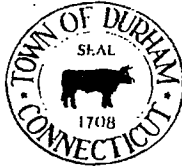


TOWN OF DURHAM

Connecticut 06422



Perd.
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hst.

ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF
TOWN OF DURHAM
BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND AGENCIES

January 8, 1980

The Annual Joint Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by First Selectman M. Foster Mather. Others present:

Gregory G. Curtis, Selectman
Maryann P. Boord, Selectwoman
Joanne Salva, Tax Collector
Marjorie C. Hatch, Town Clerk
William Moore, Treasurer
Frank Magnotta, Town Engineer
Mark Spatuzzi, Board of Education
James Kowolenko, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency
Kathryn Francis, Historic District Commission
Henry Robinson, Planning and Zoning Commission
Jack Tinkel, Library Board of Directors
Richard Ackerman, Conservation Commission
Ralph Moeller, Zoning Board of Appeals
Philip Albert, Personnel Policy Board
Al Pollard, Durham-Middlefield Interlocal Advisory Board
James Clifford, Board of Finance
Carl N. Otte
Linda Dean
Edwin C. Higgins

In opening remarks Dr. Mather stated his interest in hearing about the future plans of the various boards, commissions and agencies in the spirit of the new Charter to encourage communication and cooperation among the departments.

Jack Tinkel; Library Board of Directors: stated that the future of the library is in the hands of the Library Building and Site Committee who he feels are still in the stage of defining the exact needs.

Richard Ackerman, Conservation Commission: pursuing a Rockfall grant; seeking better ways to mow White's Farm; some members want to pursue more open space lands; commission is interested in becoming involved in energy conservation as an informational research group; at present are bogged down with the custodial work in the open space areas but they do have great plans for the future. Mr. Ackerman further reported that the spring is now running but leaks and hopefully the boy scouts will help with the project.

Marjorie C. Hatch, Town Clerk: reminded the chairmen that Freedom of Information laws state clearly that minutes must be filed in her office as soon as possible after the meeting in an effort to coordinate all efforts for the betterment of the town. Copies should also be filed with the Office of the First Selectman.

Joanne Salva, Tax Collector: wishes to set up a program of collecting back taxes but feels she wants some time to pass first to gain experience to pursue this goal.

James Clifford, Board of Finance: advised those present that although it was a difficult budget time - to take a good hard look at their budgets - the Board of Finance is willing to look at new expenses that are justifiably needed; this is not the time to just sit back and wait for better days. He further stated that additional information can be supplied to the Board of Finance on the back of the request forms.

Al Pollard, Durham-Middlefield Interlocal Advisory Board: the life-term of the present landfill is perhaps another couple years; an alternative method for waste disposal is being sought. The site could be prolonged somewhat by careful recycling by the townspeople.

Ralph Moeller, Zoning Board of Appeals: busy year; noted that townspeople should be aware that they can't just get a variance by applying to the Zoning Board of Appeals; he's hoping to keep legal fees down.

William Moore, Treasurer: reported doing very well with investments: \$12,000-\$15,000 so far in 1979-80 receipts; another \$8,000 expected in addition to reserve fund investments; \$39,000 made last year with \$26,000 coming from general fund monies.

William Moore reporting for Janet Moore of the Library Building and Site Committee: reported that the Board of Education projects that by 1985 Brewster School will be closed and could be a viable

library site. (It was noted by Mrs. Hatch that the building also belongs to the State of Connecticut.)

Philip Albert, Personnel Policy Board: reported that the 1979-80 survey is completed and the Personnel Policy Board will be presenting it to the Boards of Finance and Selectmen soon; they are studying the extension of benefits to town officials and staffing support for the town hall. Additionally, they will work to propose a wage structure to ease the administration of town salaries; they endorse also a wage schedule that would be "pay for performance" - a merit system; compensation for work beyond the going rate.

Frank Magnotta, Town Engineer: has increased the load of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning and Zoning Commission because he's been more stringent than past enforcement officers; has sewage disposal regulations before the state (to be reviewed and adopted) which are currently being implimented.

Henry Robinson, Planning and Zoning Commission: Zoning regulations were revised and completed 1/1/80; the revision of the south end commercial and light industrial zones is being considered by the commission and a February 6th hearing is scheduled; a new updated plan of development with a publication date of July 1, 1980, is on schedule; major areas before the commission are 1) 60 lot Stollman subdivision and 2) cluster housing provision: a hearing will soon be called to review this matter which would be a major change in the zoning provisions; requests firm town road classification policy from the Board of Selectmen.

James Kowolenko, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency: minimum activity; problems arise when townspeople are not aware they are in "wetlands" - more public awareness is necessary. F. Mather suggested an improvement in the agency's public image, i.e. that they can do a good service. It was noted that at least one member of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency is a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Mr. Kowolenko and Mr. Robinson felt that was very good policy for the agency.

Kathryn Francis, Historic District Commission: only purpose is to keep the historic district attractive and 99% of its residents are actively upgrading their property; the commission has no authority to force people to make improvements - hopes the Planning and Zoning Commission will not allow any more commercial (etc.) zoning to be developed within the district; underground wiring on Main Street hoped for as a long range goal.

Mark Spatuzzi, Board of Education: current budget is on target; the new budget will have increases only in the fixed costs and the board is hoping to present a reasonable budget with no additional new programs; present conversion to computer heating control will pay for itself in the first year in energy conservation. Enrollment projections: 81-82 Center School closing and requests member of the Board of Finance on a committee to study future use of Center School; in 85-86 they anticipate that Brewster School will be closed. The enrollment decline will hurt mostly on the high school level especially with the college prep students (with fewer numbers of students, making it difficult to offer advanced, specialized courses); future savings in the budget will be realized by the employment of fewer teachers as schools are closed. Schools will be closed next February for a week but no other scheduling changes are planned.

Foster Mather on behalf of the Economic Development Commission: stated that he is committed to more economic development in town. If any commission members or a commission as a group have any reservations or suggestions, precautions, avenues to pursue or know of any shortfalls in the pursuit of economic development they are requested to contact the First Selectman. Several new members will soon be appointed to this commission and proper directives are essential. He further stated that he is hoping for full cooperation so if there are any reservations to please present them, up front.

William Moore clarified bookkeeping procedures by stating that commissions, etc. have been requested to verify billing statements and that final approval for payment rests with the Board of Selectmen. To further clarify this matter F. Mather stated his personal opinion that verification should be by a majority vote of a board.

Edwin C. Higgins for the Economic Development Commission: new appointments are due on the commission; 2 tracts off route 68 are promising; south end versatility for development is moving in a good way to draw industry.

Ralph Moeller requested firm policy from the Economic Development Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission stating the direction of development of certain commercial areas (i.e. Main Street). Will these commissions encourage full use of these commercial areas or tend to discourage this development. F. Mather assured R. Moeller that he will see that this matter is addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna D. White

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Secretary