

**Regular Session Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting**  
**Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Town Hall**  
**Monday, August 19, 2013, 7:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** William S. Moonan, Chair, Margot R. Fleischman, Caroline Fedele, Michael A. Rosenberg, Mark Siegenthaler, and Town Manager Richard T. Reed

**ALSO PRESENT:** Youth & Family Services Director Sue Baldauf, Carla Olson, Healthy Bedford Coordinator; Board of Health Director Heidi Porter; Committee volunteers: John Britton, Daniel Silverman, Susan Grieb, Polly Herz, Gyasi Burks-Abbott and Michelle Puntillo; Conservation Commission Chair Steven Hagan; James Shea, 30 Independence Road; Assistant Town Manager Jessica Porter; Finance Director Victor Garofalo; Finance Committee member Ben Thomas; and Press Representatives Kim Seibert and Mary McBride

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Chair Moonan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**14-41          Healthy Bedford Grant Update**

Youth & Family Services Director Sue Baldauf, Healthy Bedford Coordinator Carla Olson, and Board of Health Director Heidi Porter updated the Selectmen on the committee’s progress. Ms. Baldauf reported that they have applied for a planning grant for two ideas they wish to explore. The first is a pedestrian master plan which includes various sidewalks, trails and locations to spruce up. The second idea is a circulator bus which would make regular route loops with the hope that it would reduce traffic. The implementation grant is for \$25,000 for 18-months and will be used towards research for both projects.

Ms. Fedele questioned whether the bus could be worked in with the Bedford Local Transit (BLT) bus. Ms. Baldauf thought it might be feasible if additional funds, a second driver and extended hours could be arranged. Ms. Fedele also asked if they had touched base with the Land Acquisition Committee (LAC) to discuss acquisition of public easements since that is its main focus. Ms. Baldauf said she would contact Walter St. Onge to discuss the matter.

Mr. Rosenberg felt the master plan would be well worth the effort and asked to see more data of what residents support as far as sidewalks are concerned.

**14-42 Appointment Interviews – Conservation Commission, Transportation Advisory Committee, Cultural Council and Zoning Board of Appeals**

***Conservation Commission (Concom)***

Mr. Siegenthaler, Selectmen Liaison, explained the role of the Conservation Commission to John Britton.

Mr. Britton expressed his desire to be appointed to the Concom by noting that he has lived in Bedford for 34 years, but has not had the opportunity to get involved with anything in the community. He felt with his construction background and his experience with nature (fishing), he would serve the Commission well. As a builder, he once appeared before the Littleton Concom for a hearing. Other construction experience included the Bedford goat farm on Concord Road. He understood that, if appointed, he would be expected to be on the enforcing side of the Wetland Bylaw and he agreed to comply.

Chair Moonan explained the Open Meeting Law, Conflict of Interest Law and the Rules of Civil Discourse to all volunteer candidates present.

**Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to appoint John Britton to the Conservation Commission, to a term ending June 30, 2014. Ms. Fleischman seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed 5-0-0.**

***Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)***

Ms. Fleischman, Selectmen Liaison, explained the role of the Transportation Advisory Committee to Daniel Silverman.

Mr. Silverman stated that he has attended two meetings of the committee. He reported that having worked as an engineering technician and roadway designer for the transportation industry for the past 44 years, he was confident that he would be able to be of assistance to this committee. Ms. Fleischman commented that Mr. Silverman had shared his expertise at the last meeting and was thankful for his assistance. Mr. Silverman also serves on the Historic Preservation Commission and plans to continue on that committee.

Chair Moonan noted that Mr. Silverman was present for the Open Meeting Law, Conflict of Interest Law and Civil Discourse discussion, and that they also apply to him.

**Ms. Fleischman made a motion to appoint Daniel Silverman to the Transportation Advisory Committee to a term ending June 30, 2014. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed 5-0-0.**

## ***Cultural Council (CC)***

Susan Grieb, Polly Herz and Gyasi Burks-Abbott were interviewed next. Town Manager Richard Reed explained the purpose of this committee is to serve as the body that administers the grant program that municipalities receive in order to award funds to local artists; those funds are used to encourage cultural creativity in the Town. He also noted that this committee does not meet with the same frequency as other committees.

Ms. Fedele noted that all candidates have attended a meeting and asked why they would like to serve on the CC.

Ms. Grieb, a resident for the past 19 years, and an artist who has served on several other town committees, is looking for another project. She envisions looking for cultural projects that combines science, the environment, and the arts that would bring the community together and improve the quality of life of Bedford residents.

Ms. Herz, a stained glass artist, has previously volunteered for the Dollars for Scholars program. She stated that she was intrigued by the arts and crafts projects that the guests of Best Western had been invited to participate in at the hotel for several weeks. She would like to see a continuation of that type of community project. Ms. Herz also recommended creative programs that would bring residents together for culture, art, music, science and the environment.

Mr. Burks-Abbott, a resident since 2008, is a writer with a background in humanities. He noted how impressed he was with the amount of enrichment and cultural activities in Bedford and he wants to learn more about that and contribute in any way he can.

**Ms. Fedele made a motion to appoint Gyasi Burks-Abbott, 404 Bay Circle to the Cultural Council to a term ending June 30, 2015; Susan Grieb, 26 Fox Run Road, to a term ending June 30, 2016; and Polly Herz, 27 Independence Road to a term ending June 30, 2016. Ms. Fleischman seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Selectmen moved on to other agenda items while they waited for Michelle Puntillo to arrive for her interview as they were ahead of schedule.

## **14-43 Appointment – Community Preservation Committee (CPC)**

Chair Moonan announced that former Selectman Catherine Cordes wished to be appointed as an at-large member of the CPC. Ms. Cordes served for many years on the CPC in the Selectmen Parks Commissioner capacity.

Ms. Fleischman noted that she would abstain from voting due to their work relationship.

**Mr. Siegenthaler made a motion to appoint Catherine Cordes as an at-large member of the Community Preservation Committee to a term ending June 30, 2014. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed 4-0-1, Ms. Fleischman abstained.**

**14-44 Minutes**

**Mr. Siegenthaler made a motion to accept the Regular Session Minutes of August 5, 2013, as amended. Ms. Fleischman seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed 5-0-0.**

**14-42 Appointment Interviews – Conservation Commission, Transportation Advisory Committee, Cultural Council and Zoning Board of Appeals (Continued)**

***Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)***

Ms. Fleischman, Selectmen Liaison, explained the role of the Zoning Board of Appeals to Michelle Puntillo.

Chair Moonan explained to Ms. Puntillo that customarily when a full membership opening occurs on the Board, an associate member is moved up to fill that vacancy as they have had experience on the board. In this case, there are two full membership openings available and the Selectmen would most likely vote to appoint the two current associate members to those slots. Therefore, Ms. Puntillo would most likely be considered for the associate membership.

Ms. Puntillo has a background in project management and design with a strong sense of training and aesthetics. She is confident that her background will help her with making zoning decisions. Ms. Puntillo also noted her strong feelings toward civic responsibility. She feels Bedford is a wonderful town in which to reside, and her children attend the Bedford Public Schools.

While attending the last ZBA meeting, she got the impression that there needs to be a sense of balance between the board and the petitioners while keeping an open mind. She understood that the board must adhere to the bylaws. Her past involvement in construction has not dealt with any zoning issues. Ms. Puntillo noted that she has been trying to memorize the Zoning Bylaws in her spare time and feels that using common sense is a big part of being on the board.

Chair Moonan asked for Ms. Puntillo's thoughts on higher density issues, namely allowing more accessory apartments in order to create higher density housing solutions. Ms. Puntillo identified her training in Sustainable Design and Aging-in-Place and is CAPS certified (Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist), which allows her to work with the elderly who wish to live independently rather than in a nursing home. Ms. Puntillo said she discusses population trends with families and anyone else interested in having a

family member live with them. She also opined that it is a personal commitment and the ZBA should respect that commitment when a petitioner appears before the board with a request to modify their residence.

Chair Moonan explained the Open Meeting Law, Conflict of Interest Law and the Rules of Civil Discourse to Ms. Puntillo.

**Ms. Fleischman made a motion to appoint Carol Amick to the Zoning Board of Appeals - Full membership to a term ending June 30, 2016. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed 4-0-1, Mr. Moonan abstained.**

**Ms. Fleischman made a motion to appoint Todd Crowley to the Zoning Board of Appeals - Full membership to a term ending June 30, 2015. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed 5-0-0.**

**Ms. Fleischman made a motion to appoint Michelle Puntillo to the Zoning Board of Appeals - Associate membership to a term ending June 30, 2015. Mr. Siegenthaler seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed 5-0-0.**

Chair Moonan noted that his wife, Carol Amick, wishes to let the Selectmen know that she was willing to accept the Full membership position, but she may wish to revert back to an Associate member in a few years if her schedule becomes overwhelming.

#### **14-45 Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Reed announced that he is planning Special Town Meeting for November 4, 2013. In order to accommodate certain deadline requirements, he changed the future Selectmen's meeting schedule and asked the Selectmen to approve the new dates. Chair Moonan and Mr. Siegenthaler announced that they will be unable to attend the September 16, 2013 meeting.

Mr. Reed announced that there is a vacancy on the Bedford Housing Authority, an elected position. Both boards will need to meet to appoint a successor to fill the vacancy to serve until the Town election in March, 2014. Volunteers will be recruited by newspaper publicity and by word of mouth.

#### **14-46 Open Discussion**

Ms. Fedele apologized for not realizing the Goal Setting meeting had been rescheduled for the following evening, therefore she will be late coming to the meeting.

Mr. Rosenberg asked if any of the Selectmen accepted the invitation to meet U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren at Hanscom on August 20th. Ms. Fleischman and Town Manager Reed said they plan to attend.

Mr. Rosenberg asked Finance Director Victor Garofalo to provide him with a copy of the final figures of what the Town received for aid to military families.

Mr. Rosenberg also asked if the digging at the VA Hospital had to do with the housing for the senior veterans. Mr. Reed replied that it had nothing to do with it.

**14-47            Executive Session – Collective Bargaining Strategy Discussion – Bedford Permanent Firefighters Local 2310 IAFF, Bedford Police Officers Association, AFSCME, AFL-CIO State Council 93, Local 1703**

**Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy, not to return to Regular Session. Mr. Siegenthaler seconded the motion.**

**The Selectmen were polled individually: Fedele, aye, Fleischman, aye, Moonan, aye, Rosenberg, aye and Siegenthaler, aye.**

The Regular Session meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.