

**Town of Needham
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for June 9, 2015
Selectmen's Chamber
Needham Town Hall**

6:45 p.m. Freedom Shrine Dedication - Needham Exchange Club: Cindy Chaston and Bill Dermody presented the Board with the Freedom Shrine on the lower level of Town Hall.

6:50 p.m. Informal Session: Jean Pages, 7 Broad Meadow Road spoke with the Board suggesting the Town consider hiring a consultant to design an evergreen barrier as a way to reduce noise pollution and carcinogens in the vicinity of the proposed 40B housing complex on Greendale Avenue.

7:00 p.m. Call to Order:
A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman Maurice P. Handel. Those present were Matthew D. Borrelli, Daniel P. Matthews, John A. Bulian, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick, and Recording Secretary Mary Hunt. Marianne B. Cooley was not present.

Mr. Handel noted the Needham Exchange Club presented the Town a new Freedom Shrine, located on the lower level of Town Hall. He invited the public to view the Shrine.

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing - Setting 2017 Water & Sewer Rates:
David Davison, Assistant Town Manager/Finance, Evelyn Poness, Town Treasurer/Collector, Bob Lewis, Assistant DPW Director, John Cosgrove, Chairman, Water and Sewer Rate Structure Committee, and Steve Rosenstock, member, Water and Sewer Rate Structure Committee appeared before the Board to discuss water and sewer rates as proposed and explained in the June 5, 2015 memo to the Board of Selectmen. It is anticipated that the Board of Selectmen will vote on final water and sewer rates at its meeting on June 23, 2015. Mr. Davison said the rates proposed are to be effective July 1, 2015.

Mr. Davison said the Water and Sewer Rate Structure Committee also considered whether or not the Town should change its primary source of water supply from Town wells, to buying MWRA water. He said the Committee recommends that the Town remain with its current water supply process of Town wells first, and MWRA as backup.

Mr. Davison said the Committee supports the proposed water and sewer rate schedule which was designed to lessen the financial impact of the needed higher sewer rates on the average residential customer by lowering the step 2 and 3 regular water use rates. He said the increase in the average annual regular water/sewer bill

for FY2016 would be 1.5% and the estimated increase for FY2017 would increase the annual bill by 2.8%.

Mr. Handel invited public comment. No comments were made, and it was noted no one from the public attended the hearing.

Mr. Handel asked for Board comment.

Mr. Bulian asked what percent of households are within step 1. He also asked whether the Water and Sewer Rate Structure Committee considered outdoor water use in its analysis.

Mr. Borrelli thanked the Committee for its work. He asked if more could be gained from the irrigation rates. He also asked if there was any way to defray an increase for residents in step 1, noting most are probably senior citizens or single people. He asked about future rate increases in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Mr. Handel asked what the quarterly water bill is for the average household in step 1. He wondered if a significant extra burden is being placed on folks in step 1.

Mr. Matthews commented most households do not stay within step 1. He said the key is sustainability of the operation. He commented on conflicting public goals in water policy, noting a resident who was appalled that water conservation causes the rates to go up. He said water conservation is important so as not to overuse the system and to have water available when needed. He said the public is not billed for pipes, meters, repairs, or testing, but billed only for water used. He said the Town has done a good job dealing with well intentioned State policies that really do not think through the detail of how it works for the ordinary citizen. Mr. Matthews asked for clarification on sewer usage and whether the level of funding from the rate structure is keeping the system in good order. He said he is satisfied with the work of the Committee and its recommendations.

Mr. Handel thanked Mr. Davison and members of the Water and Sewer Rate Structure Committee for their work.

7:50 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: There were no Appointments at this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Accept a \$20 donation made to the Needham Health Department's Gift of Warmth fund from the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston, St. Bartholomew Parish in Needham.**

2. **Accept a \$50 donation made to Needham Youth Services from Peter and Alison Atallah of Needham. The monies will be used to sponsor the Project VAN program.**
3. **Accept gift of \$392,000 from Normandy GAP-V Development for the Trip Advisor Inflow/Infiltration Removal Obligation at 400 First Avenue.**
4. **Accept gift of a framed painting of the Blue Tree that was painted by Liz Boston, and her donation in the amount of \$50 to be used for the activities surrounding the Blue Tree. Liz’s grandfather was a former arborist for the Town of Needham.**
5. **Water & Sewer Abatement Order No. 1200.**
6. **Accept a \$500 donation made to Needham Youth Services from the Needham Women’s Club. They would like the monies to be used to sponsor Needham Youth Services “A Conversation” program.**
7. **Approve request from Town Clerk for election worker rate increases as follows: effective 7/1/2015: Wardens/\$175; Clerks/\$175; Inspectors \$145 and effective 7/1/2016: Wardens/\$200; Clerks/\$200; and Inspectors \$170.**
8. **Ratify that the Board vote to award Certificate of Achievement for Ron Sockol, which had been presented at its meeting of May 26, 2015 in recognition of 31 years of distinguished service to the Town of Needham.**
9. **Grant Permission for the following residents to hold a block party:**

Name	Address	Party Location	Party Date	Party Rain Date	Party Time
Ratify – Karen Lefkowitz	35 Livingston Circle	Livingston Circle	5/25/15	n/a	3pm-7pm
Ratify – Robert Klein	11 Andrea Circle	Andrea Circle	5/31/15	n/a	12pm-4:30pm
Ratify – Jennifer Berk- new date	10 Hollow Ridge Road	Hollow Ridge Road	6/13/15 6/20/15	n/a	4pm-10pm

Second: Mr. Borrelli. Unanimously approved 4-0.

7:50 p.m.

Town Manager:

Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager appeared before the Board with 3 items to discuss:

1. Revised Food Truck Policy

Ms. Fitzpatrick told the Board there are circumstances when food trucks want to come to designated areas in Needham, but not for the entire season. She recommended the Board approve regulations allowing food truck operators a one week permit.

Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board vote to approve revised Regulation of Food Trucks policy BOS-LIC-013 which includes under Section 4: Permitting, item #4.7 as included in attached revised policy.

Second: Mr. Borrelli. Unanimously approved 4-0.

2. Sign Notice of Traffic Regulation - Memorial Park Parking Lot

Ms. Fitzpatrick said the Town collaborated with Memorial Park Trustees to address parking issues at the Memorial Park parking lot. She said it is important that students using the Memorial Park parking lot park safely and appropriately. Ms. Fitzpatrick recommended the Board adopt revised regulations.

Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board vote to approve and sign the Notice of Traffic Regulation Permit #P15-06-09 for the Memorial Park Parking Lot, Parking Prohibited, In all striped areas designated and as shown on the accompanying plan: 1) Highland Avenue entrance, north side, from Highland Avenue to 65 feet east; Highland Avenue entrance, south side, from Highland Avenue for 100 feet east; Rosemary Street entrance, west side, from Rosemary Street for 60 feet south; Along the east edge of the parking lot from the southeast corner to 95 feet north of the southeast corner; Along the south edge of the parking lot from the southwest corner for 25 feet east; At the tree planter island for 40 feet west; and 2) in all areas not designated as a parking space.

Second: Mr. Borrelli. Unanimously approved 4-0.

Mr. Matthews commented that while the parking lot is not part of the high school property, Memorial Park Trustees have allowed students to use the lot. He said DPW and emergency vehicles must be able to access the field through the parking lot. He said safety is of utmost importance, and noted tickets will be issued to cars parked in violation.

3. Town Manager's Report

No additional items were discussed.

8:10 p.m.

Board Discussion:

1. High School Overcrowding Considerations

Mr. Handel asked for Board comments and/or questions regarding possible remedies for overcrowding at Needham High School.

Mr. Borrelli said the amount of funding for expansion was originally budgeted at approximately \$4 million within the levy. He said recent figures upward of \$6 million and lack of time to review the report raised many questions. Mr. Borrelli suggested other options may include modulars for storage, offsite areas, and/or conversion of current space.

Mr. Bulian said it is clear to him that the high school is overcrowded. He noted the potential for approximately 500 units of new residential apartments, which will add

more children at the high school. He said he depends on school experts and their determination of program needs and space. Mr. Bulian said more information is needed.

Mr. Handel said the last time high school overcrowding was discussed there was not a clear understanding of the issues. He said it is important that everyone understands the alternatives and the ultimate course of action.

Mr. Matthews commented the Town expects good public education, which he said is expensive, and that Town resources are not unlimited. Mr. Matthews said while the high school is overcrowded, he noted any plans for expansion must last for the long term.

Mr. Borrelli said it is important to vet the issue and devise scenarios to move forward.

Mr. Handel commented it is important to have information communicated early in the process from the PBBC and consultants to build consensus.

2. Committee Reports

No Committee Reports were made.

8:20 p.m. Executive Session: (Exception 3 & 6)

Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to enter into Executive Session.

Exception 3 - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

Exception 6 - To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. Not to return to open session prior to adjournment.

Second: Mr. Borrelli. Mr. Handel polled the Board. Unanimously approved 4-0.

A list of all documents used at this Board of Selectmen meeting are available at: <http://www.needhamma.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=99&Type=&ADID=>

Note: The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.