

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Monday, December 3, 2007**  
**6:00 PM AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

PRESENT: Selectmen James E. Thompson (presiding), Patrick J. Brady, and David W. Barry, Town Administrator Robert A. Weitz and Pamela E. Beall, secretary.

**I. APPOINTMENTS**

There were no appointments with the board.

**II. CITIZEN'S OPEN FORUM**

Resident Mary Ripley, 488 Main Street, and Tony and Mary Polom, 488 Dipping Hole Road, addressed the board. Ms. Ripley reported that the Peace Vigil, a group of residents who gathers in **Crane Park** every Monday evening from 5:00 to 5:30, was concerned by about a man named Rick who came last week and put up 13 signs, with messages such as "kill the terrorists." The peace group moved across the street. Ms. Ripley noted that the group has been doing this for three years and she asked if selectmen could grant some kind of gathering permit which would allow them to continue at Crane Park without interference.

Chairman Thompson indicated that he is interested in the rights of groups to assemble and engage in political campaigning peacefully. He requested Town Counsel opinion relative to the use of Crane Park for such purposes.

**III. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Weitz reported that the permission petitions for **private way snow operations** are being received, with 9 of the 26 roads at the 51% or better mark. Chairman Thompson indicated he would like to review the Wellfleet case, presented in the mail log, with Town Counsel.

Selectmen discussed the Town Administrator's proposal that the town consider additional **insurance for public safety officers**, which might include injuries or catastrophic coverage. At this time the town is self-insured for fire and police injuries, as required by state statutes. Mr. Thompson proposed that pricing be discussed with the Finance Committee.

**IV. SELECTMEN'S UPDATES**

David W. Barry

Mr. Barry asked the status of the Brainard Road traffic study. Mr. Thompson reported that the traffic safety team would be meeting this week and would have some information then.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

Labor Counsel Agreement

Selectmen discussed the continuation of the agreement and payments for services to Labor Counsel. Mr. Weitz asked for Gordon Quinn for a counter proposal to the three year agreement and he offered a one-year agreement, with a higher per-hour charge. Selectmen expressed concern that the hours chargeable against the monthly retainer in the 2007

calendar year were underutilized to the town's disadvantage. The chairman asked that this be held to the next meeting.

Disc Golf Program

Selectmen discussed the proposal for a disc golf program at Crane Hill. Two representatives of the Disc Throwing League were present. Mr. Thompson read high points from the Open Space Plan Committee, which would be incorporated into the town's expectations for the land use.

**MOTION: To grant permission to the Recreation Department to utilize town-owned land at Crane Hill for a disc golf program, in collaboration with the Disc Throwing League, subject to the conditions requested by the Open Space Plan Committee, dated November 29 from chairman Charles Philips. (BRADY, BARRY) Approved 3-0.**

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**VII. LICENSING, OTHER APPROVALS**

Out-of-state vehicle use

Selectmen reviewed without objection a request from Chief Allan Stratton for use of a police vehicle for travel to North Carolina for training of a K9 unit handler and transportation of Ben, the new K9 police resource, back to Wilbraham.

Post Office Park Traffic Improvements

**MOTION: To approve an agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Highway Department, for roadway construction and related work on Boston road and Post Office Park, and that the Chairman be authorized to sign the agreement on the board's behalf. (BRADY, BARRY) Approved 3-0.**

**VIII. MINUTES**

**MOTION: To accept the minutes of November 5 and 13, 2007 as submitted. (BRADY, BARRY) Approved 3-0.**

**IX. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE, SIGNATURES**

Correspondence signed at the meeting is itemized in Attachment A.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION: To into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to real estate negotiations and litigation because discussion in open session may have a**

**detrimental affect on the town's position, and that the board return to open session to adjourn. (BRADY, BARRY) Approved 3-0.**

The Executive Session commenced at 6:30 PM and ended at 7:10 PM.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

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Town Administrator

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James E. Thompson, Chairman

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Patrick J. Brady

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David W. Barry

#### **ATTACHMENT A**

The Board of Selectmen signed the following documents at their meeting on Monday, December 3, 2007:

1. Two copies of agreement with Massachusetts Highway Department regarding town's role in traffic improvements at Boston Road and Post Office Park.