

**Town Of Needham Board of Selectman  
Minutes for May 8, 2007  
Needham Town Hall**

- 6:45 p.m. Informal Session:  
Eleanor Aims, Newton resident, asked to comment on the proposed restaurant on Highland Circle. Mr. Wasserman stated that a public hearing on a restaurant is on the Board's agenda and she should wait until then to comment.
- 7:00 p.m. Call To Order  
A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman Gerald Wasserman at 7:00 p.m. Those present were: John Bulian, John H. Cogswell, James Healy, Daniel P. Matthews, Gerald Wasserman, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Recording Secretary Greg Cooper.
- 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing - New Wine & Malt License, Common Victualler License, and Waiver Request:  
Carmelo Iriti, Owner/Manager, and George Giunta, Jr., Counsel, appeared before the Board to request a new Wine & Malt License, a Common Victualler License, and a waiver on previous operating requirements. Mr. Wasserman opened the public hearing. Eleanor Aims asked if the proposed restaurant would cause additional traffic. The Board asked Richard Merson, Director of Public Works, to comment. Mr. Merson stated that Highland Avenue is a very busy road and the new establishment will not add any significant amounts of traffic. Mr. Cogswell stated that the lights at Oak Street are set to ensure traffic breaks.  
**Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the application for a Common Victualler license, grant a request for a waiver for not operating a restaurant for the 12 months immediately preceding this application, and approve the application for a new Wine & Malt Alcoholic License under the Town of Needham Rules and Regulations Applicable To The Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Restaurants and Function Rooms with a Seating Capacity of Less than 100 Persons for Spiga, LLC, Carmelo Iriti, Owner/Manager, and forward the approved**

application to the ABCC for an approval of the liquor license.

Second: Mr. Cogswell. Unanimously approved 5-0.

7:05 p.m. Consent Agenda

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve extension of parking waiver to Joan DesRoches of 33 Kingsbury Street.
2. Approve donation made to Needham Youth Commission in the amount of \$600 from The Needham Community Council to help fund Project VAN.
3. Approve One Day Special Liquor Application received from Scott Milliken, Village Club, 83 Morton Street, Needham for Scholarship Comedy Night on Saturday, May 12, 2007 from 7:00 pm to 12:00 pm at the Highlandville Hall inside the Village Club.
4. Approve One Day Special Liquor Application received from Don LaValle, 36 Pratt Street, Mansfield for a fund raiser to benefit "A Night For Brian" to be held at Highlandville Hall, Village Club, 83 Morton Street, Needham on Saturday, May 19, 2007 from 6:30 pm to 12:00 midnight. Mr. LaValle is a member of the Village Club.
5. Grant permission for the following residents to hold block parties:  
Carol Concannon 88 Deerfield Rd. Deerfield Road  
6/16/07 6/23/07 4-9 p.m.  
Celia Carboni 42 Greenwood Ave. Greenwood Avenue  
7/21/07 7/22/07 2 - 11 p.m.
6. Approve request from the Needham Fire Department to conduct a "Voluntary Toll Booth" fundraiser at the intersection of Chestnut Street & Great Plain Avenue on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., weather permitting.
7. Accept a donation of a 6' x 10' nylon American Flag from Ted Shaughnessy, Henderson Properties Partnership.
8. Accept a donation of \$400 from Bennett A. & Claire Lavine to the Parks & Forestry Division

of the Public Works. This donation will go toward the purchase of trees for roadside tree planting.

9. Approve a request from the Needham Track Club to hold the 16th running of the Great Bear Race on Sunday, May 20, 2007. Parts of Harris Avenue will be closed between 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Other roads used, but not closed, include Great Plain Avenue, South Street, Dedham Avenue and Bradford Street.

10. Water and Sewer Abatement Order #1049

Second: Mr. Cogswell. Unanimously approved 5-0.

7:05 p.m. Public Hearing (Con't.) - NSTAR Petition for 251 Hunting Road:

Christine Crosby, NSTAR Representative, appeared before the Board to request permission to install underground conduit on Hunting Road to service #251 Hunting Road. Mr. Wasserman asked if NSTAR would comply with the 3" schedule 40 and that the conduit be buried at least 24" below grade. Ms. Crosby stated that NSTAR would commit to this requirement.

**Motion by Mr. Cogswell that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve and sign petition form NSTAR to install approximately 9 feet of conduit @ pole 91/25 on Hunting Road, Needham. This work is necessary to provide underground service to #251 Hunting Road, Needham. NSTAR agrees to include DPW conditions.**

Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approve 5-0.

7:10 p.m. Public Hearing (Con't.) - NSTAR Petition for 108 Douglas Road:

Christine Crosby, NSTAR Representative, appeared before the Board to request permission to install underground conduit on Douglas Road to service #108 Douglas Road.

**Motion by Mr. Cogswell that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve and sign petition form NSTAR to install approximately 20 feet of conduit @ pole 250/13 on Douglas Road, Needham. This work is necessary to provide underground service to #108 Douglas Road, Needham.**

Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approve 5-0.

7:10 p.m. TownStat Project - Needham Free Public Library:  
Ann MacFate, Director of the Needham Free Public Library, appeared before the Board to present the information gathered relative to the Library's TownStat project which looked at satisfaction with the Children's Department. Ms. MacFate stated that a survey was conducted and satisfaction with the size of the children's collection was low and satisfaction with the audio/visual collection was extremely low. She stated that this is primarily due to the size of the collection and compared the Needham collection to other comparable towns. Ms. MacFate also stated that 27% of all items checked out were from another Minuteman Library in March 2007. She identified the capital needs necessary to increase the size of the collection. The Board asked what the library planned to about the dissatisfaction. Ms. MacFate stated that an increase in spending on the audio/visual collection is planned. The Board thanked Ms. MacFate for the update.

7:30 p.m. Verizon PEG Access:  
Jonathan Tamkin - CATV Advisory Committee Chair, and Peter Bowman and Jill Redish of Verizon New England appeared before the Board to discuss Verizon's progress towards providing PEG access to its Needham customers. Ms. Redish stated that an interconnection agreement was reached today with Comcast, so programming will be available within 45 days. Mr. Wasserman asked about an interim solution for PEG programming and whether existing customers would be provided a credit of some sort. Ms. Redish stated that Verizon's engineers believe it will take 30-45 days to have something up and that a credit is not possible. Mr. Tamkin expressed his displeasure with Verizon's efforts to communicate with the Town and he stated that he placed several calls to Ms. Redish today and never received a call back. He also stated that Verizon promised to provide daily updates at the last meeting and he received no updates between then and now. Mr. Tamkin recommended a limited extension be offered. Mr. Wasserman stated that Mr. Tamkin is the Board's representative and Verizon should be

responsive to his requests. Ms. Redish admitted to failing to return Mr. Tamkin's calls and provide sufficient updates. The Board expressed its displeasure with Verizon's communication efforts. The Board also inquired more as to why some interim PEG service could not be developed. Mr. Matthews suggested that Verizon provide weekly updates to Mr. Tamkin and the Town Manager on the progress on the interconnection and options for providing an interim solution for PEG programming. Mr. Wasserman stated that he was not in favor of giving Verizon an extension considering all the factors. Mr. Healy supported a 45 day extension but thought that Verizon is in default with its customers and should be more responsive. Mr. Bowman stated that Verizon may be able to perform some philanthropic role for the Town.

**Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen vote in favor of an extension to the Verizon contract to 45 days.**

**Second: Mr. Cogswell. Approved 4-1. Mr. Wasserman vote against the extension.**

- 8:00 p.m. Update on Website Project:  
David Davison, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director, and Roger MacDonald, Town IT Representative, appeared before the Board to provide an update on the Town's efforts to redesign its website. Mr. Davison stated that an appropriation was provided in this fiscal year to enhance the website and some of those enhancements include e-mail alert capabilities, independent Department updating, and a new visual look. Mr. MacDonald reviewed the schedule of the project with the Board and stated that the redesigned website is planned to go live by mid September. Mr. MacDonald reviewed some of the designs that are being considered and those that are commonly used by other government entities. The Board provide input on the need for functionality in the new website.
- 8:25 p.m. Richard Merson, Director of Public Works, appeared before the Board with two items for the Board's consideration.

1. Sign National Public Works Week Proclamation:  
Mr. Merson requested the Board sign a proclamation declaring the week of May 20<sup>th</sup> as National Public Works Week. Mr. Wasserman read the proclamation.

**Motion by Mr. Cogswell that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve and sign the 2007 National Public Works Week Proclamation May 20 through May 26, 2007 and the Letter to the DPW employees acknowledging said Proclamation.  
Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approved 5-0.**

2. Webster Street Rehabilitation Update:  
Mr. Merson provided the Board with an update on the Webster Street Rehabilitation Project. He stated that the project would be completed in three phases over the next three summers. The work would rehabilitate Webster Street from Dedham Avenue to Greendale Avenue. He stated that a public hearing on the project is scheduled for May 15, 2007 at the Pollard School at 7:30 p.m. The Board asked several questions including what type of materials would be utilized and the impact the project may have on the Fourth of July Parade. Mr. Merson stated that the Parade should not be impacted.

8:40 p.m. Ms. Fitzpatrick appeared before the Board with two items for the Board's consideration:

1. FY08 Budget:  
Ms. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Davison provided the Board with an update on the fiscal year 2008 budget. Mr. Davison provided the Board with a projected revenue update which included an increase of over \$1.3 million. The increase is due primarily to the passing of the operating override.
2. Debt Update:  
Ms. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Davison provided the Board with an update on current outstanding debt and information on some upcoming bond sales. Mr. Davison stated that the Board will be asked to approve a bond sale for \$13 million for the High School and the High Rock Project at its meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>. He also stated that

a bond sale of \$432,052 for miscellaneous expenditures will also be presented at that meeting. Mr. Davison stated that the Board would be asked to take action on a \$4,470,000 bond sale for the 128 sewer/water project at its June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Davison expects the Town to maintain its Triple A Rating. The Board discussed the rating and how rating agencies view stabilization accounts and the need to document debt policies.

9:10 p.m. Board Discussion:

1. MAPC Candidate:

Mr. Wasserman asked the Board to vote on candidates to serve on the MAPC Board.

**Motion by Mr. Cogswell that the Board vote to submit its MAPC official ballot supporting the appointment of Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor of Somerville, as a City representative and Dennis L. Giombetti, Chair of the Framingham Selectmen, as a Town representative to the MAPC Board.**

**Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approved 5-0.**

9:15 p.m. Adjourn:

**Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to adjourn the May 8, 2007 Needham Board of Selectmen Meeting.**

**Second: Mr. Cogswell. Unanimously approved 5-0.**