

Board of Selectmen's Special Meeting
Minutes
Monday, June 15, 2015, 7:30pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein, Selectman Dennis Tracey, Selectman David Muller, Town Administrator Tom Landry, Planning & Zoning Vice Chairman Jane Connelly, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene, Weston Residents

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. The tapes 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: 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Ms. Weinstein led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion/decision regarding the re-appointment of Margaret Brooks to the Commission for the Arts for a term to end June 30th 2017

Mr. Muller moves to re-appoint Margaret Brooks to the Commission for the Arts for a term to end June 30th, 2017. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the re-appointment of Don Saltzman and Harvey Bellin as the Town of Weston's Area 9 Cable Council representatives for a term to end June 15, 2017.

Mr. Tracey moved to re-appoint Don Saltzman and Harvey Bellin as the Town of Weston's Area 9 Cable Council representatives for term to end June 15, 2017. Mr. Muller seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Weinstein added that she wanted to thank Mr. Saltzman and Mr. Bellin for all of their hard work and bringing in a lot of grant funding.

Discussion/decision regarding the mission statement for the Strategic Planning Committee. Vice Chair of P&Z Jane Connelly joined the Selectmen. Ms. Weinstein first stated that she and Mr. Tracy attended the P& Z meeting and all agreed that it would be best to work in a collaborative manner regarding the Town's Strategic Planning. The new Select committee would report directly to both the Board of Selectmen and the Planning and Zoning Commission, and changes were made accordingly to the mission statement. (see attached.) Mr. Muller recommended an initial 2 year term and then 1 year terms after that.

Mr. Muller moved to approve the mission statement for the Strategic Planning Committee as amended at the 6/15/2015 Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Interviews for potential members of the strategic planning committee; Larry Roberts, Marc Karasu, Christopher Spaulding, Ellen L.F. Strauss, Harvey Bellin, Barbara Reynolds: Interviews conducted by First Selectman Gayle Weinstein, Selectman David Muller, Selectman Dennis Tracey, and Vice Chair of P & Z Jane Connolly.

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Larry Roberts: Mr. Roberts states the mission statement mirrors the reasons why he wants to joining the committee. He has lived here over 23 years. He and his wife plan to stay in town after their children graduate high school. He has a vested interested in affordability, sustainability and keeping Weston similar to how it is now. He understands growth may need to happen but wants to maintain the quaint feel of Weston. As Deputy Chief of the Fire Department, he also has an interest in the growth of Weston and its impact on emergency services.

Marc Karasu: Mr. Karasu moved to Weston about a year ago. He is married with two young children. He moved here after looking for 4 years in nearby towns, searching for the ideal balance of commute, schools, house, taxes etc. and felt Weston was the perfect place. His concern now is keeping Weston and its schools from being jeopardized. Mr. Karasu has professional experience in marketing and branding and feels he can bring those skills to this committee. He has a strong digital background as well. .

Christopher Spaulding: Mr. Spaulding worked on the Phase 1 report. He has a background in experimental research science but also marketing/consulting/data analysis. He has also been an appointed member of Conservation Commission for the past 5 years as well as serving on the Youth Commission. He sees a lot of opportunity in Weston to not only draw new people to town, but to also allow those that live in town, be able to stay in town. Mr. Spaulding has two young children in the school system.

Ellen L.F. Strauss: Ms. Strauss has lived in Weston for 46 years and plans on staying. She moved her for the excellent school system. She would like to retain and attract new residents. She has had experience with focus groups and data collection. She is also a mediation and collaborative law attorney with creative problem solving experience. Ms. Strauss founded the "Keep Weston Rural" group and was involved with Weston's acquisition of several parcels of land. She loves the rural aspect of Weston but is broad minded.

Harvey Bellin: Mr. Bellin has lived in Weston since 1984. He has a degree from Yale in drama and has a professional background in directing. He produced the emmy award winning film, "The Outlivers" in 1979. Mr. Bellin has also researched and produced film about education and drug prevention. He is a member of the Cable 9 Area Council and is well experienced in grants. Applicable skills would be knowledge of the history of Weston, marketing and research skills. He also has experience in the grant process, which Ms. Weinstein stated could assist the town in funding consultants, planning etc.

Barbara Reynolds: Ms. Reynolds has lived here since 1991 and has put children through school here, and now has grandchildren in the school system. She is a former BOE member, and was involved with the construction of new schools. She works as a realtor and tries to sell Weston all the same. She feels realtors don't sell Weston because they don't understand Weston. Ms. Reynolds is optimistic about Weston and doesn't have preconceived ideas.

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Discussion/decision regarding requested supplemental appropriation for FY 2014-15 Town operating expenses in the amount of \$122,750. : Town Administrator Tom Landry said that the year end deficit was primarily in the areas of paving, snow removal and police overtime, but there was an offsetting surplus mainly in the legal fees and health insurance budget which added up to a projected deficit of \$122,750. Revenues are well over the anticipated amount, \$648,000 which increases the General Fund to 16.4% of this year's budget. Revenues mainly came from tax collection, back taxes, as well as less than budgeted tax abatements. Mr. Tracey moved to approve the requested supplemental appropriation for FY 2014-15 Town operating expenses in the amount of \$122,750. Mr. Muller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding requested supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$125,519 for paving projects, reflecting additional Town Road Aid funding.

Ms. Weinstein stated that we are asking for this because we received additional town road aid this year in the amount of \$125,519. In order to utilize this money, since the money goes into our general fund, we need to appropriate it for this use. This is for the FY 2015/16 budget.

Mr. Muller moved to approve the requested supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$125,519 for paving projects, reflecting additional Town Road Aid funding. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding an update on the Facilities Plan.

Mr. Tracy requested that it was put on the agenda. Ms. Weinstein said the only update is that the BOE is discussing the Facilities Plan at their meeting tonight. We are hoping to get their approval by mid-July or August so we can move ahead with the funding plan. More cost estimates should be coming back by the end of the week.

Discussion/decision regarding tax abatement & health insurance contribution waiver request by Weston EMS on behalf of Ms. Yvonne Ehrismann: Karyl McGill, EMS Human Resource officer. (Standing in for EMS President Jon Weingarten)

Yvonne Ehrismann has been a valued member for almost 20 years. She suffered an injury during the line of duty and was out on medical leave for over a month. There is no current provision for the tax abatement for a Leave of Absence. Ms. Ehrismann did not make Category 1 for health insurance. EMS is requesting a waiver for this particular instance. She met all other requirement except for her 60 call points (equivalent to 2 EMS calls).

Mr. Muller moves to approve the waiver allowing Yvonne Ehrismann to be in Category 1 classification in the health insurance and tax abatement program due to lost time as a result of a line of duty injury. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes from May 7th and June 4th 2015.

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Mr. Tracey moves to approve the Board of Selectman minutes from May 7th, 2015. Ms. Weinstein seconded. Mr. Muller abstains. Motion carried unanimously.
Mr. Muller moves to approve the Board of Selectman minutes from June 4th, 2015. Mr. Tracey seconded. Ms. Weinstein abstains. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session:

- **Litigation Update**
- **Discussion regarding Police Union Contract**

Ms. Weinstein makes a motion to move into executive session. Mr. Muller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Session Adjourned: 8:56pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Randi Derene
Administrative Assistant

Executive Session convened: 9:02pm

Executive Session Meeting Minutes submitted by Tom Landry
June 15, 2015

ATTENDANCE: The meeting was convened at 9:02 pm in the First Selectman's Office by Chairman Weinstein, with Selectmen Muller and Tracey present. Also attending was Town Administrator Landry. For a portion of the meeting, Police Commissioners Gralnick and Brady were in attendance.

DISCUSSION: The Board discussed the status of the negotiations with the Police bargaining unit. Commissioners Brady and Gralnick left the meeting at 9:57 pm. Members then discussed the status and next steps in the Stones Trail lawsuit.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 10:16 pm, David Muller made a motion, Gayle Weinstein seconded, to adjourn executive session and resume in open session passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: At 10:17 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dennis Tracey made a motion, David Muller seconded, motion passed by unanimous vote.

Minutes Approved: June 30, 2015

TOWN OF WESTON STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

This committee is intended to be Phase II of "Crafting a Strategic Plan for Weston's Future." The committee shall consist of up to 15 members, with a term to expire in 2 years, unless the committee is terminated earlier by the Board of Selectmen. Said committee can be renewed for additional one year periods as deemed necessary or appropriate by the Board of Selectmen. A Selectman and a representative of the Planning and Zoning Commission shall act as co-Chairs. The committee shall report on its progress to the Board of Selectmen and to the Planning and Zoning Commission quarterly. The mission of the committee is to:

1. Assess the views of residents, prospective residents and stakeholders with regard to future planning for the Town of Weston, including any changes in to Weston's Planning and Zoning Regulations, so as to achieve its long term goal to be an attractive, affordable and sustainable community; and
2. Working collaboratively with the Planning and Zoning Commission and other pertinent town boards, commissions and committees, make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and to the Planning and Zoning Commission with regard to a strategic plan, including a marketing plan, to achieve the Town's goals.

This committee should consider:

1. Conducting public meetings to discuss the Report, dated May 7, 2015, entitled "Crafting a Strategic Plan for Weston's Future", to gain feedback and modify/fine-tune next steps towards achieving Weston's long term goals;
2. Conducting discussions to gauge the desirability of available options and to collect data. Key initial groups will be:
 - i. Representative town residents
 - ii. Individuals who have recently moved into town
 - iii. Real estate professionals who work in area
 - iv. Parents of High-School seniors and parents of recent High-School graduates
 - v. Leaders of comparable towns and other knowledgeable individuals from outside of Weston.
3. Conduct survey market research to better understand (among other topics):
 - i. Why people may be moving to Weston?
 - ii. Why people chose to leave or stay in Weston?
 - iii. What amenities are missing and desired in Weston?
 - iv. Desirability of commercial expansion around town center.
 - v. Opinions /concerns around senior/cluster/alternative housing