

## **Minutes: Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, December 19, 2011**

Present: Chairman Walter F. Alterisio, Daniel F. Devlin, Clerk and Procurement Officer and Member Kenneth J. Leva

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with all members present. Jim Tully visited and Chairman Alterisio advised on his conversation with town counsel and one item mentioned was Jim's reference to letter between Kevin Chenelle president of Groton Dunstable Soccer Club and Brian Locapo as chairman of Recreation. Jim advised that he planned to ask BOS before approaching his board. Chairman Alterisio recalled the arrangement noting he'd been part of the process – he noted at the time Groton was having some problems as Cow Pond wasn't in the best of conditions, they basically wanted to invest in our program and for that had initially asked for control of the property for that debt. He called it was our understanding that could surely expect full consideration but would work with Recreation who would extend consideration when it didn't conflict with other scheduling. Fact is, 12 years had passed, would hope there is still a good relationship between Groton Soccer Club and Recreation here in town but arrangement was not meant in perpetuity, may be a letter of understanding, but property of the Larter Field remains and will continue to remain under the control of the Board of Selectmen even to the exclusion of the Recreation Committee. His sense is this was simply a guidance letter of understanding, not meant to be forever and ever; things come up. Chairman Alterisio indicated he and that board would encourage GDSC & Parks & Recreation group to come together, review the property and make assessment on what needs to be done and reach an agreement for the future. He indicated could also put together program as to how it's going to get financed; but all groups need to come together. Chairman Alterisio will invite leadership of the GDSC and Parks & Recreation group to a meeting. Jim advised he cares what's right or wrong and what should be done; comes down to Parks gets \$10K a year for Larter, baseball gives \$2K. Had a meeting with Dana about what can be done, came up with suggestions for signs but no-one wanted to go that route. DYAA won't show books.. Chairman Alterisio is looking for an assessment of the facility and look at who uses the facility and how to fund the maintenance, etc. in the future. Jim advised the more the facilities are used, the more maintenance required. Chairman Alterisio would like to separate the facility from the funding. Board members noted that already have the assessment of funding required to maintain. Now that are all on same page, GDSC with the highest amount of usage, what will they, or can they, contribute toward the maintenance. Jim advised he doesn't want to create hard feelings with GDSC as they've done what they agreed to, which is nothing. Chairman Alterisio noted one of the

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things that wasn't addressed well when we took the project on, was that there was a maintenance issue, it was overlooked. Selectman Leva indicated the \$60K that was paid by GDSC works out the \$5k per year so far. Jimmy indicated one of the big problems is that the agreement states that the field is for exclusive use of GDSC and exclusively for soccer and nothing else, even when it isn't being used. Jim advised what stimulated this for him, is when they got girls lacrosse behind Swallow, GDSC indicated they might let them occasionally use field 2 when it wasn't being used, but can't letter it. Jim's point is year after year are we going to have to go to them to ask for money, doesn't make sense; should be set figure that they're responsible for each year to maintain the facility. Jim advised his cousin runs the Portland baseball pays 60% of the maintenance for the fields, shouldn't be on the back of the taxpayers. Chairman Alterisio – we've got to come up with maintenance budget for the fields and then go to Finance with figures. Every year costs go up and must make arrangements to cover costs. Jim advised that he spent 2 days this year with his own aerating equipment getting ready for slice seeding fields. Chairman Alterisio recalled the arrangement and agreed soccer group was gracious with making the offer and we've worked to accommodate for the period so far. Jim advised not trying to be troublesome, but someone's got to be devil's advocate, it's not right for the town to continue to pick up the cost for someone else's use...need to have participation from all involved.

Jim advised that he, Selectmen Leva and Chief Downes had meeting Wednesday with Chief relative to circus on the Town Common – Circus Smirkus, a non-profit youth acrobatic circus out of Greenfield VT. He indicated where the carnival doesn't happen anymore, they reached out to them as a board to investigate possible revenue. Has permission from Brian West to drive through his lot for access to back field; minimum shows is 4 shows over 2 days. Ultimately Town would get all the ticket sales. The only problem he's having right now is they require deposit of \$8500 which is one show cost. He advised that town can't take it out of general funds without going to town meeting 1<sup>st</sup> – they have a revolving account with probably close to that. Fire Chief was fine with it – haven't had any opposition. Chairman Alterisio advised on experience from Summerfest – numbers look close. Jim advised on some of his research into arrangements for police coverage for the shows, but Chairman Alterisio advised the collective bargaining agreement has some conditions which preclude use of others for traffic details. Jim advised that he thinks this would help with some of the youth programs in town. He welcomed the board to look them up on the website – 4 shows is their minimum for the 2 days. He advised

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that in May they have a mailer that goes out to ticket customers. Chairman Alterisio advised these kinds of numbers aren't that big a deal – had 5,000 on the common for some of the battles of the bands. They'll be meeting with Police Chief on Wednesday @1PM.

Minutes of 12/12 were approved as written after motion by Ken, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Devlin and vote with all in favor.

Chairman Alterisio advised that Wednesday, he will convene meeting of Governance Committee @3PM, see to the election of Chair & Secretary and charging of committee, reminding them of the conflict of interest and ethics training requirements, open meeting, etc.

Chairman Alterisio advised he'd scheduled 10:30AM on 12/27 to review applications that have come in for accounting positions with Dick Choate, Bonnie Ricardelli & Dana Metzler to whittle down to candidates they'd like to interview. Board made plans to meet with Chief on Wednesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> at 11AM. Post for 27<sup>th</sup> @10:30 as well as 28<sup>th</sup> for 11AM with Chief working session- police budget.

Chairman Alterisio noted request for banner for town resident returning from Afghanistan – welcome home. Board approved as to content, will forward on to BORC for their approval.

Chairman Alterisio spoke on the meeting looking at options for Fire Chief's replacement; that if we're suggesting the number that Chief Rich rolled out on the table are going to have to take a look at issue of whether we're sold that we now need a full time chief. Selectman Devlin indicated he's given it a lot of thought, kinda torn that luckily we haven't had a lot of fires; Chairman Alterisio indicated not all fires – a lot of things come up in town, first responders are first on scene, police also there. Discussion continued on time that's been put into it – can't put price tag on service we've been provided over the years. Basically have had a full-time chief without the cost; need to look at position – have been given the opportunity to see what a full-time chief does for the town, is it something that we feel the town clearly needs, can we support it. Have a line item in budget that needs to be agreed upon; definite difference between full-time Chief Rich and full-time anyone else. If going to go this route, must have job description and be prepared to support the number, and come up with some good reasons why this is the approach we're recommending...professional services cost money; whether it's a full-time fire chief or administrator, definite impact on budget. Selectman Leva &

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Selectman Devlin will research job descriptions and Chairman Alterisio will look at website to see what towns are paying their fire chiefs.

Miscellaneous items: Secretary will contact town counsel to advise support for letter with exception of last paragraph. Boards also briefly discussed conditions of Pine and Maple Streets, noting that two of the members have visited the area and agree it's clearly something that needs to be addressed. Chairman Alterisio indicated might look at options presented @town meeting for all town roads in previous years like grading road and returning to dirt roads for lesser maintenance costs.

Selectman Devlin reported on his discussions with Frank Schmidt from Charter Communications, research done and recommendations for equipment that will provide for broadcasting meetings over the cable channels.

Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed and the meeting adjourned at 8:10PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,  
Board Secretary