

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN/LAND USE COMMISSIONS

### Special Meeting

February 21, 2012

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Board of Selectmen members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, Selectman Jon Truskauskas, and Selectman Frank Chiaramonte.

Land Use Chairmen present: Planning Commission Chairman, Michael Orefice, ZBA Chairman, Tom Rontondo, and IWWC Chairman, Bruce Burnett. Absent: Zoning Chairman, Peter Brazaitis.

### Call to Order

Mr. Criss called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

### Agriculture Committee update from Michael Orefice:

Mr. Orefice reported that he established a committee of seven (7) individuals with a wide array of experience in agriculture who are willing to serve. The committee members will be Mike Orefice, Cory Iacino, Steven Camp, Mark Gauger, Mike Audet, Patty Sederquist, Gretchen Mathes, and Brooke Cheney as an alternate. The committee's charge primarily stems from the recent plan of conservation and development with the recommendation that the Board of Selectmen establish an agricultural committee. Their focus will be to identify parcels of land in town that are engaged in agricultural practices. Currently there are approximately 4,500 acres in town that are under 490. They would like to identify any significant parcels worth preserving in perpetuity as agricultural land. They will explore funding options to preserve certain parcels. They would also like to explore preservation options for agricultural lands by utilizing the state community farmland preservation program. They would like to develop an ordinance as it relates to agriculture. They will make recommendations to Boards regarding agriculture and will conduct any other business as directed by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Orefice believes the bulk of the work will be done in the first year. He hopes that after that the committee will continue to meet.

Mr. Criss believes the committee is important and would like to see more compliance with the plan of conservation and development. He also believes that by establishing the committee it sends a message to the farmers that the town takes agriculture seriously and would like the committee to be informational to farmers who may need advice or guidance. He noted he looks forward to the committee bringing new ideas to the table and would like to see a local farmers market in town someday and explore the possibility of local restaurants using local fresh produce. Mr. Criss thanked Mr. Orefice for taking on the project. Mr. Truskauskas suggested working with the newly formed Economic Development Commission to help promote local farming. Mr. Orefice would like to identify the local farmers and possibly put a brochure together to promote the local farmers.

Updates from Land Use Chairmen:

Mr. Criss noted this is an opportunity to discuss anything you're working on or any upcoming projects.

Bruce Burnett reported that IWWC has been very quiet lately. The most recent permit granted was for the expansion of the post office plaza and is looking forward to seeing the LID (low impact development) techniques put in place.

Mr. Rotondo reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals is also slow. They have met once since July, 2011. They have a meeting scheduled for next month.

Mr. Criss reported that the Water Pollution Control Authority has completed the rules and regulations and have forwarded them to the boards in order to inform the WPCA when someone is pursuing an application that is on the line. The Oak Meadow Estates builder has applied for their second project and has paid the fees up front. The WPCA is looking into the Clean Water Fund for the purchase of new meters.

Mr. Criss reported that the Zoning Chairman informed the office that he was unable to attend but hopefully an update will be provided at the next meeting.

Mr. Orefice reported that the Planning Commission has been slow as far as development. He added that public act 11-79 that was passed in the fall poses a problem for bonding so a public hearing is planned for tomorrow evening to revise their regulations in order to better protect the town.

Mr. Criss feels it is important to continue to meet on a quarterly basis to keep everyone updated.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Truskauskas moved to adjourn at 6:26 p.m. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes submitted by Melissa Santoro  
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