



TOWN OF DURHAM

Office of the First Selectman

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
March 19, 1992

Maryann P. Boord
First Selectman

Called to order: 5:32 p.m.

Present: Maryann P. Boord, First Selectman
Francis E. Korn, Selectman
Robert F. Hall, Selectman
Others: Geoffrey L. Colegrove, Town Planner
David Stinson, property owner
Karen Gleason, The Middletown Press
others as noted

David Stinson/Property Purchase

Mr. Stinson revealed his plans to develop 2.3 acres of land he owns at the "V" between Cherry Hill Road and Route 147 by subdividing and creating a pond. He said he fully expects the water supply to be contaminated. He asked the Selectmen if they would consider purchasing his land for the town's use before he puts any money into the plan; suggested a selling price of \$50,000.

G. Colegrove, Town Planner, explained that the process started about a year ago as the DMIAAB discussed buying leachate rights, however, the DMIAAB can't own real estate under their by-laws. The proposal to acquire land, which would be owned jointly by Durham and Middlefield, he continued, was favorably received as a concept by DMIAAB; it would be owned by the town outright, so the town would have total control. He explained that one of the reasons Middlefield had a problem with their joint responsibility was that there is only about a half acre in Middlefield. There is federal pass-through money in outdoor recreation funds. When the town met originally with CCBM owners (property to the south of Mr. Stinson's - across Route 147), there was a definite hindrance to the purchase of any land, in the eyes of the DEP land acquisition unit, with contamination. There has been some interest, on the state level, of a purchase for wildlife management, which affects Mr. Stinson's property, CCBM property, and 2 other properties.

M. Boord suggested getting together with the state people again for an appraisal. G. Colegrove said that the town line creates a zoning division on Mr. Stinson's property; no soils testing has yet been done -- site would not require subdivision approval; has to meet the health code, however. Mr. Colegrove added that about 1 acre is wetlands; the septic area is in sandy soil on the west side of Cherry Hill Road with the well towards the wetland side. He had told Mr. Stinson that the town would have to do an appraisal in

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order to even discuss it and then the appraiser would have to be on a list of DEP-approved appraisers. Mr. Stinson said that all of the land in question is now under open space (490).

Mrs. Boord concluded that the next step is to contact the state and because it is in conjunction with a landfill--must have an agreement with Middlefield.

Amendment to PZC regulations

Explanation furnished by the Town Planner. The amendment, which has to go to town meeting, would require a 3% fee for subdivision roads that the commission approves as private roads. It would be included in the fee structure of land use applications. It has been a loophole until now. Example: private road across from Dr. Willett's house that supports two homes. He concluded that after the amendment is approved, the town would not approve the road.

In related business, it was reported that Mr. Waller is ready for formal approval of Banta Lane, Surrey Drive, and a portion of Crooked Hill Road. Town Counsel's approval is now needed.

Special Town Meeting

MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO HOLD A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ON APRIL 13, 1992, 8:00 P.M., IN THE HIGH SCHOOL, TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING THREE ITEMS: 1) APPROVAL OF BANTA LANE, SURREY DRIVE, AND A PORTION OF CROOKED HILL ROAD; 2) AMENDMENT TO THE FEE ORDINANCE; AND 3) PRESENTATION BY RICK CARROLL, NU, ABOUT TREE TRIMMING; 3 AYES. Bob Hahl said he has heard that if a tree is cut down, NU will replace it with a tree of your choice...any truth to it?

Request for Use of Town Property

A request from Kurt Fischer, CPT, TC, USAR, Commanding, for second annual permission to use the White's Farm area as an alternate assembly area in the event of the mobilization of the United States Army Reserves. The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved his request, but the paperwork will be forwarded to the Conservation Commission.

Tax Refund

MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO GIVE A TAX REFUND TO LEONARD AND ALICE GIEMZA FOR AN OPEN SPACE CORRECTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3.55; 3 AYES.

Memorial Plaque on the Green

M. Boord reported that she has talked to Col. Ariel Platt, who wishes to spearhead a committee to move the honor roll on the green

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away from the trees, to update and correct the roster of names, and add the names of the Desert Storm personnel.

MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO APPROVE THE REQUESTS OF COL. PLATT AS ENUMERATED ABOVE; 3 AYES. The Selectmen's office will check with the Historic District Commission's chairwoman to see if we must make application to them for approval for this work.

Site Visit/Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting

The Board of Selectmen, John Cerreta (Little League President), Al Herzog (former Little League President), Pat Curley (Recreation Committee Chairman), and Sherry Hill (Recreation Director) will meet on March 25th 4:30 p.m. in the Allyn Brook Park area to discuss continued use of the Little League field adjacent to the Park.

Minutes

MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND R. HALL, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 3/5/92; 3 AYES.

Correspondence

1. The town has received two awards from CIRMA: one for injury reduction and one for loss reduction in the auto liability pool.

Amend the Agenda

MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND R. HALL, TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE 1992 PROJECT GRADUATION; 3 AYES.

Project Graduation

MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND R. HALL, TO ENDORSE THE 1992 PROJECT GRADUATION; 3 AYES. A letter will be sent to Board of Education member Kathy Koritko, Chairman of the Committee, advising her that we are pleased to participate in the program and that Mrs. Boord, personally, has greatly enjoyed participating.

Correspondence, continued

2. A letter has been received from Sherry Garcia, Transportation Planner with Midstate Regional Planning Agency, advising Mrs. Boord of the Cash Grants in Aid for the Elderly Transportation; deadline to apply is 4/3/92. The Board agreed that the timing is not right for Durham to participate.

3. Letter to Mrs. Boord from Christopher J. Nytych, local Boy Scout, who expressed his views relating to the current water problem at Strong Middle School, to fulfill one of the requirements for his Citizenship in the Community merit badge.

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4. Notification that unemployment in Durham in January 1992 was 6.8%

5. Letter from the State Traffic Commission, Certificate of Approval for Speed Limits, as follows:

Johnson Lane:

a. from Maiden Lane, easterly, to a point 1,000' west of Haddam Quarter Road, a distance of 0.82 miles, 30 mph;

b. from a point 1,000' west of Haddam Quarter Road, easterly, to a point 1,000' east of Haddam Quarter Road, a distance of 0.38 miles, 25 mph;

c. from a point 1,000' east of Haddam Quarter Road, easterly to Foot Hill Road, a distance of 0.59 miles, 30 mph.

Conservation Commission concerns

Present: Robert Melvin (Chairman, Conservation Commission) and Frank Behrens, Sr. (Tree Warden).

R. Melvin reported that F. Behrens feels he can't handle caring for the town nursery anymore -- so it is open to discussion as to what the Board wishes to do. M. Boord said she has talked to Kurt Bober (Road Foreman) and Tom Fenton (Public Works Director) and it is agreed that the highway department personnel will fill the need. Mr. Behrens advised that the trees should be sprayed with "Roundup." Mr. Melvin added that the Conservation Commission has a line item of \$100 for chemicals to be used for this purpose.

M. Boord also reported that the highway department has been emptying the trash on the White's Farm, when the barrels have not be emptied regularly by the contractor. R. Melvin noted his appreciation, but since he pays for trash pickup, he will talk to the contractor. Mrs. Boord noted that the crew could remove the trash regularly during Fiscal Year 1992-1993, and reduce the Conservation Commission line item by that amount.

Kurt Bober (Road Foreman) joined the meeting and discussed with those present current highway department projects. Mr. Melvin reported that the gates/fences on open space land have continued to be vandalized and also need the help the highway department can give to repair them. F. Behrens added that a bad infestation of japanese bamboo is expected on the banks at White's Farm; it will have to be sprayed with a brush killer. Mr. Melvin also noted that stumps have been ditched on the Caltibiano farm; Kurt Bober explained the "stump problem", i.e., can't take them to the dump anymore, so he has had the men dump them on the town property; he added that the Town Sanitarian had informed him that it is no longer acceptable to bury them. Mr. Melvin said that his concern was that the DEP would say it is unsuitable practice on open space/recreation property. It was mutually agreed that a very

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hidden part of the open space land would be located to pile the stumps, so they can "return to nature."

The discussion moved to road maintenance within the White's Farm. Mr. Melvin explained there used to be money in his account for stone but the Fair Association and Town have taken care of it--he questioned if the town will be taking care of it, as in the past. Mrs. Boord agreed that if the Fair Association continues to buy the stone, the town will continue to use the highway department labor to put it in place.

Mr. Melvin further noted that the town now takes care of cutting back the stream. The item "custodial" in his budget means mowing--his largest line item of \$3,000 to do 3-4 acres. (Breaks down to about \$180 per mow.)

Mr. Melvin told of hunters spilling over from open space land onto neighboring land and wondered if property boundary surveys had recently been done and could they be posted as such--he has money in his budget for signs. Kurt Bober, Road Foreman, explained that we have no in-house staffing to do a boundary survey. M. Boord suggested Mr. Melvin ask either Geoffrey Colegrove, Town Planner, or Tom Fenton, Public Works Director, about this.

Mr. Melvin's last two concerns were 1) the lease for Tony Caltibiano (Town Counsel's input is needed); and 2) incorporating the White's Farm well and Durham Center Water Co. (the concept is fraught with problems).

In conclusion, Mr. Korn asked Mr. Bober if our present mower is capable of mowing the White's Farm fields. Mr. Bober noted that time is a factor, and the machine is inadequate.

Public Comments

Kurt Bober: is concerned that the town appears to be picking on Tony Caltibiano, who is one of the last "farmers" in Durham; we should attempt to salvage the rural characteristics of the town.

Selectmen's Concerns

none

Update from the First Selectman

1. M. Boord said to Rosemarie Naples, Board of Finance member, who was sitting in the "audience" waiting for her own meeting to begin, that the Building Official has told her that the Ambulance Corps floor is in no immediate danger (this was a budgetary concern).

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Budgets

BUDGET CUTBACKS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY AT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 3-19-92

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduced For</u>	<u>By</u>
1012 Selectmen's Exp.	consultants; salary survey can be done by the PPB also dues/meetings	- \$1,000 - 200
1502 Assessor's Exp.	service contracts moved to account #1060	- 880
1505 Middlesex County Soil & Water		- 344
1522 BHE	mileage	- 1,000
2008 EDC	consultants	- 950
2010 Conservation	PWD will pick up trash	- 265
2014 HDC	remove booklet cost	- 1,500
2509 Town Hall Improve.	take amount from Bldg Maintenance Reserve	- 1,685
3002 Cap. Equip. \$28,000 from Allyn Brook amount		- 28,000
3557 Powder Hill Sec/1	eliminate completely use \$80,000 in reserve fund	- 99,585
4001 Civil Preparedness capital equip.		- 1,000
4002 LEPC	cut training	- 200
4015 Dog Fund Transfer	take it all out of the Mary Weber Fund (only this year)	- 6,499
4036 Fire Marshal's Exp.	reduce training and only pay for those who attend sessions which require payment	- 900
4506 DMIAAB	could require our share of +\$15,000 increase in tip fee	
4507 Mental Health Clinic		- 560
4510 General Assistance	expect 80% reimb.	- 4,000

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5002 Library Exp.	mileage	-	200
	payroll	-	2,235
	books	-	1,800
	copier	-	1,228
5502 Recreation Exp. cut the tree trimming exp.		-	1,000
6501 Ambulance Reserve		-	20,000
6502 Fire Co. Reserve		-	25,000

TOTAL REDUCTIONS

-\$ 200,031

Additional notes re budgets:

- a. The Board wishes to check further on the \$3,000 mowing line item in the Conservation Budget;
- b. Re DMIAAB: they are contesting the increase in tipping fees because they (CRRRA) didn't notify DMIAAB that it was increasing the fees 120 days before the end of the contract year.
- c. Library cleaning should go out to bid.

Next Board Meetings

Monday, March 23, 1992, 4:00 p.m to go over budgets.

Wednesday, March 25, 1992, 4:30 p.m. at Allyn Brook Park.

Thursday, March 26, 1992, 7:00 p.m. jointly with Board of Finance.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.