Selectmen’s meeting minutes of October 20th, 2005

Present from the Board:
Chairman Richard Manseau, Selectmen Brown, Wadleigh, and Dawson. Selectmen O’Leary was not present.

Also present:
Town Administrator Alice MacKinnon, and secretary Catherine A. Woessner.

Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

APPROVAL: MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6TH, 2005: Selectmen Brown made a
motion to accept the minutes of October 6th, as written, seconded by Selectman Dawson. All were in favor.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13TH, 2005: Selectman Brown made a motion to accept
the minutes of October 13th, as written, seconded by Chairman Manseau. All were in favor.

AP & PAYROLL MINIFESTS: The Selectmen approved and signed the manifests.

OLD BUSINESS:
• Attorney Puffer inquiry, regarding Sherryland Park. Alice informed the
  Board that Attorney Puffer would like to meet with the Board on Thursday,
  October 27th, at 5:30PM to discuss the questions the Board has.
• Mr. Ball Mechanic Street issue. Selectman Brown will check into this matter
  and report back to the Board.
• Mr. Jordan, blockage on Range Road. Alice will send Mr. Jordan a letter
  regarding the blockage.
• Estimates on climitization for downstairs, town hall. Joe Plessner is working
  on estimates.
• Flooding, FEMA. Alice informed the Board that she does have a contact
  FEMA if anyone has had any flooding.
• Mrs. St. Louis, Morrison Ave. Alice will be sending Mrs. St. Louis a letter
  regarding the issue of her porch.
• Franklin, town boundary. Have not had any further information regarding
  this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
• Conservation Commission will be meeting on Saturday, October 22, at the
  Middle School Parking lot at 3:00PM to walk through Buffalo Park and have
  invited the Selectmen to attend.
A joint meeting of the Northfield, Sanbornton, and Tilton Board of Selectmen will meet with the Tilton School Formula Committee on Tuesday, November 22nd, at 7:00PM at the Northfield Town Hall.

APPOINTMENTS WITH SELECTMEN:

PAT CLARK, RIVERFRONT PARK BIDS, NON-PUBLIC, Re: Negotiations
At 6:15PM Chairman Manseau made a motion to go into non-public session, for the purpose of discussing negotiations of bids, seconded by Selectman Brown. A roll call vote was taken. Selectman Dawson, yes, Selectman Wadleigh, yes, Selectman Brown, yes, and Chairman Manseau, yes.

At 6:43PM the Board resumed their regular meeting.

Chairman Manseau made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session until the negotiations are completed, seconded by Selectman Brown. All were in favor.

Reports from Selectmen:

Selectman Brown, Winter Maintenance Policy: Selectman Brown informed the Board of a few corrections in the policy and on the map section. The Selectmen will review the policy and discuss it at their next meeting.

Selectman Dawson,
Boston Post Cane: Selectman Dawson asked if a date has been set for the presentation of the Boston Post Cane. Alice said she has informed the town clerk but has not heard back from her as to when the presentation will be. Alice said someone from the Board should attend the presentation. Chairman Manseau said he would make arrangements to attend.

Accumulated sick days: Selectman Dawson asked Alice if she has been able to calculate the town clerk's accumulated sick days. Alice said the Finance Officer is working on it.

Wetland testing: Selectman Dawson asked if the Selectmen should choose the wetlands expert to do the testing on the Miller property because it is supposed to be done by the end of December. Alice informed the Board that Mr. Miller did call her and he was perfectly fine with everything that was in the letter from the Board and had no problem with doing the wetlands testing. The Board would like to get three estimates and discuss some of the companies that do this work. Alice said Mr. Miller asked to have a copy of the wetlands report when it is finished.
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Town Report: Selectman Dawson asked to discuss the town report. It was quite late last year and Selectmen Dawson thinks the Board should start thinking about it now as it is their responsibility. Selectman Dawson said her suggestion is to have the town clerk compile the town report and report to the Board of Selectmen letting them know how she is doing, ideas, and also input from the Selectmen. Selectman Dawson said the Selectmen have never really taken charge of the town report and thinks they should. Selectman Dawson said the town report needs to be published seven days before town meeting. Chairman Manseau said they need to work on timelines and deadlines for every aspect of the town report. Selectman Dawson would like to have the letters to the various agencies for their reports sent out next month rather than in December. Selectman Dawson said she would like to see a more complete report. The School Funding Formula Committee and the Building Study Committee for the Police Department should be included in the town report. Selectman Dawson said she has been looking at town reports from other towns and there is much more information in them. Such as more of what is going on in town, things that are happening, things that are being worked on, rather than just statistical reports. Selectman Dawson would also like to see a more in-depth budget than what they normally print. Chairman Manseau said they need to establish a timeline and work backwards to determine a deadline and what is workable. Chairman Manseau said he would check with the prison to see how long it would take them to do the town report and will have to get other bids as well. Alice said in the past she has edited the Selectmen’s portion in the town report, but the reports that come in are not to be edited and this needs to be clear. Chairman Manseau said the Selectmen need to proof the town report. Selectman Dawson would like the Board of Selectmen to have more input on the design of the report, the compilation of it and the design. Selectman Brown suggested creating a survey sheet and pass it out at town meeting asking the towns people what they would like to see in it for next year. Chairman Manseau said this would go along with an insert in the town report with the survey.

Chairman Manseau made a motion to assign the task of compiling the town report as stipulated to the town clerk, seconded by Selectman Dawson. All were in favor. Selectman Dawson would like the town clerk to meet with the Selectmen to let her know their intentions regarding the town report.

Chief of Police Kent Chapman:
At 7:00PM Chairman Manseau made a motion to go into non-public session regarding investigation, personnel issue, seconded by Selectman Brown. Selectman Dawson, yes, Chairman Manseau, yes, and Selectman Brown.
At 7:23PM the Board resumed their regular meeting.
Chairman Manseau made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session in light of the fact that it was related to a personnel issue for an indefinite period of time, seconded by Selectman Brown. All were in favor.

Chief Chapman presented a press release for the Board to review regarding the Study Committee for a new Police Building. Chief Chapman said he spoke to a consultant who is going to help him put together a presentation, at no charge, for town meeting so people will understand what the Study Committee is doing regarding a new police station. Selectman Dawson said they discussed regarding an Independent Study determining exactly why the Police Station is too small and this information should be part of the press release. Selectman Dawson also thinks they should explain public input sessions will be scheduled sometime in the spring. Selectman Dawson said this is the kind of information the public is looking for, what is happening, and what is being done. Also included should be that a piece of land is being looked at and will be presented as a separate item. Chief Chapman will work on the press release and have it ready for next week's meeting.

Chief Chapman announced that a plaque was presented to Officer Nate Morrison. Officer Morrison stopped a vehicle for improper lane use and in the result of this confiscated felony drugs and made an arrest. Several days later Officer Morrison stopped another vehicle for speeding and the driver was a habitual offender, which is a felony.
Officer Patten was nominated by Chief Scott Hilliard regarding a vehicle that was stolen and went out of control ramming into Northfield Police Cruiser. Officer Patten took part in the arrest. Officer Patten received an award Sunday from Senator Judd Gregg and other dignitaries at Police Standards and Training.

At 7:00PM Chairman Manseau announced the Public Hearing open, presented by State Officials, DOT., Commissioner Carol Murray and Bill Oldenberg, Chief of Preliminary Design, to discuss problems with the traffic pattern on Route 3, just after Exit 20 from Route I-93 on the East Tilton side. State Representative Gail Morrison was also present.
At this time Chairman Manseau turned the meeting over to Mr. Oldenberg.

Mr. Oldenberg stated that DOT received correspondence asking them to look into the idea of extending the raised Island in the area of Route 132, Route 3, I-93 northbound off ramp, 140, 132, entrance to Shaw's and the driveway to the Tilton Diner, Evans Expressmart, and Dunkin Donuts. The concern is the number of accidents that are occurring as people leave at the entrance to the Tilton Diner.
DOT was asked to investigate extending the Island to 132. Mr. Oldenberg said when they constructed the Exit 20 project in 1995 there were concerns about the access and whether the Island should be extended. At the time it was decided not to extend the Island and block the drive with the understanding that if it became a safety issue they could always come back and extend the Island if it was necessary. Mr. Oldenberg said the roadway was designed so that the Island could be installed and it can be done if the town wants them to. The painted Island can be replaced with a raised Island. Mr. Oldenberg pointed this out on the map he presented. Mr. Oldenberg said this is relatively easy to construct and they would have to put in one catch basin because of the slope of the road. It would not take much time and is very east to construct. The issue of access into the area of the Tilton Diner and the Gas Station would be restricted to a right in, right out only. Mr. Oldenberg said that it may be possible to allow u-turns at the intersection of 140 and at Rte., 132. signal and it is feasible for a passenger vehicle to do so. Mr. Oldenberg said one of the other things they looked at is if it would be feasible to connect that development with Shaw’s. There is a bridge there already and Mr. Oldenberg thinks it was placed there for emergency access. Chairman Manseau said this was placed by Pike’s to drive their heavy equipment across it. Mr. Oldenberg said their thought would be to line it up directly with the Shaw’s frontage and providing it was two-way would provide easy access at the signal. Mr. Oldenberg said this would be one way of solving the problem getting out to the signal and having full access. There was discussion regarding who owns this property. Mr. Olenberg said this is not something DOT would look at doing, it would be between the town and the property owners would more than likely have to handle that.

Police Chief Kent Chapman addressed the issue. Chief Chapman said that in the past two and a half years in that area there have been 38 accidents. Chief Chapman indicated on the map how these accidents happen and some of them have been pretty severe, one involving a State Police Cruiser and is very concerned that one is going to be fatal and there will be liability issues.

Officer Morrison said he does not think allowing cars to u-turn at the intersections is a good idea with six lanes of traffic to try to see while they are doing this maneuver. He feels this will create a major problem at a major intersection and thinks a viable alternative is different access out to an existing intersection with a light.

Jeff Savage, President of Franklin Savings Bank, and the only one representing the business. Mr. Savage supports the interest to add a safety measure to this vicinity. Mr. Savage would hope the town would work to try to assist the businesses in trying to make some measure of accessibility of this vicinity.

Stan Robinson representative of Shaw’s Plaza expressed concerns that Shaw’s will become a thruway.
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Chairman Manseau said they need to either do this correctly or not do it at all and deal with the accidents. Chairman Manseau said he does not want to deal with the accidents as they have done this for too long.

Joe Plessner asked if the business are more important than the people’s well being. Chairman Manseau said the reality is that they are not here to put people out of business anymore than they are here to put people at risk. Chairman Manseau said they need to explore both options at the same time not take a wait and see attitude. They need to work together in concert with the State and approach this as a complete project. Chief Chapman suggested a time line as they have a safety issue here. He suggested the Board make a time line of either next spring everyone comes on board with the access or the Board will have to make a decision without it. Chairman Manseau said creating the access is going to cost the town money and will have to go before town meeting. Chairman Manseau suggested they have a meeting with the owners or representatives of the owners of the two parcels of land and explain the situation and the direction the Selectmen are going and have that meeting as soon as possible. Chairman asked DOT Director Carol Murray if they had a date to start this project. Ms. Murray said it is to late to start now and will be in the spring of 2006. Chief Chapman said he does not have a problem with that. Chairman and the Selectmen thanked State Representative Gail Morrison for all the work she did in pushing this project along. Chairman Manseau closed the public hearing at 7:58PM.

Chairman Manseau asked Alice to draft a letter to the two landowners explaining what is going on and would like to have them or their representatives attend a meeting as soon as possible. Chairman said this project needs to be a collaborative effort with the landowners but the Selectmen need to help organize it.

Public Input:
Susan Walker reminded the Board that the last game on the ball field is October 29th and after that they are planning on bringing in york rakes to clean the field and re-seed it. Selectman Dawson suggested they just re-seed the northern three quarters of it and stake off where it is re-seeded. Sue said they would like to do this the first week of November.

Selectman Brown asked about the estimates on the fence for the ball field. Selectman Dawson said she called five companies and will take at least a week to get the estimates. Selectman Dawson said she spoke to the person she got one estimate from to update and they will not have time to do it this fall so it will be a spring project. Selectman Dawson informed the Board that she is hoping to have an answer from little league regarding whether or not the four foot fence they put around the little league field will be removable or not, in the outfield.

Chairman Manseau adjourned the meeting at 8:10PM.