

Selectmen's Meeting
March 10, 2008
4:00 P.M.

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in a temporary meeting room on the second floor. Members present were Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman, Selectman Arthur Smadbeck and Selectman Michael J. Donaroma. Also present was Town Administrator Pamela M. Dolby.

Marnie Stanton, Vineyard Conservation Society encouraging Lights Out Martha's Vineyard, an Island-wide energy conservation event taking place on Saturday, March 29, 2008 between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m., was present to ask for the Board's support. She explained that this is an Island-wide initiative and also a global movement. She said that turning lights out for one hour on the 29th at the above time would save 25% of energy used that day. She asked that all non-essential municipal lighting, including computers, be turned off. Posters advertising the event will be posted around town. The event is being held in conjunction with Lights Out America and Earth Hour. Selectman Smadbeck said that he thought it was a great idea and said that Town Hall would shut down the lights and computers. He made a motion for the Board to support the request and to allow the signs to be posted and it was so voted, unanimously.

The Board received a request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund of \$4,268.24 from the Christmas Decorations Committee, Jean G. Hathaway. The Board voted to grant the request. Town Administrator Dolby said that the Christmas Decorations Committee has ideas for generating revenue before next year to offset expenses.

Chairman Serpa noted that the Cape Wind hearing will be held Wednesday evening. Selectman Smadbeck, who had written a letter regarding the subject, will not be here Wednesday. Chairman Serpa will read the letter at the hearing. Selectman Smadbeck explained the contents of the letter, saying that no one is opposed to renewable energy, but there are good places and bad places to site the wind towers Cape Wind proposes. Selectman Smadbeck said we are working on a lot of ways to develop renewable energy and these should be given priority. The Board then voted to authorize Chairman Serpa to read Selectman Smadbeck's letter at the hearing.

The Edgartown Planning Board and Traffic Committee were present to make preliminary recommendations to improve parking in the downtown area. Present were Georgiana Greenough, Administrative Assistant; members Alison Cannon, Roger Becker, Chairman, and William Bishop, as well as Susan Catling and Claire Thacher, members of the parking committee. Also present were James Westervelt of the Martha's Vineyard Commission and Claudia Cooke of the Board of Trade.

Ms. Cannon said they had had many meetings and were working together with the business people and were now presenting a short-term plan which calls for completion of the renovation of the Dark Woods Trolley Lot a/k/a Upper Main St. Park & Ride to encourage visitors, town employees and business employees to park outside the business district. The Committee and Board of Trade strongly encourage that the landscaping, lighting and drainage projects be completed immediately in anticipation of paving when it is warmer. Stuart Fuller, Superintendent of Highways, noting he and his men were still working on bike paths, said he felt he could also have the work done on the parking lot by early June. The Board supported this recommendation.

The second recommendation was to change the name of the Dark Woods Trolley Lot to the Upper Main Street Park & Ride, because it is a less ominous name and encourages long-term parking and conveys that there is a bus service to downtown, thereby freeing up more short-term parking downtown. Ms. Cannon asked for big signs advertising the trolley service. The Board approved this recommendation as presented.

The third recommendation was to increase time limit parking hours on streets where one hour is the limit to two hours. This was approved by the Board on condition that the Chief of Police also approved it.

James Westervelt of the Martha's Vineyard Commission spoke in favor of changing the name to Upper Main Street Parking Lot. Ms. Cannon spoke of a van service to transport workers at late night restaurants, mostly women, to get to the parking lot and their cars.

The fourth recommendation, Ms. Cannon said, was to increase parking violation fees from \$10 to \$25; \$15 to \$30; and \$50 to \$65 (depending on the offense) and increase enforcement. This was approved by the Board as presented providing it had the support of the Police Department.

The fifth recommendation, a short-term solution to curb-cut regulations in the Historic District. This calls for permission from the Highway Department and Historic District Commission until zoning regulations can be drafted and approved through the public process. Meantime, the Planning Board would like to consult Town Counsel on the matter.

The sixth recommendation had to do with adding signage. The Planning Board will return before the Board next week with specific recommendations and a map.

Regarding curb-cuts, Town Administrator Dolby said this would require a change in the by-law. Mr. Becker said the Planning Board would support such a by-law. But he added, personally he is looking for the issue of curb cuts to go to the Historic District Commission first, noting it's their issue. Chairman Serpa said the Board would take no action on it right now, that there is a lot to be worked out. Selectman Smadbeck moved to give the Planning Board and Traffic Committee permission to consult Town Counsel to see what can be done to limit curb cuts.

Ms. Cannon showed pictures of places where there are no signs but signs are needed, such as no sign off Main Street for cars going to the Chappy Ferry and a sign at the Visitors Center that all buses must stop there so they won't go down Main Street. There was further discussion by the Board of signs until Selectman Donaroma said that there would be so many signs he wouldn't read any of them. Chairman Serpa suggested further work be done on it and they should come back next week after consulting with the Police and Highway Superintendent.

Bob Clay of Habitat for Humanity was present to discuss a two-bedroom house on 10th Street which he said they hope to build this summer. They have started advertising it on WMTV and applications and information are available at various local banks, the Library, the Post Office and the Thrift Shop. Information will also be given and help to applicants on March 22 at the High School. There is a deadline for applications. There was some discussion on how to advertise this event. Town Administrator Dolby said she would check with the Sign Committee.

Paul Bagnall, Shellfish Constable, reported that the Shellfish Committee had voted to recommend to the Board the following for shellfish licenses: family permit resident, \$50; Non-resident, \$250; one-week permit, \$50, and one all species permit at \$350. The Board voted to approve the recommendations.

The Board received a request from Peter Shemeth, Fire Chief, to approve their application for a \$200,000 grant to supplement the cost of a tanker on Chappaquiddick. The grant requires the Town of Edgartown to fund only 5% of the total, not to exceed \$10,000. The Board voted their approval.

Elder Services of Cape Cod & the Islands requested a Board Commitment to deliver Meals on Wheels to elders of the town on March 19 at noon in their "Mayors for Meals" program. Chairman Serpa and Selectman Smadbeck agreed to take part.

The Martha's Vineyard Preservation Trust wrote the Board regarding a Fireworks Display Permit for the winning bidder at the Preservation Trust's Taste of the Vineyard auction, noting that the winner would like the display shortly after Labor Day 2008 in front of the Chappie Beach Club. Selectman Smadbeck moved that the permit could be issued contingent on agreement by the Fire Chief, the Harbormaster and the Police Chief, and the Board so voted.

The Board voted to ratify the decision of the Edgartown Library Board of Trustees regarding a proposed contract with Munters for the clean-up of the Edgartown Library. The contract had been reviewed by Town Counsel. When insurance proofs are received from Munters, David Blackburn, Chairman of the Trustees, will sign for the Trustees.

The Board voted to sign the Town Administrators new contract 07/1/2009-06/30/2011.

The Board voted to approve two Yard Sales: Georgiana Greenough, 1 Martha's Rd.,

May 3, rain date May 4; and Good Riddance Group, 42 Morse St., March 30, rain date April 4.

Town Administrator Dolby asked for Board permission to consult Town Counsel regarding resolving the issue of a Fishermen's Lot that needs to be cleaned up. The Board voted to give the permission to consult Town Counsel.

Town Administrator Dolby said she had talked to Stuart Fuller, Highway Superintendent, about paving 22nd St. South. She said there were available funds, about \$60,000. Mr. Fuller thought it could be done in the Fall.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Hope Waingrow, secretary

Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman

Arthur Smadbeck

Michael J. Donaroma

BOARD OF SELECTMEN