

Volunteer Coordinating Committee Meeting
Selectmen's Room
Town Hall
Monday, January 14, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Carol Amick, Chair, Patricia Carluccio, and Joseph Piantedosi

Also Present: Selectman Liaison Margot Fleischman and Administrative Assistant Patricia Hurd

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes

Ms. Carluccio moved to accept the Minutes of December 13, 2012. Mr. Piantedosi seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-0.

Old Business

(a) Reports on contacts made to potential appointees and review of Vacancy Worksheet with possible recommendations to the Selectmen for filling various vacancies.

Affordable Housing: Ms. Amick noted that she contacted Legna Marinez before the holidays, and they agreed to talk after the holidays, but this conversation has not yet occurred. Ms. Amick will continue to contact her to determine her interests. Ms. Carluccio stated that Terri Kramer is still interested, but is busy finishing a project and will apply after that project is complete. Ms. Amick suggested that the Volunteer Coordinating Committee (VCC) hold off on the appointments to this, the Fair Housing Committee, and the Bedford Housing Partnership, due to the potential Town Meeting action to consolidate these three committees by changing the Bylaws.

Bicycle Advisory: Ms. Amick noted that there is one opening for this committee and that Jan van Steenwijk has been regularly attending meetings and the Bicycle Advisory Committee members anxiously want to get him appointed. Since the VCC has not heard back from Ted Heller or Christopher Marino, Mr. Piantedosi moved to send Jan van Steenwijk's name to the Selectmen for an interview. Ms. Carluccio seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

Bedford Housing Partnership: There are 7 openings.

Capital Expenditures Committee (CapEx): Ms. Amick reported that Shane O'Neil told her he is interested in CapEx but has neither sent in a Volunteer Questionnaire (VQ) nor attended a meeting. Antonio Battaglia submitted his VQ in December after he saw the notice in the

Bedford Minuteman. The committee reviewed his VQ and resume and determined that he was qualified.

Mr. Piantedosi made a motion to send Antonio Battaglia's name to the CapEx Appointing Authority (chairmen of Selectmen, School Committee and FinCom). Ms. Carluccio seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 3-0-0.

Council on Aging (COA): Ms. Amick reported that there is one opening on the COA since the passing of Cynthia Rider. There was the potential for another opening, but that private matter has since been resolved. Ms. Amick reported that she asked former Assistant Town Manager Joanna Nickerson and Rachel Murphy, a secretary for the Friends of the COA, if they would be interested in applying. Ms. Murphy's husband is a veteran and was employed at Hanscom Air Force Base.

Fair Housing: There are 3 openings and no candidates.

Historic District Commission (HDC): Ms. Amick reported that she discussed the vacancy for an HDC alternate position with former Selectmen Val Asbedian, who attended one meeting. However, she is not sure if he is interested. She will follow up with him, as well as with Dan Smythe, who expressed some interest a while ago, but has not sent in a VQ.

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC): Ms. Amick noted that there are two candidates for HPC, Sharon McDonald -- who recently retired as Bedford Children's Librarian, and Daniel Silverman -- who initially wanted to serve on the Transportation Advisory Committee. Since there are no openings on that committee, he is also interested in HPC.

Ms. Amick noted the untimely passing of HPC member Robert Slechta on December 20th. Each member recalled his many wonderful accomplishments on behalf of the Town and added that he will be sorely missed. She said Bob's death creates a third vacancy.

VCC members reviewed the VQs of Ms. McDonald and Mr. Silverman; Ms. Carluccio made a motion to send their names to the Selectmen for consideration. Mr. Piantedosi seconded the motion, and it passed, 3-0-0.

Hanscom Area Towns Committee (HATS): Ms. Amick reported that Selectman Michael Rosenberg contacted her regarding openings on the HATS Committee. He told Ms. Amick that he also contacted Conservation Commission (ConsCom) Chair Tim Gray to encourage any ConsCom members to volunteer.

Mr. Piantedosi was strongly supportive of the HATS charge and its mission. He noted that HAFB adds \$2 billion to the regional economy. It was noted that Jon O'Connor has not been attending meetings and should be contacted to determine his intentions. Ms. Carluccio recommended Michael Hayes as a possibility for this committee since he served in the US Navy and wants to be more involved in the Town. Mr. Piantedosi agreed.

Ms. Amick asked Ms. Hurd to find out if the VCC should get involved in recruiting for this committee or if the two at-large positions can be ConsCom designees.

(b) Continuing discussion: Report on January 10, 2013 BHP meeting and recommendation to Selectmen re: consolidation of three housing committees (Affordable Housing Fair Housing, Housing Partnership).

Ms. Amick reported that the Bedford Housing Partnership (BHP) members concurred with all of the VCC's recommendations: the proposed bylaw changes and the recommendation for a nine-member committee, once the consolidation is effective. They also were agreeable to having Ms. Amick draft the specific bylaw language that would be recommended to the Selectmen and voted unanimously to support the proposal.

Ms. Amick asked VCC members for comments on a draft letter to the Selectmen that she had prepared, and opined that, on the issue of review by Town Counsel, it was best for the Selectmen to decide about such a review. She noted that, if the Selectmen wish to proceed, they must hold a public hearing before voting to place the proposal on the Town Meeting warrant. Ms. Carluccio asked why the language in the new draft was slightly different from an earlier draft that Ms. Amick had prepared, wondering how the VCC could make such modifications if the BHP had approved the earlier draft. Ms. Amick explained that the earlier document was simply a background narrative outlining the various issues pertaining to consolidation, not the final proposal to the Selectmen containing the draft bylaw language. She also noted that BHP members never saw the exact draft bylaw language because Ms. Amick did not draft it until after her meeting with the BHP.

Ms. Fleischman said she would report on the consolidation proposal at the Selectmen's meeting this evening. Mr. Piantedosi and Ms. Carluccio praised Ms. Amick's work on this effort and were in favor of moving forward on this recommendation.

Mr. Piantedosi made a motion to support the proposal to the Selectmen, as drafted, for the consolidation of the housing committees. Ms. Carluccio seconded the motion, which passed, 3-0-0.

4. New Business

(a) Draft proposal for recommendation to Selectmen: Appointment of resident aliens and non-Bedford residents to certain committees (Joe P.)

Ms. Amick said she appreciated that Mr. Piantedosi had prepared a written proposal concerning 5.3 of the Town's Bylaws: "Residency required" and a second proposal concerning non-Bedford residents serving on Bedford boards and committees.

On the issue of resident aliens, the VCC discussed Mr. Piantedosi's written proposal, which would allow legal resident aliens (i.e., non US citizens living in Bedford) who have lived in the town at least one year to serve as voting members on certain ad-hoc town committees, except

those committees that advise on financial matters or regulatory issues (planning, zoning, conservation).

Ms. Amick agreed with the concept outlined in Mr. Piantedosi's draft, but recommended that any proposed Bylaw language spell out which ad-hoc committees would allow such appointments, and which would not. Ms. Fleischman said she knows of three families with green cards who have lived in Bedford for a long time and are interested in serving the Town as a way to "give back." Ms. Amick also said that this proposal might require a Home Rule Petition to exempt Bedford from state law, but added that she needed to conduct some research in this area.

Saying that she has given this topic much thought, Ms. Carluccio disagreed with the other VCC members. She believes that U.S. citizenship is sacred, and with it comes special rights and privileges, including the right to vote. She does not feel that non-citizens should be given the right to serve on Town committees, or be voting members. She suggested that non-citizens could attend any meeting they want, and speak up, but should not have the right to vote.

Mr. Piantedosi thought Ms. Carluccio had a good point. He wondered how she would feel if the proposal dealt only with resident aliens serving as non-voting associate members, and would like the opportunity to ask those particular residents if they would still want to serve under those conditions. VCC members also discussed requiring resident aliens to have lived in Bedford for three years – not the one year proposed in Mr. Piantedosi's draft, and to have paid taxes for that same period. Ms. Carluccio responded that she would be open to those ideas.

Ms. Fleischman wondered whether other Massachusetts communities have instituted a similar policy; Ms. Amick said she is aware of Home Rule Petitions filed in the Legislature by officials of both Cambridge and Amherst, but did not know the specifics of those proposals or whether other communities have suggested this idea as well. She offered to look into it.

On the issue of allowing non-Bedford residents to serve on the Patriotic Holiday Committee (PHC), Mr. Piantedosi commented that this committee has on occasion had non-members who fill the slots allotted to the VFW and American Legion designees. Both Ms. Carlucci and Ms. Amick said they were not opposed to bylaw language allowing non-residents to serve on this committee; Ms. Carlucci adding that they should be U.S. citizens.

Ms. Fleischman left the meeting at this point.

In addition to the two preceding issues, Mr. Piantedosi also presented a draft proposal regarding Article 15.2 of the Bylaws: membership on the Capital Expenditures Committee. He said he thought the bylaw provision prohibiting CapEx members from serving on other committees was established to prevent any bias, but felt it was too restrictive. He proposed a bylaw change that would exempt CapEx members from the restriction in the case of serving on the PHC. As an example, he noted that Jon O'Connor volunteers for the PHC but is not an official member because he serves on CapEx.

Ms. Amick suggested a recommendation to the Selectmen that the next Charter and Bylaw Review Committee (CBRC) address this issue. Mr. Piantedosi noted that he rewrote the PHC

Charter, but has not yet submitted it to the Selectmen. He feels that the PHC should be designated as a Town committee, not an ad hoc committee, and plans to recommend that to the next CBRC.

Ms. Amick felt the issue of CapEx membership should be discussed further. She believes CapEx members could simply recuse themselves on any fiscal issue relating to their “other” committee. She also suggested that the VCC should develop a list of proposed bylaw amendments to submit through the Selectmen to the next CBRC. The other two VCC members agreed.

5. Next Meeting Date

The members chose Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 9:30 as their next meeting date.

6. Adjourn

Ms. Carluccio made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Piantedosi seconded the motion, which was adopted, 3-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hurd
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved as amended February 14, 2013

Record Copy