

**NEWBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SUMMER TOWN INFORMATIONAL MEETING
Minutes of July 28, 2007**

Selectmen: Richard Wright

Town Personnel: Dennis Pavlicek, Town Admin; Donna Long, Admin. Assistant, Police Chief Lee,
Fire Chief Thomas

Public: Barbara Kamph, Cynthia Trudeau, Martha Greenwood, Charles Schiess, John Pratt, and others.

The meeting convened at 8:00 a.m.

Selectman Wright welcomed everyone to the annual Summer Meeting. He reminded everyone that immediately following the meeting there will be a Visioning Session in which residents can give their input on ideas for the future of Newbury. He invited everyone to stay for that meeting.

Barbara Kamph complimented the town on Old Home Day. She said everything was wonderful but asked if anything could be done to improve the parking on that day. Wright admitted that parking is an issue. Chief Lee responded by saying that parking will be permitted at the parking lot across the street from the Harbor. The owner has asked employees of these stores to park in the rear of the building to leave more parking for customers. Pavlicek mentioned that this could be brought up during the Visioning Session.

Cynthia Trudeau asked if maybe parking near the transfer station might be an option next year. Wright said the Selectmen are considering dedicating Fishersfield next year and that some of the activities might be located at this location. This would alleviate some of the parking issues in the Town Office area.

Martha Greenwood said that more food needs to be available for next year's Old Home Day as food was running low at the end of the dinner.

Charlie Schiess mentioned that there is an ongoing problem with the development on the hill up from Blodgett Landing. He said the construction trucks are destroying roads and that the drainage was inadequate. Wright said the Select Board has been addressing the problems on a one by one basis. Pavlicek said that letters have been sent to some of these neighborhoods requesting them to meet with
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the Select Board at the end of August. The Board will continue to meet with other neighborhoods throughout the year. Charles Schiess asked who will pay for these improvements. Wright said the property owners who created these problems would be responsible for fixing them.

Barbara Kamph asked if the town is responsible for cleaning out ditches. She said Bell Cove Road needs to be cleaned. Wright said it will be checked.

Barbara Gibson asked for an update on the sewer system on Blodgett Landing. Pavlicek stated most repairs are done. They will be back next year to make sure everything is in good working order. Pavlicek said the entire system should be done by next year.

Cynthia Trudeau asked what is going on with the cemetery. Wright said a fence will be going up. He said he would also look into the fact that the trash can is missing at the cemetery.

Fire Chief Hank Thomas reported that he was notified from Homeland Security that they received a grant for some new equipment. The department will be getting the following items: jaws of life, cutters, thermal-imaging camera, radios and an ice rescue truck with training. He also reported that the fire house in Blodgett Landing has a new roof.

Barbara Kamph asked about cell phone reception. Pavlicek said that three new cell towers are tentatively schedule to be going up soon: 2 in Sunapee and one in Newport.

John Pratt said that the rock walls are deteriorating near the water at Blodgett Landing.

A resident wanted to know why the summer informational meeting wasn't advertised around town. Wright reported that it was advertised in three publications as well as posters at the town office, library, post office, etc. Wright also said that the best way to get the word around is to tell everyone word of mouth to be sure everyone knows of these meetings. Pavlicek said to also check out the website for updated information.

A question was asked if the sale of properties in a neighborhood could increase the assessment of other house in the area. Wright stated that the fair market value of a home is based on recent sales in the town. When asked if appraisals have just been updated, Pavlicek reported the appraisals were done last fall. The only changes to appraisals should be due to building permits. Pavlicek was asked what happens if a taxpayer does not pay his taxes. He stated that if not paid by the due date, an interest charge of 12% is incurred and after the second notice of taxes it increases to 18% interest. After two years of not paying taxes, the town takes over the property and auctions it off.

A resident stated that in her home town of Waltham, MA, it is allowed to donate time to the town to be used toward payment of taxes. Pavlicek reported that this would be a NH legislative decision. He said that the Select board does have a 'Good Cause' rule that would allow them to abate someone's taxes. Pavlicek suggested that they call their local legislators regarding this issue.

Pavlicek was asked if the town has changed their accounting system. He responded 'no' but we have new standards by GASB 34 (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) that looks at every piece of equipment and property valued over \$5,000.

Schiess stated his concern over the rise of taxes in Newbury. He said there are many people in town that have had camps on the lake for generations that simply cannot afford to keep them anymore. Wright said taxes did go down last year and that the taxes are based on the value of the property.

Charles Schiess asked how selectmen get voted in. Wright explained that every year a seat on the Select Board is up for election. Each position is held for three years. He explained that you can only vote if you are a full time resident of Newbury. You can only vote for the town that you claim as your primary residence.

Cynthia Trudeau stated that she thought the Select Board was doing a wonderful job.

A resident asked the town's position in issuing building permits. Wright said there is a significant planning process that one must go through to subdivide in Newbury. Wright mentioned that there has been a decrease in building permits. He said that there must be a reason to limit building permits in town.

The Newbury Summer Informational Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m. to start the Visioning Session.