

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Harold Wood. Members present: Wayne Welch and Norm Weldy. Also present: Richard C. Bates, Town Manager.

Chairman Wood led a salute to the flag and moment of silence for departed citizens.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY – DISCUSSION

Diane White, President of the Raymond Historical Society, met with the Board to discuss the Historical Society's project for landscaping and brickwork in the railroad station. Mrs. White requested a letter of support from the Selectmen for a grant they are applying for. The grant is from Kodak American Greenways, a partnership project involving Eastman Kodak Company, the conservation Fund and the National Geographic Society. The grantors are looking to understand the significance of the project to the Town, to develop a level of confidence in the ability of the Historical Society to complete it and for a demonstration of local support for the project.

Mrs. White explained that the Historical Society is also seeking assistance from the Town to extend the sidewalk along the Main Street boundary of the depot property and to install the bricks for the Commemorative Walkway leading from the corner of Main Street and Depot Road, across the lawn to the depot entrance. The Historical Society will supply the bricks for the Commemorative Walkway, and, to the extent that the Town does not already have them in inventory, the pavers for the Town owned sidewalk. The Historical Society is requesting that the Town donate the labor and equipment necessary to install the sidewalk and walkway.

Town Manager Bates stated that he drafted a letter of support for this project.

MOTION: Selectman Weldy made a motion to send a letter of support as requested by the Raymond Historical Society. Selectman Welch seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Town Manager Bates stated that he has not had the opportunity to discuss the request to donate Town labor and equipment with Public Works Director McCarthy. Diane White stated that Mr. McCarthy has reviewed the plan and is aware of the project. Town Manager Bates will get his recommendations on the project.

Selectmen Welch and Weldy agreed that this is an excellent project.

BUILDING PERMIT – CLASS VI ROAD

The Board reviewed a letter from Robert Varney requesting permission to build a house on Stingy River Road, Map 11, Lot 42. Under State statute 674:41, the Board of Selectmen authorizes the construction of a house on a Class VI Road.

MOTION: Selectman Welch made a motion to forward this request to the Planning Board for review and recommendation. Selectman Weldy seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

TROOP RALLY

Town Manager Bates stated that he had a meeting with Peg Louis of Hometown Friends, Larry Sharma from Raymond High School and other community members to put together a support our troops rally. The rally will be held on Tuesday, April 15th on the Common from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. The High School Group, Jobs for New Hampshire Grads will be assisting with the rally. Selectman Weldy stated that he has contacted Senator Gregg's Office and Senator Sununu's Office. Ed Martini of the American Legion has contacted the Governor's Office. The Board of Selectmen thanked everyone for their participation and urged everyone to join in the rally to support our troops.

JOINT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The School Board has requested that the Selectmen meet with them at their regularly scheduled meeting on the 16th of April. Tentatively, planned for discussion is the Easter Seals project, which is a proposed development of an Easter Seals School in Raymond. They are proposing a 40,000 square foot building, a teen center, gymnasium and classrooms.

OTHER BUSINESS

Selectman Welch stated that a resident presented a concern about people not using the side walks on Epping Street. The Board urged people to use the sidewalks.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office will be closed on Thursday, April 10th to allow the staff to attend a workshop.

Public Works is cleaning up the cemetery and doing roadside cleanup as well.

Police Department promoted two officers. Scott Payne was sworn in as Sergeant and Michael Lebell was sworn in as Corporal at a ceremony held at the Town Office. Officer Tomilson is working on a Seatbelt Challenge. There will be more information to come.

Recreation Department is working on the volunteer banquet that will have a Hawaiian theme. There will be a breakfast with the Easter Bunny and an Easter Egg Hunt. Tickets are on sale for a dinner theater to be held in May.

Fire Chief Pratt has completed the Supervisor III academy. There will be a 4th grade fire prevention class.

Library is holding a fine free week and collecting items for troops. There will be an antique appraisal day on June 12th.

The Town Manager reported that he recently attended a class on employment law.

OTHER BUSINESS

Selectman Welch read a memo from the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee regarding a program offered by the Rockingham County Conservation District. The program offers residents the opportunity to purchase composting bins for \$35.00 during the month of April. There are also educational tools available. The committee requested permission to place one of the posters and accompanying order forms in the Town Office and to show the composting videos on the local cable station. The Board of Selectmen had no objection and urged residents to learn more about the program.

Town Manager Bates reviewed a memo from Public Works Director McCarthy regarding paving costs for 2003. Last year's paving cost was \$32.20 per ton. The prior year was \$30.00 per ton. This year Brox requested a \$2.00 increase if the Town extends last years contract. Other pavement suppliers anticipate increase of \$2.50 per ton. Currently paving is being bid for \$35.00 to \$37.00 per ton. If the Town accepts Brox's proposal our asphalt pavement cost for 2003 would be fixed at \$34.20 per ton. Bidding out will probably result in an increase. Public Works Director McCarthy's memo asks that the Board of Selectmen decide if this should go out to bid or accept Brox's offer. In prior years contracts have been extended. Selectman Welch stated that he would like further information regarding this and Board agreed to hold off on a decision until more information is received.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Selectman Welch made a motion to approve the minutes of 3-24-03 as amended. Selectman Weldy seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Selectman Weldy made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Welch seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Patterson
Selectmen's Secretary