

**Town Of Needham Board of Selectman  
Minutes for March 13, 2007  
Needham Town Hall**

6:45 p.m. Informal Session:

7:00 p.m. Call To Order:

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman John H. Cogswell at 7:00 p.m. Those present were: John H. Cogswell, John Bulian, Gerald Wasserman, Daniel P. Matthews, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Recording Secretary Greg Cooper. James Healy was not present.

7:00 p.m. Appointments and Consent Agenda:

**Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Appointments and Consent Agenda as presented.**

**APPOINTMENTS**

1. Cultural Council                      Debbie Winnick (6/30/07)
2. Needham Community                  John Fountain (6/30/08), Michael  
Television Development              Greis (6/30/09), Michael Riley  
Corporation                              (6/30/08), Jonathan Tamkin  
    (6/30/09), Siben Dasgupta  
    (6/30/07), Robert Boder (6/30/07),  
    Arnold Goldstein (6/30/07), Walter  
    McDonough (6/30/07), Robert Stegman  
    (6/30/07), Mimi Segel (6/30/07)
3. Field Study Committee              Paul Stenberg, Bruce Herman, John  
    Normant, Doug Spink, Dave DiCicco,  
    Chris Dollase, Jim Healy, Laura  
    Flueckiger, John Palmer, Lance  
    Remsen, Patricia Carey (All terms  
    expire 6/30/08)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Accept the \$1,000 donation made by Roche Brothers Supermarket to the Council on Aging.
2. Accept the following donations made to the Needham Public Library:
  - Emily Salaun donated a copy of *Rumpole and the Reign of Terror* by John Mortimer (\$23.95)
  - Gary Brav donated copies of the following books:
    - *Mayflower: A story of Courage, Community, and War* by Nathaniel Philbrick (\$29.95)

- *Internal Combustion: The True Story of a Marriage and a Murder in the Motor City* (\$24.95)
  - Gina Coen donated \$2.00 to the Children's Room
  - Author Robin Cook gave the library books-on-CD copies of his two latest books, *Marker* (\$40.00) and *Crisis* (\$120.00)
  - The Knights of Columbus donated \$25.00 to the library.
  - Families for Depression Awareness gave the library a copy of its book, *Depression Wellness Guide for Adults with Depression and their Family and Friends* (\$6.95)
  - Marion Lebourveau gave the library a copy of *Needham Girl Scout History: 1950-1959*, which she researched and wrote.
  - Greg Shesko made a donation in memory of Mary Ellen Herd.
  - Martha E. Canning made a donation in memory of James B. Canning
  - Douglas A. Smock gave the library a copy of his new book, *On-Demand Supply Management: World Class Strategies, Practices and Technology* (\$49.95)
  - Irene Zafferres gave the library a subscription to *Odyssey: The World of Greece* (\$58.00)
  - Cynthia and Joseph Sneider donated \$25.00 to the library.
3. Accept a \$700 donation made to the Park & Recreation's Arts in the Parks from the Needham Exchange Club.
  4. Accept a \$20 donation made to the Needham Revitalization Trust Fund from Paul and Carol Brown.
  5. Accept a \$6,000 donation made to the Board of Health's Gift of Warmth Fund from the Needham Community Council.
  6. Approve a request from the Sheraton Needham Hotel for an extension in operating hours for the service of alcoholic beverages to 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 28, 2007 for a wedding reception.
  7. Approve a request from the Sheraton Needham Hotel for an extension in operating hours for the service of alcoholic beverages to 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 26, 2007 for a wedding reception.
  8. Approve One Day Special Wine & Malt License application to Paul Pasquarosa, for a fundraiser to be held at the Village Club on Saturday April 14, 2007 from 6:00 p.m. until midnight.
  9. Approve One Day Special Wine & Malt License application to Richard Dalton, for a fundraiser to be held at the Village Club on Saturday March 24, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. until midnight.

10. Accept a \$150.00 donation made to the Needham Health Department for the Gift of Warmth Fund from H. Thomas Sagafi and Shanin S. Sagafi.
11. Accept a \$350.00 donation made to the Needham Park and Recreation Commission for the 2007 Arts in the Parks Program from the Middlesex Savings Bank.
12. Approve the minutes of February 27, 2007 and March 6, 2007.
13. Water and Sewer Abatement, Order #1046  
Second: Mr. Wasserman. Unanimously approved 4-0.

7:00 p.m. Introduce New Fire Department Recruits:  
Fire Chief Paul Buckley appeared before the Board to introduce three new recruits for the Fire Department (Matthew J. Fandrey, Peter A. Heneghan, Robert William Murphy). Chief Buckley stated that all three candidates are highly qualified and were at the top of the most recent civil service list. Mr. Matthews provided some thoughts on how the recruits should view working for the Town. The Board welcomed the new recruits.

7:10 p.m. Discussion of the Blue Ribbon Panel in Newton, MA:  
Mr. Cogswell stated that the City of Newton recently formed a blue ribbon panel to study the City's financial position and make recommendations. He stated that Paul Levy, President and CEO of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, chaired the panel. Mr. Cogswell thought it would be good for the Board to hear about the findings of the panel from Mr. Levy.

Mr. Levy stated that the Panel was formed in the fall 2006 and was asked to review the City's five year financial forecast including the capital elements and provide suggestions on revenue opportunities. He stated that the Panel found that the City has a structural deficit and that the size of the gap was larger than the City's initial projections. Mr. Levy stated that deferred maintenance driven by Proposition 2 ½, labor costs and future school enrollment are the core reasons for the projected deficit. He stated that the Panel found very few revenue opportunities. One opportunity was to improve

the performance of the pension fund, which had underperformed the State's plan by over 1%.

Mr. Levy stated that the Panel recommended either a general override or debt exclusion override to the Alderman and Mayor. He suggested that if the message was clear to residents about the need for additional revenue the measure would have a good chance of passing. The Board discussed various financing issues such as health insurance, post retirement funding and property taxes with Mr. Levy. The Board thanked Mr. Levy for coming before the Board.

7:45 p.m. Conservation Restriction for Sun Life:  
John Mulvihill, Sun Life Representative, appeared before the Board to request approval of a conservation restriction for over three acres in Needham adjacent to the Sun Life Assurance office building in Wellesley.

**Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve and sign the Conservation Restriction proposed by Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada.**

**Second: Mr. Wasserman. Unanimously approved 3-0. Mr. Bulian had left the room and therefore did not vote.**

7:50 p.m. Richard Merson, Director of Public Works, appeared before the Board with one item for the Board's consideration.

1. Intention to Layout Streets for Town acceptance - Andrea Circle, Gerber Circle, Stonecrest Drive and Stonefield Court:

Mr. Merson stated that the second step of the process for laying out the streets is for the Board to vote its intention to do so. He stated that a formal hearing will be held on March 27, 2007.

**Motion by Mr. Matthews that he Board of Selectmen vote to approve and sign Form 2 and Form 2A indicating its intention to layout the following streets; Andrea Circle, Gerber Circle, Stonecrest Drive and Stonefield Court.**

**Second: Mr. Wasserman. Unanimously approved 3-0. Mr. Bulian had left the room and therefore did not vote.**

7:50 p.m. Ms. Fitzpatrick appeared before the Board with three items for the Board's consideration.

1. Charles River Landing Regulatory Agreement:  
Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the final regulatory agreement is not quite ready but should be ready for the Board to vote on at its March 27, 2007 meeting.
2. Fiscal Year 2008 Budget:  
Ms. Fitzpatrick and David Davison, Assistant Town Manger/Finance Director, provided the Board with an update on the Fiscal Year 2008 budget. Mr. Davison stated that under the Governor's House 1 budget the Town has an additional \$413,000 in general fund revenue beyond its initial projections. The primary reasons for the increase are from increase in Chapter 70 funding and lottery disbursements. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the Chapter 70 increases are due mostly from enrollment increases. Ms. Fitzpatrick passed out a summary of the proposed Municipal Partnership Act, which the Patrick Administration has proposed to assist municipal finances. The Act includes a number of revenue and cost cutting options that municipalities could implement such as increasing the meal and hotel taxes, easing public bidding procedures, offering access to the State's health insurance, closing telecommunication tax loopholes and increasing municipal borrowing terms. She stated that many of these could positively impact the Town's finances. The Board discussed the meal and hotel tax proposal and agreed that the requirement that 25% of the tax go back to the state for disbursement to other communities who have not adopted the taxes is too high.
3. 2007 Annual Town Meeting:  
Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the Finance Committee's budget is due out this week and that the Town Warrant will be printed next week. Mr. Cogswell stated that Mr. Wasserman will put

together a preliminary list of suggested Board member presenters for each Article.

8:15 p.m. Board Discussion:

1. FY07/08 Board of Selectmen Goals:  
Ms. Fitzpatrick reviewed the progress toward the Board's goals for FY2007 and FY2008. The goals were adopted in September 2006 and focus on a number of areas including capital facilities and maintenance, finance, economic development, open space/conservation/recreation, affordable housing, town meeting, strategic/master planning, and board operations/procedure and other.

8:35 p.m. Executive Session:

**Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen vote to enter into Executive Session to:**

**Exception 3 - to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, or to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; and**

**Exception 6 - to consider the purchase, exchange, taking, lease, or value of real property if such discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body.**

**Not to return to open session prior to adjournment.**

**Second: Mr. Bulian. Mr. Cogswell polled the Board members. Unanimously approved 4-0.**

**(The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.)**