

Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting
November 19, 2012

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman David Muller; Selectman Dennis Tracey; Town Administrator Tom Landry;

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. Copies are available in the Selectmen's office. The meetings are available for viewing online via the Town's website.

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 8:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance-

Discussion/decision regarding amending the Schedule of Selectmen's meetings for 2013. Ms. Weinstein said she would like to move the Board of Selectmen's meeting scheduled for Monday February 25th to Wednesday February 27th. We will be reviewing the Board of Selectmen's budget on the 25th and she would like to use the time for just the review of the budget.

Mr. Muller moved that they adopt the amended Schedule of Selectmen's meetings for 2013. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding scheduling a public hearing on December 20th for proposed ordinance changes. Ms. Weinstein said we are considering changing several of the Town ordinances. The first involves changing the location of where public notices are posted to the Town Clerk's office and the Town website. The other items are to shift to the Chief of Police from Board of Selectmen the authority to issue permits for raffles and tag sales.

We need to have a public hearing for ordinance changes. Ms. Weinstein is proposing that we have a public hearing at 7:00pm on December 20th in the Town Hall meeting room before the Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Tracey moved to schedule a public hearing for December 20th, 2012 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding scheduling a public informational meeting with CL&P. Ms. Weinstein said that the public doesn't have a sense of how the circuit and the grid works and how the electricity gets from the substation to their house. She thinks it would be helpful for residents to have an idea of how that all happens. The meeting is not to discuss CL&P's performance but how things work.

CL&P's communication to the public can be improved and that is something that she is working on with the other Selectmen in the area. Not getting restoration times was very disconcerting to the residents and there was misinformation when they called CL&P. Mr. Muller said questions about what happened during the storm should be off the table. He doesn't want this to become a gripe session and we should have some ground rules. Ms. Weinstein said they are going to make a presentation and show a video. She believes that they have to open it up for questions and answers.

Mr. Tracey said he did not think it was realistic to ask people not to talk about the storm but in opening comments you can probably emphasize that this is an educational session and not a complaint session and so try to focus on that. Ms. Weinstein said December 8th at 10:30am is the time she scheduled with CL&P to do their presentation.

Discussion/decision regarding the acceptance of a gift of from Watch Guard of five CopVu Wearable Cameras valued at \$5,000 to the Weston Police Department- Chief John Troxell. Chief Troxell said that we have one video system already installed in a police car. When they built the car in 2008 it was \$5,500 expenditure for the one system. Dan Cascone went to the kickoff luncheon for the "Click it or ticket it" program and this was one of the door prizes which Dan won. The versatility of this camera is that it can actually go with the officer to where he is going. The way that their officers are trained is assume that you are always being videotaped. This would be one more thing that they can use to help collect evidence for a case that may end up in court.

They will do a pilot program where it will be at the discretion of the officer as to when to turn the camera on and when not to turn it on. When they have a better idea of what this can, do they will sit down with the Commission and write a policy on how they will be used.

Ms. Weinstein asked if there were any laws about recording incidents. Chief Troxell said it is legal for an officer to record an incident as long as he is involved with the incident. If he puts the camera on somebody else and it is a situation that the officer is not directly involved with that would be an illegal situation. Mr. Muller said he would like someone to ask the company what work has been done to determine if there are times when this is not legal.

Ms. Weinstein asked if they would rotate the cameras through the officers. Chief Troxell said they were getting five of them so they can be rotated through the chargers and they would be assigned to the officers on the shift.

Mr. Tracey asked if there was any cost associated with this going forward. Chief Troxell said not with the five cameras.

Mr. Muller moved that they accept a gift of five CopVu wearable cameras from Watch Guard valued at \$5,000 to the Weston Police Department. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Update regarding Lachat property- Ellen McCormick and Carol Baldwin gave the board an update of where they are. Ellen said they have been having two meetings a month to go over the items for the grant. Ms. Weinstein explained that we did get a Historic Preservation grant for \$20,000. The deadline to completing the construction drawings is December 8th. There is a potential to ask for an extension. The Selectmen need to know what the committee is thinking in terms of the house renovations. There are some issues, since not all the money has been raised to complete what is in the

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construction drawings. They are looking do another end of the year campaign to raise some more money.

Ms. Weinstein said that work on the foundation of the house has begun. There are five lolly columns completed. The foundation is dug, and cement is going to be poured tomorrow. The foundation work should be done soon and they are now discussing the next phase. The committee would like the first floor to be public space and the second floor to be private space for a farmer or caretaker.

Ms. Weinstein went to Planning and Zoning because the zoning regulations do not specify the number of parking spots. They are at the point where the landscape architect has to come up with a plan, and Ms. Weinstein felt they needed guidance. Planning and Zoning said they cannot give them guidance until we apply for an 8-24 specifically identifying the use. They have asked the landscape designer to come up with a plan that is aesthetically pleasing that fits as many parking spots in as she can, and to create an area where overflow parking can be if needed to satisfy whatever additional requirements Planning and Zoning would come up with.

In the broad picture, the committee is talking about Community Gardens and/or Community Supported Agriculture, which would mean some of the fields could be planted and people could sign up and pay they would get so much produce per week. Because there mandate is educational, there would be small workshops which would be in the summer and outdoors. There will be artwork hanging from the Weston Arts group. Carol said she felt that it was not a "school bus of 30 kids environment", it would be more like seven people coming together to learn something.

The committee is considering a reading room off to the left from the front of the house, craft activities to the right, a demonstration area, a harvest room, handicap restroom and a small office space. The house is small, and they can see only 10 or 12 people in the room at one time. Mr. Tracey said he could see occasions with more people gathering. He believes the space could be bigger by cutting back walls and have walls that would close it in if needed. Ellen said they wanted to keep the 1770 nature of the house and that would preclude taking down a lot of things that were original to the house. She said they are considering a phase 2 in the barn, where you would have much more open space.

Robert Hatch, architect said once you go above 50 for occupancy then requirements change considerably. The other thing that needs to be taken into consideration is that this would be a historic building declared by the State and he thinks that is in the works. That affects the building code. Mr. Tracey said in design you might want to keep in mind that you might have a class of children so you might want to be to accommodate that amount, 18 or 20 in one room.

The second floor is a bedroom, living room, kitchen and bath. Mr. Tracey said he thought that we could move forward with the community use of the property without having the house completed. They are checking to see if they can have community use without the

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house completed and how they would do that. The committee will come back to the Board of Selectmen on the December 20th meeting with the Master Plan.

Request for property tax refunds:

Nissan Infiniti-LT	\$92.04
Chase Auto Finance	\$182.05
Ally Financial	\$421.15
Porsche Leasing	\$532.81
VW Credit	\$1,563.43
Ally Financial	\$2,903.55
Edward Schine	<u>\$5,926.83</u>
Total	\$11,621.86

Mr. Muller moved to approve property tax refunds in the amount \$11,621.86. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

Updates

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- No new news

Regionalization- No new news

Discussion/approval of the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of October 18, 2012 and November 1, 2012- Mr. Tracey moved to approve the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of October 18, 2012 and November 1, 2012 as submitted. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 9:00pm Mr. Tracey moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Approved
12/06/12