

The Selectboard would like to wait to see how this process goes with other towns before going forward. The Board advised Pat they are interested in pursuing participation for an in-kind matching grant to assist with exploring the program further.

PARKING REQUEST FOR PROPOSED CONDITIONAL USE

Cori Hill and Tina Shoup were present to seek permission for using Old #11 Road's right of way for overflow parking during events. They have corresponded with the Planning Coordinator regarding an application for a Conditional Use permit to hold large events, such as weddings on Tina's property. The Planning Coordinator suggested they speak with the Selectboard regarding usage of the right of way for parking prior to submitting the application. Cori and Tina anticipate maybe three or four events per year. Parking would be restricted to one side of the road. Two vehicles would not be able to pass one another. There would be enough room for emergency vehicles. There are only a few houses beyond Tina's property before the road ends.

The Board is not opposed to the concept however there aren't any guidelines for them to use as reference because the Zoning Regulations are silent if a structure is not involved in a Conditional Use. They would like some guidance from the Development Review Board and/or Planning Commission to assist with developing criteria for these types of events.

INTERESTED CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

The Selectboard received an article from a group of interested citizens for publication in the newsletter regarding the school budget revote. The Town's attorney has advised that the newsletter is a non-public forum therefore the Selectboard can decline an article if it is not from an official body. The attorney further advised that government cannot publish information which tries to persuade a vote. Superintendent Mike Dewese provided information for not allowing the article as well. Based on the attorney's opinion, the Board chose not to publish the article.

Dick Heaps stated that the School Board has a bias; they want the budget to pass. He feels there is no way the School Board can present the facts without leading therefore doesn't see a difference between the two articles. He doesn't see how the Town can allow the School Board article if it is denying the group's article. Conrad would like the Town to not allow any articles from the School Board and for them to find another means to distribute their information.

Dave Tilton said that while State law prohibits the Town from publishing information to try to persuade a pending vote, State law also provides specific authorization for school boards to publish information explaining why they believe their proposal is a good one.

The Selectboard will contact the School Board to advise that their article must be submitted by Friday to allow sufficient time for the article to be reviewed. The School Board will be notified that if the article is not received by Friday it will not be published, and that the article should be written in a manner that cannot be interpreted as unduly leading or persuading. The Board will maintain the right to edit the article as well.

PERMIT FOR SEYMOUR TRAIL

The Board approved a permit for Stewart Bryan to operate a vehicle on the Seymour Trail. The permit is extended to Paul Heald, realtor for Mr. Bryan

ROAD SCHEDULE

Dave Tilton made a motion to approve the Road Schedule for April 24, 2010 through May 15, 2010, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 3-0.

Dave and Sue Adams submitted a request for the Town to regrade the edge of their property along Common Road by filling in the depressions with topsoil and seeding rather than constructing a swale to alleviate the water problems they have been experiencing since the reconstruction of the intersection of Common Road and Route 128. They are concerned the swale will cause erosion and it will reduce the size of their already small yard. The Board approved the request.

BILLS/CORRESPONDENCE

Bills were approved and correspondence was read.

MINUTES

Bob Bancroft made a motion to approve the April 8, 2010 minutes as amended, seconded by Dave Tilton. Motion passed: 3-0.

EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

The Chair approved Excess Weight Permits for Premier Paving, Cox Trucking, Moe DuBois Excavating, Wayne's Construction, Larry Gregoire, Tatro Brothers Concrete, Warren Palmer and Fresh Water Haulers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bob Bancroft made a motion to enter Executive Session at 10:09 p.m. to discuss personnel, seconded by John Quinn. Motion passed: 3-0. People in attendance were John Quinn, Bob Bancroft, and Dave Tilton.

The Board exited Executive Session at 10:45 p.m.

ADJOURN

Bob Bancroft made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Quinn. Motion passed: 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David A. Tilton, Chair
Westford Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Clerk