of putting together the final grant application which is due November 15<sup>th</sup>. They are applying for a \$20,000 matching grant.

They are also applying for a Weston Education grant which is due November 1<sup>st</sup> and they are actively seeking out other grant opportunities. Stephan Grozinger has agreed to assist the "Friends of Lachat" file for a 501c3 status. He feels they should be able to attain that status by January 2012 but in the meantime, Ms. Weinstein has offered the Town as their tax exempt entity for donations.

Ms. Baldwin said the cost estimate to rehabilitate the 1770 homestead is \$255,000. She expects to raise over \$100,000 from private donations, another \$50,000 in grants and would hope to have a donation from the Lachat endowment fund.

Ms. Baldwin said that she would like to be able to continue their efforts on behalf of saving this piece of Weston's pre-revolutionary history.

Ms. Weinstein said one of the things that was key to her and garnering her support was to see if the public would support this project which, given by the crowds that they saw at the Christopher's house, they truly have embraced. She is to ask the Nature Conservancy to put a portion of the funds toward the renovation minus funds for other ongoing maintenance on the property.

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**Discussion regarding communication survey-** Ms. Weinstein said we had 38 respondents which she thought was light, considering we sent out 3800 letters. She was surprised that people actually wanted more Code Red announcements and asked if we could give updates twice a day. The other suggestion was that maybe we should try to get volunteer block captains, so if something like this happens again people can be responsible for checking on their neighbors.

Mr. Muller said a lot of the issues that people raised are why didn't I know to do this, or why didn't I have this preparation or why didn't you tell me to fill my bathtub with water. The point he would make in response to some of these is the resources are all available either through the health district or through Town Hall. Until you go through it once you don't know that there are resources that you need to be aware of in advance.

Some of things that Mr. Muller took away from the survey was people need to know who all the relevant entities are. We should think about a master list which we already have part of, but continue to augment it with other suggestions of entities. We need to ensure that the different entities are updating their customers.

Another good suggestion was people who were in outlying area who were far away from downtown and perhaps couldn't get their cars out, if we try to maintain some sort of bus that goes through Town and pick up people who couldn't get out. The idea of the volunteer pool was a very good idea. The service does exist and people just need to know how to be aware of it.

There were suggestions about burying power lines. The chairman of LIPA estimated that it would be 30 billion dollars to bury all of theirs. Ms. Weinstein said it is the Federal Government who mandates that.

Mr. Muller said people were talking about notification is great and it works well but how do you communicate when everything is done electrically. The solution is to sign up your land lines and your cell phones and texts messaging to all receive Code Red updates.

Dan Gilbert said a number of responses did talk about winter and how would we handle a couple thousand people who needed shelter. He thinks that is something that the Board of Selectmen really needs to look at and have an action plan. A number of people mentioned it was important to get word out prior to the storm relative to where the comfort station are going to be, how will people get to them etc. Also what might be available outside of Weston and transportation to get people around Town.

Ms. Weinstein said we do have emergency plans in place and that is what our emergency operations meetings are about. They cover all of the 'what if's'. Part of the problem is that you never know what to prepare for. We were concerned about flooding and sent police officers door to door to evacuate people who live in a certain area near the Saugatuck River because that was the main concern.

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We did send out a Code Red message warning people that the storm was going to come and what they had to do to prepare prior to the event. We really can't say what kind of services we're going to provide until we see how dramatic the storm is. If we needed to, we would have put the action plan in place to establish the emergency shelter. The comfort station with showers, water, MRE's, bottled water and power stations really seemed to do the trick. We really can't say ahead of time what we are going to do until we see what the damage is.

**Request for property tax refunds**

<b>Porsche Leasing</b>	<b>\$1,139.68</b>
<b>Honda Financial</b>	<b>\$760.29</b>
<b>BMW Financial Services</b>	<b>\$359.93</b>
<b>Nissan Infinity</b>	<b>\$336.60</b>
<b>Chase Auto Finance</b>	<b>\$249.49</b>
<b>Ally Financial</b>	<b>\$140.94</b>
<b>VW Credit</b>	<b>\$116.37</b>
<b>Beverly Resnick</b>	<b>\$115.78</b>
<b>Dennis Tracey</b>	<b>\$111.63</b>
<b>CAB East LLC</b>	<b>\$59.32</b>
<b>Marine Mafalda</b>	<b>\$48.45</b>
<b>Toyota Financial Services</b>	<b><u>\$27.58</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,466.06</b>

Mr. Muller made a motion to approve property tax refunds in the amount of \$3,466.06 as listed on the October 20, 2011 Board of Selectmen's agenda. Mr. Gilbert seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Open Items**

**Ongoing updates**

**Grants- Gayle Weinstein-** No new news.

**Ticker File, Discuss as updated**

**Reimbursement from State for school projects- Tom Landry-** No new news

**Any business to come properly before the meeting- None**

**Discussion/approval of the Board of Selectmen's minutes of September 15, 2011, October 6, 2011 and the Special Joint Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education meeting of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.** Mr. Gilbert made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meeting of September 15, 2011, October 6, 2011 and the Special Joint Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education meeting of October 3, 2011. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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At 8:10pm Mr. Gilbert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approved 12/14/11