Town Council Meeting
DRAFT Minutes
November 25, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call

Councilors Anderson, Mahoney, Orestis, Goldberg, Farber and Pierce were present and answering roll call.

Councilor King was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Pierce led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 1 Public Forum

Mike Doyle of Shady Lane said there are only 4 authorized users for the police boat while there are 70 authorized users for the fire trucks. He argued for more authorized users for the police boat. He thought it should be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Mark Porada of Spoondrift Road, president of the Library Board of Trustees, answered some questions posed by Councilor Anderson during the Library's presentation at the last Council meeting. The architects have looked at smaller footprints, including a second story, and concluded that it would not be an option. Since 2004 the Library has had 9 separate plans from 4 architect firms; all have concluded that the library cannot expand on the current site without adding adjacent property. The public has been very clear that they want a drop-off area in front of the library but that would eliminate 10 parking spaces. Purchasing the abutting property will allow them to expand parking to compensate, lead to better traffic flow control, and provide for parking expansion in the future. Closing off the Depot Road entrance would add a couple spaces, but they would have to create a hammerhead turnaround to allow people to leave the parking lot. He said a complete version of this response will be posted to the library website.

Item 2 (a) (Consent Agenda) **Order to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2013, Town Council Workshop Meeting.**

Item 2 (b) (Consent Agenda) **Order to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2013, Town Council Special Meeting.**

Item 2 (c) (Consent Agenda) **Order to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2013, Town Council Meeting.**

Councilor Goldberg moved the consent agenda; Councilor Farber seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Item 3 Report from Council Committees and liaisons regarding updates on assignments.

Councilor Orestis announced that Mel Dickenson will be leaving his place on the Conservation Commission at the end of December. He has volunteered for the Town since 1998, and spent 10 years as chair of the Conservation Commission.

Councilor Mahoney said LMAC has met since the October 28 open space tour and have made progress on the land management plans. There was an article recently in the Press Herald about the trail system in Falmouth. LMAC will have a presentation for the Council on December 9.

Councilor Anderson said the Veterans Memorial Committee has been working for about a year and have finalized a design and selected a location. They will come before the Council soon to share their findings and recommendations. The FEIC is sponsoring the Shop Falmouth weekend December 6-8; it will include childcare provided by Community Programs. The CDC is meeting about the Route 1 project; they are hoping to get final costs soon.

Councilor Goldberg spoke about the recent School Board meeting, at which the boys' varsity golf team and the varsity volleyball team were recognized for their state champion titles. Abby Mitchell, a senior who suffers from cystic fibrosis, was recognized for her participation on the cross country team.

Councilor Farber reminded the Council that they will meet at the Library on December 9 at 5:15pm for a tour of the building. The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 18 at 4pm. She, Councilor King, and Nathan Poore met with PACTS to learn more about applications for funds that are available.

Chair Pierce said the ad-hoc Zoning Committee has been looking at an investment in software to make the ordinance more user-friendly. They will begin work on the zoning language soon. She congratulated the U14 8th grade boys' soccer FYSA team for winning the state title.

Item 4 Report from the Appointments Committee and order relative to filling various vacancies on Boards and Committees.

Councilor Farber said the Committee hopes to have nominations ready on December 9.

Item 5 Council consideration and endorsement of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for Food Pantry renovations at Town Hall.

Chair Pierce explained that the Town has the opportunity to apply for a grant to fund renovations at the food pantry. This would be a matching grant, so it would require Town funds as well.

Chair Pierce opened a public comment period; no public comment.

Councilor Anderson moved the order; Councilor Mahoney seconded.

Chair Pierce wondered about the food pantry, as a 501 c3, helping to meet the match as part of the project.

Motion carried 6-0.

Item 6 Determine priorities and assignments for Year 1 (2013-14) Comprehensive Plan Implementation.

Councilor Farber wondered about pushing out the bike/pedestrian item until the regional work that is currently ongoing on that topic is completed.

Councilor Orestis thought they should look at all the projects seeking funding from the fund balance together in a comprehensive way.

Councilor Anderson felt they should have more discussion about how to develop the proposed economic development plan. He wondered if there should be an ad-hoc advisory committee around this instead of relying on the FEIC solely. Chair Pierce agreed.

Councilor Farber was concerned about pushing off the Route 100 project in order to do the economic development plan. The work on Route 100 has been delayed a long time; if they are going to postpone items, she would like them to do it intentionally.

Chair Pierce didn't think they should put off Route 100. She felt they could get moving on that with a committee, possibly including an FEIC member and a CDC member. She wanted to look at addressing small lots that are constricted by current district zoning. She thought LPAC could take this project on now that the comprehensive plan is complete.

Councilor Mahoney wanted to see the list grouped together by subject and then prioritize each item within its grouping.

Councilor Farber advocated for putting LPAC to work right off and she agreed with Chair Pierce's suggestion of a project for them.

Theo Holtwijk, Director of Long-range Planning, thought it would be helpful to revisit this a few times in the next 6 months. He thought the regional bike/pedestrian work will be done within the next few months. He spoke about the organization of the list; it was arranged to coincide with the Council's work plan instead of along the themes of the comprehensive plan.

Town Manager Nathan Poore suggested that they can review and re-group this list every year when they review the Council's work plan.

The consensus of the Council was to assign item #24 to LPAC.

Item 7 Review of the Street Acceptance Ordinance, Connectivity Policy and acceptance procedures.

Mr. Poore discussed the recent history of the street acceptance ordinance. It was amended in 2010 to modernize the street standards and require interconnectivity between streets.

Councilor Anderson asked about the desired connectivity.

Mr. Poore said they want through streets – streets that connect one public road to another. Dead end streets could be considered for acceptance if they access amenities like open space or water, or if there was the potential for a paper street to be built in the future.

Councilor Farber asked about the creation of streets.

Mr. Poore said all roads are developed as private; they can only become public if accepted by the Town Council.

Councilor Mahoney said there is a difference in the construction of a road that is intended as a public street as opposed to a private road. Keeping it private would allow a road to be built to a lesser standard, decreasing the cost of the development.

Chair Pierce said that often homeowners want their roads to be accepted later because they have to pay to have it plowed while also paying the same amount of taxes as someone on a public road.

Councilor Mahoney spoke about the connectivity policy; connected streets and ways are important and he thought it was an important message to send to developers.

Mr. Poore said they would look at both cost and value in regards to connectivity; the potential for future connectivity is also something to look at.

Councilor Farber wondered if school busses will travel on private roads.

Amanda Stearns, Community Development Director, said that there are certain instances, mainly depending on how well it is maintained, where the school bus will go on to private roads, but it is typically not the case.

Item 8 Order to go into executive session to discuss a hardship abatement of taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 841 (2) (E).

Councilor Goldberg moved the order; Councilor Farber seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

The Council entered executive session at 8:00 pm. They returned from executive session at 8:30 pm.

Councilor Farber moved to deny a hardship abatement of taxes; Councilor Anderson seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Adjourn

Councilor Mahoney moved to adjourn; Councilor Anderson seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Tryon
Recording Secretary