

Selectmen's Meeting
June 26, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Monday, June 26, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Chairman Krieger, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Pagett, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Manz; Mr. Valente, Town Manager; Mr. Lahey, Town Counsel; and Ms. Pease, Executive Clerk were present.

Selectmen Concerns and Liaison Reports

The Selectmen scheduled an additional Goal Setting meeting for Tuesday, July 18, 2006 at 8:30 a.m.

Town Manager Report

Mr. Valente invited the Selectmen to attend the neighborhood meeting to discuss the DPW Facility plans scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

Mr. Valente met with LexMedia regarding long-term space needs. LexMedia also wants to schedule programming 2 to 3 months in advance and asked if the Selectmen could think about what meetings they want scheduled farther in advance starting in the fall.

Commitment of Water/Sewer Charges

Ms. Fournier, a member of the Ad Hoc Water and Sewer Rate Study Committee, asked if a supplemental audit had been done on reserves. Mr. Valente responded that the auditors verified the available information but were not asked to do additional work. The Selectmen will add the topic to the goal setting agenda for discussion.

Ms. Fournier asked about when rate setting would be this year and wants to see changes in the rate escalation levels this year. The Committee would like to receive information ahead of time in order to review. The Selectmen will consider the request and will prioritize their recommendations prior to the rate setting which will take place in the fall.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the following Commitments:

Commitment of Water/Sewer Charges for May 2006 (Final Bills)	\$1,404.02
Commitment of Water/Sewer Charges for Town-wide bills--Section 1 Revised (Spring)	\$1,881,092.84

Discussion of FAR with Planning Board

Wendy Manz, Charles Hornig, Anthony Galaitis, Richard Canale, and Greg Zurlo, members of the Planning Board, and Maryann McCall-Taylor, Planning Director, joined the Selectmen's meeting to discuss floor area ratio (FAR).

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The Planning Board feels the idea to increase FAR is desirable, but it is only one piece of a very large puzzle that includes many things, including transportation and traffic issues. The Planning Board suggests reaching out to property owners and see if there could be some tradeoffs that would include sustainable design for future improvements.

Selectmen would like to see some analysis, including what other communities are doing, before reaching out to property owners. This is an opportunity to reduce homeowners' tax burden and increase sustainable design.

The 2020 Vision Committee would be interested in participating in the analysis.

Questions were raised about what the role of an Economic Development Officer would be and whether he/she would work on the center businesses or larger developments outside of the center.

The Planning Board and Selectmen agreed that a group be formed that would include members of the Selectmen, Planning Board, property owners, and the Economic Development Officer to discuss what data is needed and to work with staff on the best way to collect data.

Human Services Committee

Robert Dentler and William Blout, past and current Chair of the Human Services Committee, presented a report to the Selectmen regarding disconnected Lexington residents, who are defined as those who cannot meet their basic needs. Interviews were carried out with agencies in Lexington and surrounding towns.

Lexington based services include the Department of Social Services, Food Pantry, Housing Assistance Board, Housing Authority, Fire Department, Board of Health, Police Department, High School and Clergy Association.

Out-of-Town services include Bristol Lodge for Women, Mass. Department of Transitional Assistance, REACH, Community Day Center, Career Place, Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center, several food programs and pantries, Legal Services provided by the South Middlesex Legal Services Agency and the Senior Citizen Law Project of the Greater Boston Legal Services Agency.

The following conclusions were made: between 150 and 300 Lexington residents and transients draw annually on about 20 government and charitable agencies for assistance of some kind; food/meals are in high demand and rising annually; there is substantial unmet demand for affordable housing; houses of worship in Lexington help about 50 persons each year with funds, clothing and food; and coordination is fragmented and weak.

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The following recommendations are suggested:

1. Social Services should prepare and disseminate a booklet describing services to orient all town personnel and school officials and to be used by persons in need;
2. A phone line should be installed that will connect callers directly to the Department of Social Services;
3. Establish a planning group to work on where to place homeless persons and households when the Battle Green Inn is demolished.
4. Social Services should initiate a regionally coordinated collaborative approach with surrounding town agencies and units;
5. School district needs to provide after-school transportation; and
6. Disconnected youth in Lexington are in need of a youth center for after school activities.

Mr. Blout stated that the Youth Services Council is addressing the present youth needs and will be presenting information to the Selectmen in the fall.

Mr. Cohen believes the booklet describing services could be accomplished easily and that it is important for all departments to know where to send requests.

Mr. Manz asked for additional information on the after-school transportation needs and suggested that Gail Wagner, Transportation Coordinator and the Transportation Advisory Committee be contacted for suggestions to accomplish this need.

The Selectmen believe some resources will be needed to accomplish the recommendations but they will look to see what can be accomplished.

Council on Aging Survey Results

Marian Cohen, Chair of the Council on Aging (COA), presented report findings of three surveys conducted by the COA in the fall of 2003. The three surveys were sent to: residents aged 50 and older in Lexington, program participants, and program providers.

Conclusions of the survey to residents aged 50 and older showed that there is widespread interest in the programs, services, and activities offered at the Senior Center and that interest and participation would increase with more, and better, space and with more convenient days and hours of operation, including evenings and weekends.

Conclusions of the survey to program participants showed that the participants were dissatisfied with the physical space and environment in the current Senior Center.

Conclusions of the survey to program providers showed enthusiasm for the clients and programs offered. They were able to identify space issues that limited ability to provide the best program possible.

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Ms. Cohen concluded by saying the current center is inadequate for current needs and a new center needs to be addressed now.

Mr. Cohen wondered if the senior population would vote yes on an override for a new senior center and for the additional funds needed to keep the center open in the evenings and on weekends.

Ms. Cohen says there is no way to predict but the COA would work hard to raise some of the necessary funds and getting the word out to residents on the importance to vote yes on an override.

The Selectmen will be considering the siting of a facility and felt the survey results would be useful documents. There needs to be discussion on what programs are needed for all ages.

Mr. Manz felt it was time to have discussions with Hayden on ways they may be able to help the community.

Ms. Terzian requested that the Selectmen look into providing meals to seniors at the senior center.

Ms. Cohen will provide the Selectmen with information on the number of residents that come to the Senior Center and how often.

Mr. Edwards, Precinct 4, spoke about the very important service the Fix-It Shop provides and its need for a larger space.

Tourism Committee Report

Ms. McKenna, Chair of the Tourism Committee, came before the Selectmen to discuss Battle Green Guides, Year End for the Liberty Ride, and Signage.

Signage

The Tourism Committee has been working on new signage for many years and has gone through the appropriate channels for approvals, including the Historic Districts Commission (HDC). HDC would like to see the overall number of signs in the center reduced and the Tourism Committee agreed to try to do that. They are pulling all parties involved together and will come back to the Selectmen for signage changes. Selectmen requested that anti-idling and bike signs be included in the plan.

Battle Green Guides

The Battle Green Guides are covering the Battle Green every day all day and have been very successful. Currently for guided tours the cost is \$50 of which \$25 goes to the guide and \$25 goes to the tourism gift account. For FY2007 the money can no longer go into a gift account. The Tourism Committee requests that the Selectmen consider including a line item in the

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budget to account for these fees that could be used to buy costumes and badges for the guides.

Another concern that the Tourism Committee has and is keeping an eye on is Battle Green tours given by bus companies and Lexington residents. The concern is whether the information the guide gives is accurate and also the Battle Green Guides are considered ambassadors of the town.

Liberty Ride

Mr. Manz will be abstaining from any votes regarding the Liberty Ride.

Ms. McKenna thanked several people who have been instrumental in making the Liberty Ride a success. They included John Ott, National Heritage Museum, Bill Scouler, Richard Canale and especially Marsha Traber. This is the 5th year the Liberty Ride has been in operation.

Ms. McKenna has worked with Michael Young, Budget Officer on the Liberty Ride operating budget. As of June 30, 2006 the Liberty Ride has made a profit of \$4,305.89.

There is some income (\$4,185,000) that will not be received until after June 30. Because of this the Tourism Committee requests a vote to allow money that is in the Liberty Ride Selectmen's Gift Account to be transferred to the general fund to cover any deficit.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted 4-1 (Manz abstained) to authorize reimbursement to the Town General Fund Economic Development Line from the Liberty Ride Selectmen's Gift Account up to \$5,786.84 to cover any remaining deficit as of June 30, 2006 for the Liberty Ride.

The Tourism Committee will continue fundraising efforts for the Liberty Ride.

Lexington is part of the Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau. They have put together a packet on their advertising. Lexington receives a heads-on-beds tax from this advertising. The Tourism Committee, in the future, may request that the heads-on-beds tax go into tourism efforts.

Marrett Road/Waltham Street Intersection Improvement Project

Ms. Krieger and Mr. Kelley attended the hearing on the project that was held on June 13, 2006. A letter has been drafted to MassHighway that includes two improvement requests aired at the June 13 hearing: to include a counter with pedestrian signal and ornamental fixtures. The letter also asks Mass Highway to be cognizant of the proposed improvements for Marrett Road and Spring Street.

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Mr. Kelley requested that a third improvement be included in the letter regarding a mechanism for ensuring no right turns during the pedestrian crossing interval.

Ms. McKenna, Tourism Committee, requested that MassHighway be made aware of plans to post new signs on Marrett Road and Waltham Street directing travelers to historic landmarks.

Selectmen requested that the Tourism Committee discuss signage with Dave Cannon, Assistant Town Engineer. A copy of the letter to MassHighway will also be provided to Mr. Cannon.

Mr. Canale, as a member of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, suggested there are many intersections along the Route 2A corridor that are in need updating and funding. The 1st week of July the state will release the TIP. Mr. Canale suggests the Selectmen write a letter regarding the intersections along Route 2A. The Selectmen accepted Mr. Canale's offer to draft a letter for the Selectmen to discuss at its meeting on August 8, 2006.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to have the Chairman sign and send a letter, as amended, with Selectmen comments on the Marrett Road/Waltham Street intersection improvement project.

Approval of BANS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the sale of a \$3,865,000 4.25 percent Bond Anticipation Note, Series A of the town dated June 29, 2006 and payable February 1, 2007, to Eastern Bank at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$9,468.39.

Further it was voted to approve the sale of a \$804,000 4.20 percent Bond Anticipation Note, Series B of the town dated June 29, 2006 and payable July 27, 2007, to Eastern Bank at par and accrued.

Further it was voted that the consent dated June 22, 2006 to the financial advisory bidding for the notes is hereby confirmed.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve and sign the Material Events Disclosure Certificate.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve and sign certificates for: Signature and No Litigation, No Arbitrage, Use of Proceeds and Covenant as to Tax-Exempt Status of Notes.

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FY2006 Reserve Fund Transfers/Salary Account Transfers

Reserve Fund Transfers

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve and sign reserve fund transfer forms totaling \$173,020 to the following accounts:

10014215-5110	Snow Removal Regular Wages	\$86,720.00
10021920-54500	DPW Building Maintenance Exp.	\$35,000.00
10026124-52200	Library Utilities	\$40,300.00
10025461-52200	COA Administration Utilities	\$11,000.00

Salary Account Transfers

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the Salary Adjustment Transfers totaling \$263,424 as shown below and recommended by the Town Manager:

3100-3500	DPW Personal Services	\$ 12,300
4200	Fire/EMS Personal Services	\$226,124
7200	Planning Personal Services	\$ 10,000
8210	Town Manager Personal Services	\$ 12,000
8220	Human Resources Personal Services	\$ 3,000

Interdepartmental Transfers (3% Rule)

This reconciliation is to lower the amount of the snow and ice deficit and a minor issue from the Board of Health.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the following line-item transfers totaling \$135,394 as recommended by the Town Manager:

2210	Contributory Retirement	\$69,268
2120	Non-Contributory Retirement	\$ 2,040
2230	Temporary Borrowing	\$ 8,400
2320	Municipal Salary Adjustment	\$12,533
2410	Municipal Services & Expense Personal Services	\$ 1,019
2410	Municipal Services & Expense Expenses	\$ 2,922
8110	Selectmen Personal Services	\$ 1,880
8400	Finance Personal Services	\$25,200
8400	Finance Expenses	\$ 6,801
8600	MIS Personal Services	\$ 5,329

Of this amount \$129,860.68 will be transferred to Line Item 3230, Snow Removal Regular Wages (100421451-52110), and \$5,533.32 to Line-Item 7140, Health Department Contractual Services (10051102-52110) for costs associated with a public health nuisance related matter.

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Appointments and Reappointments

2020 Vision Committee

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to appoint Mollie Katz Garberg to the 2020 Vision Committee for a 3-year term to expire on September 30, 2000.

Keeper of the Lockup

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to reappoint Chief Chris Casey as the Keeper of the Lockup for a one-year term to expire June 30, 2007.

Selectmen's Executive Clerk

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted the reappoint Lynne Pease as the Selectmen's Executive Clerk for a one-year term to expire on June 30, 2007.

Consent Agenda

Use of the Bikeway

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the request of the Iacocca Foundation to use the bikeway on Sunday, September 10, 2006 for Bike the Miles for Human Trails.

Use of the Battle Green

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the request of the Consul of France to use the Battle Green on Saturday, October 21, 2006, for a Legion of Honor Ceremony at 11:00 a.m.

Approval of Public Entertainment on Sunday – Lions Carnival

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to grant a Public Entertainment on Sunday License to Fiesta Shows for the Lexington Lions Club Carnival on Sunday July 2, 2006, to be held on the Lexington High School grounds on Worthen Road.

Flag Day Flag

Upon motion duly made and seconded it was voted to sign a letter to the McCarty Family presenting the Flag that was flown over the Battle Green on Flag Day, June 14, 2006.

Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the minutes of June 12, 2006.

Executive Session

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted by roll call vote to go into executive session for the purpose of land purchase, legal action, and personnel matters with no intent to return to open session.

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Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

A true record; Attest:

Lynne A. Pease
Executive Clerk