



Town of Redding, Connecticut

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes April 21, 2003

Present: Ketcham, Cotton, Miller
Others present: 20 members of the public
Media: Redding Pilot

Mrs. Ketcham called the April 21, 2003 meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: That the Redding Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 17, 2003 as submitted. Cotton, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

MOTION: That the Redding Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 26, 2003 as submitted. Cotton, Ketcham. Approved. 2-0-1. Mrs. Miller abstained.

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST A REFERENDUM VOTE ON THE TOWN BUDGET

The Board of Selectmen were in agreement that the Town's budget be sent to referendum vote.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Redding, pursuant to the provisions of C.G.S. 7-7 amended by P.A. 81-228, voted at a Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Selectmen duly warned and held on April 21, 2003 to submit Item 1, on the call of the Annual Budget Meeting to be held Thursday, April 24, 2003 at 4:30 p.m. E.D.S.T. in the Hearing Room of the Redding Town Office Building to referendum to all persons qualified to vote at said meeting for a vote yes or no on the voting machine during the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. not less than seven (7) days nor more than fourteen (14) days thereafter in accordance with the provisions of section 7-7 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, Revision of 1991. Cotton, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT FEE INCREASE

Health Officer, Doug Hartline, requested a change in the current fee schedule that will reflect the time and effort required in the permitting and soil testing process. Mr. Hartline provided a schedule of neighboring towns and their fees. Redding's fee for new septic would increase from \$150 to \$200; septic repair, from \$60 to \$80; soil test for new lot, from \$50 to \$100; and soil tests-B100A, from \$50 to \$60.

Motion: That the Redding Board of Selectmen accept the recommendations of the Health Officer for the revised fee schedule as submitted, effective June 1, 2003. Cotton, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION OF REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION ON THE DISCONTINUANCE OF CHARLES SANFORD ROAD, VALLEY ROAD, GREENBUSH ROAD, AND MAILCOACH ROAD.

The Board of Selectmen received recommendations for the discontinuance of four roads from the Planning Commission for consideration and to send to a Town Meeting for approval. A petition from 49 of the residents of Greenbush, Little Egypt and Huckleberry Road was received regarding the uses of Greenbush Road should the road be discontinued.

Rob Dean, representing the Planning Commission, stated the aim of the discontinuation of the roads was to curtail activity on the roadways and manage the small amount of use on the property. The Planning Commission has suggested the Conservation Commission be the body to maintain and manage each of the discontinued roads and the Conservation Commission has agreed to accept the responsibility.

Mrs. Ketcham suggested the Selectmen schedule a site walk of all four roads to assess the conditions prior to making a recommendation. The Selectmen asked that a representative of the Planning Commission accompany them on the site walk. The Highway Superintendent will be present to assess the roadway, turn-around, parking options, etc. The site walk was scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2003, beginning at 8:45 a.m. at Greenbush Road. Following that walk, Valley Road, Charles Sanford Road, and Mailcoach Road will be walked.

Margarite Murphy, Little Egypt Road, asked if other uses of the property must be allowed after discontinuation. Mr. Dean responded that, based on legal advice, the Town retains an easement for the uses it chooses to permit.

CONSIDERATION OF TOWN OF REDDING MEMORIAL GARDEN CONCEPT

Mrs. Ketcham presented the concept for a memorial garden concept adjacent to the Town Green. A member of the Garden Club provided a plan for such a garden that included a well that exists in the area being considered. The voluntary project would be created with donations of funding and materials from individuals or groups. The Selectmen were in agreement that the planning for this should go forward.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Hopewell Woods Road: the Highway Superintendent has closed the road at the Town line because the roadway has collapsed and major repairs are needed. Mrs. Ketcham received a petition from some of the neighbors requesting the road be permanently closed at the Town line because of the heavy usage and the speed of the traffic using the road. Mrs. Ketcham consulted with the First Selectmen of Newtown and he was not in favor of closure, but did share a concern for the traffic and speed problems. As a result, the highway superintendents of Newtown and Redding will review options and alternatives, along with associated costs, to make the road safe for drivers and residents.

Mrs. Ketcham also reported the State Traffic Commission is considering the Town's request for no through truck traffic on Poverty Hollow, and they have extended the scope to include Meeker Hill Road, Churchill Road, and Hopewell Woods Road.

2. Annual Art Show: Mrs. Miller announced the annual art show would open on May 1, 2003. The show will celebrate the structures on Redding land—Redding-built. The thanked the Jane Ross and the Art Committee for their work in putting the show together.
3. Web site: Mrs. Miller reported Peter Bonefanti, a resident, is working on a review of the current web site and a plan to make the information more accessible and usable..
4. CL&P: Mrs. Ketcham reported the Siting Council has scheduled a public hearing on April 30, 2003. The Siting Council is reopening the public hearing to consider comments on the alternative plan that was recently agreed on.
5. AT&T cell tower: AT&T proposed a cell tower on two site last fall, but has yet to submit an application to the Siting Council for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

The chair adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Maday, Recording Secretary