



Town of Redding, Connecticut
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2004

Present: Ketcham, Miller, Takacs
Others: four member of the public
Media: Redding Pilot

Mrs. Ketcham called the October 18, 2004 meeting to order at 7:40 pm in the Hearing Room.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: That the Redding Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of the September 20, 2004 Regular Meeting as corrected. Miller, Takacs. Approved. Unanimous.

Corrections: page 1, last paragraph, correct Mr. Degener's name; the Granskog property referred to is the Couch Hill Preserve on Sunset Hill; the portion under discussion was only the wooded area of the north end; page 2, paragraph, change ordinance to regulations—Uniform Traffic Control Regulations; page 2, under administration matters, change Flagg lot to Flag lot on Diamond Hill Road.

DISCUSSION WITH HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

1. Pilot program for traffic calming: Mr. Sanford and Chief Fuchs recommended a plan for traffic calming with the installation speed humps on Hopewell Woods Road and Portland Avenue. Residents on both streets have requested traffic calming methods be implemented. The difference between the speed hump and speed bump were described. The speed hump is wider than the bump, but is effective at slowing traffic. Speed humps have been very effective in Weston, Westport and Norwalk. In addition, Mr. Sanford proposed a speed table, hump with a flat top that can be used as a crosswalk, be installed to serve as the the crosswalk between Town Hall and the parking lot. Mr. Sanford added that improvement work on Hopewell Woods Road has just been completed and the resurfacing is next. This is the best time to install the speed humps.

A long discussion followed. Mrs. Miller asked how the effectiveness of the speed humps fir traffic calming would be measured. She was also concerned about the overuse of speed humps in the future.

It was decided to hold a public meeting and invite the residents of both Hopewell Woods Road and Portland Avenue. The plan for speed humps will be explained and the residents will have the opportunity to express their thoughts on the subject.

2. Permit process for street excavation: Mr. Sanford explained that Redding does not have a permit process for street excavations. The process would include the specifications but also bonding requirements. He reviewed the policies from the neighboring towns. The process applies to many types of excavations, utility lines, cable lines, driveway cuts, road crossings, etc. Mrs. Ketcham suggested that Mr. Takacs and Mrs. Miller review the material, then she and Mr. Sanford would work out a draft policy.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion: That the Redding Board of Selectmen appoint Susan Goldman to the Park and Recreation Commission to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Siobhan Streams for a term ending 6/30/07. Miller, Takacs. Approved. Unanimous.

REAPPOINTMENTS

Motion: That the Redding Board of Selectmen reappoint Dan Carter to the Park and Recreation Commission for a term from 6/04 to 6/30/07. Takacs, Miller. Approved. Unanimous

Motion: That the Redding Board of Selectmen reappoint Steve DiCostanzo to the Park and Recreation Commission for a term from 6/04 to 6/30/07. Miller, Takacs. Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Route 53 Railroad Bridge: Mrs. Ketcham reported the Route 53 railroad bridge would be reconstructed the last weekend of October by DOT. The existing height will be maintained, but additional protective beams will be added along with additional warning devices.
2. Siting Counsel: The Siting Counsel will meet on October 26 to determine the location of the transition station.
3. Redding Athletic Field Committee: Mr. Takacs reported the Committee met with the Planning Commission to discuss the feasibility of athletic field development on the wooded 22.92 acre section of the Couch Hill Preserve on Sunset Hill Road. The Planning Commission gave approval to go forward with a study to determine the number of playing fields that could be developed on the specific portion identified. The Committee recommended another study be done to determine if the site could be used for fields and how many fields could be developed. The Athletic Field Committee previously put the study out to bid, but the bids submitted each contained different specifications and details. The Committee will need to rebid the study, with a better-defined scope of work. Mrs. Miller asked for further information and updated information on the need for additional fields. She provided her questions to two members of the Park & Recreation Commission, who are also on the Redding Athletic Field Committee. She asked why other options were discarded and not included in the proposal. Mrs. Ketcham will request Park and Recreation Director Blick to address the needs and questions at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

4. Land Management Program for Community Center fields: Mrs. Ketcham reported on a meeting held to discuss the Land Management Program for the Community Center fields. Included in the meeting was David Pattee of the Conservation Commission, Zoning Enforcement Office Gormley, a representative of Land Tech, Park & Recreation Director Rob Blick and a member of the Park and Recreation Commission. The fields will be fertilized, but are looking for an integrated pest management program, and use of products that are acceptable to DEP. She added that the meeting was very productive and all are interested in environmental concerns along with the proper maintenance of the fields.
5. Joel Barlow Building Project: Mrs. Ketcham reported she had communicated with the Region #9 Chair encouraging the use of an "owner's representative" to complete the project. In connection with that she stated that the Town of Redding should have a comprehensive ordinance for building projects and building committees. Municipal projects can be difficult and need to be handled in a professional manner. She also added that the legislature recently considered legislation that would allow regional boards to form separate boards of finance. That legislature was not passed, but this could come up again for reconsideration.
6. Joel Barlow Parking lot: Mrs. Ketcham reported that the Redding Highway Department and the Easton Public Works department joined efforts to make the required repairs and corrections to the Joel Barlow High School parking lot. The Zoning Enforcement Officer required the remedial work to be completed by October 15. Due to the difficulties with the Building Project, the Region #9 BOE not the Building Project had the funding to make the corrections. The work included paving, catch basin work, island clean up and curbing, etc. The work was done on October 14 & 15, and approved by the ZEO.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nick Simeonidis: commented that it is imperative that Joel Barlow High School remain open, and that the open issues with the building project not be allowed to distract from the core function of the school.

Peter Bonfanti: comments related to the Barlow Project. (Mr. Bonfanti is a member of the Region #9 Board of Education). He commented that having the operational leader of a project be a committee of volunteers just doesn't work, and that an owner's representative would be most helpful. He thanked Mrs. Ketcham for getting the Highway Department involved in the parking lot project and for contacting the Town of Easton for their assistance.

ADJOURNMENT

The chair adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Maday, Recording Secretary

FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL