

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES FEBRUARY 10, 2003

1. Convene the meeting

Chairman Pace convened the Board at 7:05 PM on the above date and introduced the Board members to the audience. Also present Paul Binette, Robert Eastman, Lionel Ingram and William Campbell and Town Manager George Olson.

2. Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meeting of January 27, 2003

It was moved by Mr. Binette, second by Mr. Ingram, to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's meeting of January 27th as written. SO VOTED.

3. Public Hearing – Apple Seeds Daycare Community Development Block Grant

Chairman Pace opened the public hearing at 7:06 PM, and invited Warren Henderson, President of the Rockingham Economic Development Commission to the mic. Mr. Henderson explained that the Community Development Block Grant that funded Apple Seeds was the result of application made by the RECD, with the grant itself coming to the Town. He explained that the new Apple Seeds building on the Hampton Road was up and operating, and that the loan was current. Twenty new jobs have been created as a result of the grant and 100 new day care slots had been opened. Seven employees of Apple Seeds have received financial assistance to continue their education in early childhood development. Mr. Henderson went on to thank the Board of Selectmen and the Town for supporting this very successful project and stated he was looking forward to future successful efforts with the Town.

Mr. Henderson asked for the Board's patience, requesting that he be allowed a moment to refute recent comments printed in the Exeter News Letter describing him as a land developer. He indicated that the only land development he was involved in was projects like Apple Seeds and that with the RECD being a non-profit corporation, he received no income from Apple Seeds or any other RECD project.

Chairman Pace thanked Mr. Henderson and asked if there were any other comments on the grant. There being none he closed the hearing at 7:11.

4. Bid opening – Town Hall Elevator

The chair opened the attached bids. **It was moved by Mr. Binette, second by Mr. Campbell, to turn the bids over to the Town Manager for review and recommendation back to the Board. Mr. Binette stressed the importance of reviewing references on the successful bidder. SO VOTED.**

5. 603 Skate Board Club – request to disband.

Chairman Pace indicted that the President of the Club had asked that the matter be removed from the agenda for this evening.

6. Historic Marker at Gale Park

Chairman Pace asked Mr. Olson to address the agenda item. Mr. Olson reported that the Council on Aging was interested in providing an historic marker at Gale Park. He referred to a letter the Board had received from the Council signed by Chairman Frank J. Kozacka and Robert M. Swasey. He noted that both were present and would like to speak to the matter. Chairman Pace invited them both to the mic.

Mr. Kozacka noted that it had been many years since he had spoken to the Board. He explained the absence of a marker describing the significance of Gale Park. He reminded the Board that Daniel Chester French, the same artist who designed the seated Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial, designed the statue in the Park.

Mr. Swasey spoke to the details of the project, noting once again that there was no identification of the park, and he bemoaned the fact that all of the travelers who pass the Park have no idea of its significance. He stressed the value of such a marker, and read the language proposed for the marker as composed by the Director of the Exeter Historical Society. The cost of the marker, as much as \$600, will be born by the Council on Aging and from private donations. He asked for the Board's support, suggesting that the marker be unveiled on April 24, 2003 at 2 PM.

Mr. Campbell asked where the marker would be located. Mr. Swasey responded that tentatively a site by the new stairs had been selected. Mr. Campbell asked the size of the marker. Mr. Swasey responded that it was 31" by 31".

Mr. Ingram moved, second by Mr. Campbell, that the Town Manager be directed to work with the Council on Aging and to assist in the erection the marker. SO VOTED.

7. Parking on Cass St.

Chairman Pace introduced the topic noting that last year the Selectmen had decided not to act to further control parking on Cass St. until such time as the residents of Cass St. had an opportunity to work with Main St. School to solve their problem. He invited Dr. Ward to the mic. She explained that a delegation from Cass St. had met with Principal Ford at the Lincoln St. School and things were improving, though there were still problems in the afternoons. She suggested the matter remain "on hold" until the spring when the school plans to enlarge its parking lot. The Board agreed to take no action on the matter.

8. Warrant Article promotion by Town Board and Committees -- update

Chairman Pace noted that this matter arose at the last meeting and Mr. Olson had been asked to research the matter. Mr. Olson noted a memo he had prepared following conversation he had with counsel for the New Hampshire Municipal Association. The result of these conversations was an opinion that indicated that public money should not be used to tell the public how to vote, but that a public entity could use private money to this end. He went on to point out that the Conservation Commission had used private money to fund the flyers asking support for Warrant Article 12. He also noted that from the case law described, it was as much a matter of using public money to tell residents how to vote, as it was the importance of insuring that all sides of an issue are heard.

Mr. Eastman stated that he first became concerned over this matter when he read in the Conservation Commission minutes that \$1,000 in public funds was being set aside to promote passage of the article. He has since learned that private money was used to design and mail out the brochures, thus there is no conflict.

He referred to a conversation he had with the Town Manager re the Conservation Commission's web site that calls for passage of Warrant article 12. He asked Mr. Olson if some other group wanted to oppose the passage of warrant article 12 if they could have a link on the Town's web site. Mr. Olson indicated that they could, but Mr. Eastman was not sure that this was a good idea.

Mr. Eastman suggested the brochures that use only private funds should only list the grantors of the funds and not other organizations whose funds were not used for design and distribution.

Mr. Eastman asked if the Conservation Commission had paid for the checklist they used as an address list for distribution of the brochures. Mr. Olson indicated that they had paid for the checklist.

9. Permits.

Mr. Olson read from a permit submitted by the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce requesting that the Bow St. parking lot be used for the Big Truck Display, from 6 AM until 3:00 PM, as part of Winter Fest on February 15.

The Board agreed by consensus.

10. Town Manager's items

Mr. Olson noted that the Town Offices will be closed on February 17th in honor of Presidents Day, that the Board will next meet on March 3 and that the Board will meet in work session on March 10th to go over master plan recommendations. With the help of Selectman Campbell Mr. Olson remembered to remind residents who wished to make a statement for TV associated with any of the warrant articles, that taping is scheduled for 4 PM on the 13th in the Nowak Room.

11. Selectmen's Committee reports.

Mr. Ingram reported on an upcoming meeting of the Rockingham Planning Commission and their request for input on where to place program emphasis this year. Quality and quantity of water was one issue he thought important, as was coordination among towns in the region. He will be in contact with Mr. Olson to determine his thoughts on the matter. Mr. Eastman noted the important upcoming meeting of the Planning Board on Thursday night, and Mr. Campbell reported on the upcoming meetings of the Exeter Development Commission and the Conservation Commission. Mr. Binette thanked those that stepped forward on Saturday to fill positions on the Budget Committee. Chairman Pace thanked everyone who came out Saturday morning to participate in the deliberative session of Town Meeting. He noted an upcoming meeting of the Arts Committee.

12. Public Comment

There being none, **it was moved by Mr. Ingram, seconded by Mr. Eastman, to adjourn. SO VOTED.** Time: 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

George Olson
Town Manager