

**Camden Select Board  
Minutes of Meeting  
December 6, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Martin Cates, Vice Chairperson Morgan Laidlaw, John French, Jr., James Heard, Donald White, Town Attorney Kelly and Town Manager Finnigan. Also present were members of the press and public.

*Contents*

**1. Non-agenda items**

- a. Fire Chief Chris Farley thanked the Board for their support of a recent drill in which 56 people participated. He also thanked them for their support of the new exhaust system in the Public Safety Building. The installation is now complete and has made a vast difference in air quality for those who work there. Lastly, Chief Farley asked the Board if they would give the department permission to once again fill the ice rink at the Library, saying that Aqua Maine will again donate the water for the rink. The Board was in agreement that this is something they would like to see the Fire Department do for the town.
- b. Donald White noted that Christmas By the Sea had been a fantastic success: streets were packed and the parade went well.
- c. Morgan Laidlaw said that his family had greatly enjoyed the festivities.
- d. James Heard said that he had met someone who had known Pat Finnigan previously and that this person had complimented her, saying that she was a very hard-worker.

**2. Request by the Planning Board to establish a Comprehensive Planning Committee to review and update the Town's Comprehensive Plan.**

Planning Director Steve Wilson said that the Planning Board is recommending that the Select Board appoint a 9-member Comprehensive Planning Committee comprised of 5 members of the Planning Board and 4 members of the public. The idea, he said, would be that not all Planning Board members need to be involved in all section of the board's work. Since the board believes the review will take approximately three years, the intent would be to complete the work in time to present it to the June 2015 Town Meeting.

John French suggested tabling this item so as to open it to the general public, as more people may come forward. Steve Wilson confirmed that they are not under a tight deadline. Donald White proposed that a group representing the Planning and Select Boards get together along with the Town Manager prior to the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the composition of the Comprehensive Planning Committee, its long-term goals, and how to involve members of the community.

*Donald White moved that the Select Board table the Comprehensive Planning Committee process until the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board, and that an outline be proposed by a group representing the Planning and Select Boards along with the Town Manager addressing the goals of the Comprehensive Planning Committee. John French seconded this motion and it was unanimously approved.*

**3. Approval of capital lease agreement with Oshkosh Capital to finance the purchase of a new replacement fire truck for a term of 7 years at 3.28% interest.**

Town Manager Finnigan reviewed for those present that at the Special Town Meeting on November 8, citizens had voted to approve the supplemental budget authorizing the purchase of a replacement fire truck for \$524,262, with \$110,000 coming from the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund, and financing the balance (\$414,282). Staff is proposing that financing be

through the manufacturer and recommended a seven-year term at 3.28% as opposed to a 10 year term at 4.03%. Total savings resulting from the shorter-term lease would be approximately \$40,000.

*John French made a motion to enter into a lease purchase agreement with Oshkosh Capital to finance the purchase of a fire truck for 7 years at 3.28% interest. Morgan Laidlaw seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.*

**4. Report of the Community Economic Development Advisory Committee (CEDAC), the Housing Committee, and the Parking, Traffic and Transportation Committee.**

Town Manager Finnigan said that while CEDAC has met with the Housing Committee, they have not yet been able to meet with the Parking, Traffic and Transportation Committee and that there is currently just one member. CEDAC is requesting an extension of time to submit its report and recommendations, and they believe they will have a report by early January.

*John French made a motion to receive the progress report from CEDAC and approve their request for a time extension to report their final recommendations by January 30. Donald White seconded this motion which was unanimously approved.*

**5. Report of the Planning Board and the Conservation Committee.**

Planning Director Steve Wilson reported that the Planning Board and Conservation Committee had met several times to discuss their respective roles and how to coordinate efforts. He said that the Planning Board would like to continue working with the Conservation Commission especially on site plan review aspects and comprehensive planning. He said that the Planning Board feels it would be ill-advised to chain the commission to the planning board as they have ties with many committees working on behalf of the town. He added they are a very dedicated group and have given the Planning Board a great deal of valuable input.

Bob Gassett spoke about the mission of the Conservation Committee as it relates to the Comprehensive Plan and reported that the commission has been working with a variety of groups and committees regarding the various aspects of their work.

*John French made a motion that the Board accept the recommendations of the Planning Board and ask the Town Attorney to work on clarifying the role of the Conservation Committee. Donald White seconded this motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

**6. Reports of the Parks & Recreation Committee and the Pathways Committee.**

Ray Andreson reported that both the Parks & Recreation Committee and the Pathways Committee are recommending that the Pathways Committee become a subcommittee of Parks & Recreation. If this action is approved by the Select Board, Pathways would assign a member to attend the Parks and Rec Committee meetings to ensure there is good communication and coordination of efforts. The Pathways liaison would be a non-voting member of Parks & Rec.

Town Attorney Kelly noted that the term “subcommittee” generally refers to a committee formed of people who are members of the overall committee, rather than being comprised of

members of a different committee. The idea in this case is essentially to have a liaison relationship between the two committees.

*Morgan Laidlaw made a motion to receive the report and to support the Pathways Committee and the Parks and Recreation Committee in each naming a liaison for the purposes of communication and reporting between the committees. John French seconded this motion. The motion The motion was unanimously approved.*

## **7. Committee Appointments**

### **A) Camden Conservation Committee – 4 regular vacancies; 1 reappointment**

*Applicants:*

- Carla Ferguson, 58 Rawson Avenue (reappointment)
- John Evrard, 30 Thomas Street
- David Kern, 27 Bald Mountain Road
- Robin Kern, 27 Bald Mountain Road
- Barbara Melchiskey, 26 Curtis Avenue

*John French made a motion that the Board approve the above slate with the following terms: Robin Kern (2012), David Kern and John Evrard (2013), and Carla Ferguson and Barbara Melchiskey (2014). Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion.*

Discussion: Chairperson Cates commented that at some point the board ought to consider the question of how many members of one household should serve on the same committee.

*The motion was unanimously approved.*

### **B) Cemetery Association – 1 regular vacancy**

*Applicants*

- Jeffrey Weymouth 93 Washington Street

*John French made a motion that the Board approve the appointment of Jeffrey Weymouth to the Cemetery Association. Donald White seconded this motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5-0-0.*

### **C) Camden Rockport Pathways Committee – 1 regular vacancy & 3 alternates**

*Applicants*

- Geoff Scott (regular reappointment)
- Donna Ames, 2 Trim St. (reappointment as alternate)
- Jane Self 145 Washington St (appointment as an alternate)

*Martin Cates made a motion that the Board approve the slate as presented. John French seconded this motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

### **D) Gateway 1 Corridor Coalition – 1 regular member, 1 alternate**

- Donald White - regular member
- Anita Brosius-Scott - alternate

Donald White offered background information on the Gateway 1 Implementation Steering Committee which lost its state funding in March and which currently serves as an advisory group amongst the 15 communities still active in the program. Financial assistance has been offered by the Mid-Coast Economic Development District and the group will be working with regional planning organizations on implementing goals contained in the original Gateway 1 Corridor Action Plan.

*John French made a motion that the Board approve the slate as presented. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4-0-1 (Donald White abstaining).*

**8. Significant Tree Inventory at Ragged Mountain Report submitted by the Conservation Commission (informational).**

Doug Johnson of the Conservation Commission provided background information on the report and commended everyone involved in the project. He noted that it had been successful due to the team effort and that Jeff Kuhler has been very accommodating throughout the work.

**9. Approval of Lodging and Victualer's License for the Lodge at Camden Hills.**

*John French made a motion to approve the Lodging and Victualer's License for the Lodge at Camden Hills. Donald White seconded this motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5-0-0.*

**10. Approval of the 2012 Meeting Schedule**

There was discussion regarding conflicting dates and possible changes in the schedule.

*Donald White made a motion to table approval of the 2012 meeting schedule pending further research on dates. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5-0-0.*

**11. Select Board Member Reports**

- a) Donald White had attended the Planning Board meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>. At the meeting the board established an outline for their sign working group and appointed members to participate in the group. Driveways and private ways will be addressed at their next meeting, and they will continue to discuss the Comprehensive Plan Committee makeup. The Planning Board will perform a site review for the Pathways project at the tannery site prior to the submission of the grant application to fund the work.
- b) James Heard had attended the Affordable Housing Committee meeting. He reported that three homes are complete and one is in the process of being completed. The committee is looking into whether a time limit can be extended on a \$300,000+ federal grant so that that money can still be used.

**12. Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Finnigan invited Fire Chief Farley to the podium, saying that the fire department had been given a gift that the board would need to accept. Chief Farley said that the department

had received a gift from the Boston Foundation in the amount of \$1000 in recognition of a couple whose Mountain Street apartment burned on June 1<sup>st</sup>. This was an anonymous gift in their honor commending the work of the fire department that day. The Chief's recommendation was to accept the gift and apply it to the purchase of a thermal imaging camera which is part of the 2012 capital plan.

*John French made a motion that the Board accept the gift of \$1000 and approve Chief Farley's recommendation. Donald White seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

The Town Manager reported that she had attended the monthly meeting of the fire department and enjoyed meeting the members of the department all of whom are very committed to the community. She commended the work of the Fire Chief.

Town Manager Finnigan presented information on how some other Maine communities are handling the issue of the sale and use of consumer fireworks. She clarified that the new state law allowing this does not concern professional fireworks displays. Chief Farley clarified procedures that are followed when the State Fire Marshall's office issues a permit for a professional fireworks display. The Town Manager recommended that the question of whether or not to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks in our community be placed on the agenda for the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the board. The board suggested that staff proceed with preparations on this issue so that it could be addressed on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjournment**

*Morgan Laidlaw made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm. Donald White seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Brace  
Recording Secretary