



Town of Redding, Connecticut

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2006

Present: Ketcham, Miller, Takacs
Media: Redding Pilot
Public: many people

Mrs. Ketcham called the January 17, 2006 meeting to order at 7:30 pm in the Hearing Room of the Redding Town Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2005 meeting as submitted. Takacs, Ketcham. Approved. 2-0-1. Mrs. Miller abstained.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the December 30, 2005 meeting as submitted. Takacs, Ketcham. Approved. 2-0-1. Mrs. Miller abstained.

NEW BUILDING DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE

Building Official, Jay Hennessey, recommended an increase in building fees. This is the first increase since 1996. Mr. Hennessey was present to review the increases and answer questions. The new schedule will take effect on February 1, 2006

Motion: that the Redding Board of Selectmen approve the Building Department Fee Schedule as presented January 17, 2006. Takacs, Ketcham. Approved. Unanimous.

PETITION FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF NORTH MAIN STREET

A petition was received for the discontinuance of a portion of North Main Street. Richard Gibbons, attorney for GLDC, explained that North Main Street will be relocated to coincide with the relocation of the railroad crossing. This is a part of the approved Master Plan for the GLDC project. The new railroad crossing will be near the Bob Sharp auto facility. Mr. Gibbons had maps to show the change. The plan has been reviewed by the Georgetown Fire Marshall and he is satisfied with the proposed change.

The discontinuance of a road is a matter that is referred to a Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Gibbons will work with Town Attorney Lavelle on legal wording. Mrs. Ketcham will refer the request to the Planning Commission for review. GLDC is also moving forward with the Town of Wilton for the discontinuance of the section of North Main Street that is in Wilton (west of the railroad crossing).

A member of the audience as that the Portland Avenue residents be kept informed of the changes. He was concerned that the closing of the road would create additional traffic for Portland Avenue.

ACTION ON SPEED HUMP POLICY

Tina Miller and Chief Fuchs completed their review and edit of the Speed Hump Policy. The policy includes information on how to request a speed hump, as well as to request the removal of the humps. These requests would be considered once each year, at the March Board of Selectmen meeting.

Motion: that the Redding Board of Selectmen approve the Speed Hump Policy as presented January 17, 2006. Takacs, Ketcham. Approved. Unanimous

ATHLETIC FIELDS UPDATE

Don Takacs provided an update from the Athletic Fields Committee. Mr. Takacs reported he has had a number of communications that he is tracking as part of the review process.

1. RFQ/P is near completion for the use of artificial turf on fields at John Read Middle School, Redding Elementary School and the Community Center. Mr. Takacs reported the artificial turf proposed is quite different from the product of ten years ago. The plastic material looks and acts like grass, without the need for fertilizer, water and cutting. He has documentation that injuries on artificial turf are less than on the traditional grass fields. The RFQ/P draft has been reviewed by Town Planner John Hayes. Mr. Hayes recommended some additional information be included. The process will go forward, with individual requests for each of the field locations.
2. Couch Hill Preserve: Mr. Takacs has had discussion with Vince McDermott of Milone & MacBroom on the information presented in 2003 regarding the area. Mr. McDermott said a survey is needed to assess the actual design, plans & specifications (drainage design, etc), a topographical plan, etc. Mr. Takacs reported that at this time there is not sufficient information to move forward, based on the Milone & MacBroom information provided to the Planning Commission on March 11, 2003. The estimate to complete the work needed to go forward is approximately \$15,000. Wetlands crossing is a key issue and if it is necessary to elevate the crossing of it, the construction would add approx. \$100,000 to the project. Rough estimates to proceed include: Initial fee, to complete preliminary design, \$15,000; Engineering fees, \$35,000; Final design, \$55,000 to \$60,000. Rough estimates to construct two natural grass soccer/multipurpose fields in the Northern, wooded section of the preserve would be \$430,000 to \$680,000. Included in these estimates is a parking area for 60 cars. The higher estimate would include gravel blanket drains and irrigation. All of this information is preliminary, based on completion of a topographical survey and soil evaluation.

Mr. Takacs concluded that the REQ/P for the JRMS, RES & Community Center fields would be ready to go out very soon.

RECESS

The Chair recessed the meeting to attend the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting regarding a Heritage House matter. The meeting recessed at 8:50 pm

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 9:00 pm

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Bulletin board policy: a draft policy for the bulletin boards will be reviewed and considered at the next meeting.
2. Amendment to Internet Policy: the Internet Policy will be reviewed and revisions/amendments will be considered at the next meeting.
3. Random OSHA inspection: Mrs. Ketcham reported the OSHA inspectors were on site last week for a random check. The results were very good, with only a few minor suggestions.
4. Employee insurance waiver: Mrs. Ketcham will ask the Controller to gather information for updating the employee insurance waiver issue.
5. Park & Recreation Commission appointment:
Motion: that the Redding Board of Selectmen appoint Donna Marie Maccio to fill the unexpired term of Tom Morrison. Takacs, Ketcham. Approved. Unanimous.
6. Winter Art Show: Mrs. Miller reported the winter art show will be held on February 7, 2006.
7. Heritage House property line variance: Zoning Board of Appeals considered the request for a six inch variance was denied without prejudice. The ZBA asked that the property line be researched to see if the lot line could be moved six inches closer to the police station and keep the variance that currently exists. This must be done within the next 35 days.
8. Building Committee issues: Mrs. Miller reported that she has had discussion with several residents regarding building committees, and she encouraged others to contact her for further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Maday, Recording Secretary