

TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 27, 2012

Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 27, 2012 with Jennifer Scuteri, David Carey, Marc Johnson, and Jeff Hubbard present. Town Manager Michael Lombardo, Police Chief Russell Stevens and Hamilton Police Officer Michael Wetson also present.

Call to order

Chair Jennifer Scuteri called the meeting to order. She read a statement expressing condolences to the Nagy and Lantych families relative to recent tragic incident. Jeff Hubbard mentioned community support for Nagy's two sons.

One-Day Liquor License –HW Community House –March 3, 2012

Scuteri entertained a motion to approve a one-day liquor license for the HW Community House on March 3, 2012. Jeff Stinson so moved. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

One-Day Liquor License –HW Community House –March 15, 2012

Scuteri entertained a motion to approve a one-day liquor license for the HW Community House on March 15, 2012. Marc Johnson so moved. Hubbard seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Vote to set price of Trash Bags for SMART program

Discussion was about setting price for new 16-gallon blue trash bag for SMART program at \$1.00 and existing 32-gallon bag at \$2.00. Town officials believe that there is a six to eight week inventory of existing 32-gallon bags remaining to be sold in Hamilton.

The \$1.75 existing fee and proposed \$2 is low for the 32-gallon trash bag compared to other communities with Pay As You Throw programs that charge as much as \$4 per bag. The Town currently has no projections on bag use. Town Manager Michael Lombardo noted that a 25-cent proposed difference in bag cost would not be a strong motivator for recycling. Hubbard was not in favor of changing the fee for 32-gallon bags.

Scuteri entertained a motion to set the cost of the 16-gallon trash bag at \$1 per bag. Hubbard so moved. Johnson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

The new SMART trash program will start the first week in April. Residents will receive a sturdy reference brochure describing what can be recycled, as well as fees for both Hamilton and Wenham. They will also be sent an envelope with recycling stickers for barrels and two-page mailer. Articles on comingled, single stream recycling will be published in the local press. Grant money will pay for a large percentage of the bins purchased for the program. Information on the SMART program including the cost of trash bags is currently on Town website.

The economics for solar PV

David Carey gave a presentation on economics of solar photo voltaic sources that could be used residentially on house roofs for about \$40,000 and commercially, for instance at Hamilton's landfill site, to convert sunlight into electricity. A seven-acre site could generate 1.4 megawatts of electricity and save Hamilton approximately \$100,000 a year through reduced energy cost. The electricity generated would be distributed by National Grid utility.

Carey noted that there are federal tax benefits as well as state rebates available. The Town would lease the landfill site to a contractor that manages the solar photo voltaic equipment and receives profit from electricity produced while providing electricity to Hamilton at an inexpensive rate. The town of Maynard already has a system up and running.

Discussion on details such as tax credits and the potential percentage of savings available to residents interested in pursuing residential solar sources. In addition to potential solar PV proposal for the landfill, the Town is also investigating an anaerobic digester and wind energy for a possible combined annual revenue of \$500,000. Town officials will educate community about options. The Landfill Committee is focusing on getting the capping of the site completed.

Patton Family Gift Advisory Committee update

Hubbard updated Board on site walk he attended along with Patton Family Gift Advisory Committee members at the Patton property. He noted that attendees toured the home and learned about history of the property while considering possible uses for the site if the gift were accepted by the Town at Annual Town Meeting. There is access to the Ipswich River from the property.

Johnson had also toured the property and mentioned that the setting had many alternatives especially for outdoor uses. The Committee plans to meet every two weeks in subcommittee groups to consider uses for the home, recreational trails and development with the goal of presenting information to public for a vote at ATM. Dates will be set for public forums to discuss the proposed gift. Various options will be discussed to assess if gift would be good for the Town.

Discussion about Gordon College's use of the site, planning that will be done with architects and in regard to landscaping, if there would be any need to apply for Community Preservation Act funds relative to identified expenses and if so, that a warrant article has to be articulated before warrant closes on March 19.

BOS goals

Discussion about ongoing work to sell Town-owned land, FY'13 budget development is on schedule, BOS work session on CIP is scheduled for March 3, facilities committee is drafting RFP based on future of education in regional school district (i.e., mix of science and more languages), future of Winthrop School building, upcoming BOS meeting presentation by Hubbard on CPC request to improve downtown, and whether or not Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary is going to implement teaching Chinese at HWRHS as a service in lieu of taxes.

Other business

Next BOS meetings: retreat on Saturday, March 3 from 8 to 11 a.m. and working session on March 5. Carey described gardening program sponsored by HW Green. There was no public comment.

Scuteri entertained a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.39, Section 23B(3) for the purpose of Litigation Strategy, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's litigation position, not to return to regular session at 7:54 p.m. Stinson so moved. Hubbard seconded motion. Roll call vote: Hubbard, yea, Stinson, yea, Scuteri, yea, Carey, yea, Johnson, yea.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____

Clerk