

SELECTMENS' WORKSHOP
Minutes of 12/29/08
4:00 p.m.

Selectmen:

Peter F. Brothers, Chairman
Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman
Robert C. Flanders
Charles G. Palm
Colette Worsman

Co-Interim Town Managers:

John C. Edgar
Brenda L. Vittner

Recording Clerk:

Karin Landry

Call to Order: Chairman Peter Brothers called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He introduced the Board, Co-Interim Town Managers, and the Recording Clerk. Selectman Worsman arrived a few minutes after the meeting began.

W 08-48 **Community Center Garden Dedication Request**

The Greater Meredith Program Design Committee has asked the Selectmen to endorse the dedication of the Community Center garden to all those who contributed time, materials, and financial assistance to develop the garden. There was remarkable support for the garden from individuals, companies, and organizations from within the Town, as well as from surrounding communities. The Greater Meredith Program Board is agreeable to the dedication. Chris Williams, who coordinated the volunteer efforts, updated the Board on the garden. The garden is scheduled to be completed in the spring, with the addition of a light pole and a few more plantings. The plants will be native shrubs, plants, and flowers. A diagram of the garden identifying the plants will serve as an education aid. An individual who resides in Meredith has volunteered to maintain the garden, and it will be an official Adopt-A-Spot location. Several hundred dollars must be raised between now and June to cover miscellaneous expenses. The dedication is scheduled for July 17. Dialogue ensued regarding the details of plaques in recognition of the volunteer efforts. The Board agreed that the garden should be dedicated to the efforts of the volunteers who made it a reality. The matter will come before the Board for official action at the Board meeting following the Workshop.

W 08-49 **Greater Meredith Program Update**

The Town of Meredith is the biggest financial contributor of the Greater Meredith Program, followed by Meredith Village Savings Bank, Laconia Savings Bank, The Common Man, and Hampshire Hospitality Holdings. Executive Director Jeannie Forester updated the Board on the achievements of the Program over the past year, including:

- The implementation of the Community Center Garden which was a huge success. The project drew volunteers from surrounding communities who wanted to contribute to what

is happening in Meredith. Volunteers donated an estimated \$60,000 in time, effort, and goods.

- The Greater Meredith Program wrote the nomination for the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Award granted to the Town. The award recognizes the Town for outstanding public policy, education and planning.
- The Meredith Beautification Conservation Fund instituted at the end of 2007 brought in \$40,000 worth of donations. \$10,000 of those funds have been reinvested in the community, including the All American display garden in front of the public library, a contribution to the Page Pond project, a contribution to the Community Center garden, doggy waste receptacles, trees, and flower boxes along the Route 3 rails. A photo exhibit showing how the beautification funds are utilized is being created.

There were six promotional programs and four community events: December to Remember, Family Fun Fest, Meredith in Bloom, two retail promotions, Holiday Open House, and Thursday Night Live. Several fundraising activities were instituted to support community projects including the Christmas card sale, this summer's game show, and a roast.

The Town received over \$113,000 in programs and projects in return for the \$15,000 invested in the Program.

Dialogue ensued regarding the success of the various programs and events, and the uniqueness of the Program.

W 08-50 Acceptance of Resignation – Steve Bennett, Emergency Management Director

Steve Bennett served as the Town's Emergency Management Director for 25 years. The Emergency Management Director is responsible for coordinating emergency operations when the need arises. He put together the original Emergency Management Plan, and oversaw updates to the Plan, the most recent of which was in 2002. On December 17, 2008 Mr. Bennett submitted his resignation from the position, effective January 1, 2009. The Town will express its gratitude with a letter of appreciation, and a plaque in recognition of his service. The Chair directed the Co-Interim Town Managers to follow through with the acknowledgements. The matter will come before the Board for official action at the Board meeting following the Workshop.

W 08-51 Appointment of Emergency Management Director

The Board must appoint an Emergency Management Director to provide a seamless level of coverage for the community with respect to emergency management. Critical department heads and the recently re-convened Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee agree that the appointment should come from the safety/emergency services professions, and that Police Chief Kevin Morrow should be appointed as the Emergency Management Director. The position is far different than it was 25 years ago, and the new director must be able to meet the time commitments required by the position. Dialogue ensued regarding the time commitments involved in serving as Emergency Management Director and the efficiencies gained by keeping

the appointment internal. Chief Morrow currently attends the Emergency Management meetings, and does not foresee a significant additional time commitment in assuming responsibility for the coordination and implementation of the plan. The police and fire department currently serve as first responders in the event of an emergency. His good working relationship with other departments will aid if the Plan must be implemented. The Board agreed that they are in favor of making the appointment internally, and does not view the appointment as an expansion of services. The matter will come before the Board for official action at the Board meeting following the Workshop.

Additional Item:

Ms. Vittner received a letter of interest from John Ward, 91 Spindle Pt. Rd., in filling the vacant Trustee of the Trust Fund position. The term ends in 2011. An advertisement soliciting applicants for the position has been published for several weeks. Ms. Vittner recommends that the Board accept his letter of interest. The Chair directed Ms. Vittner to ask Mr. Ward to fill out a formal application for the Board's review. The item can then be placed on the agenda for the Board's next meeting.

Selectman Flanders motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Worsman. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Edgar, Co-Interim Town Mgr.

Peter F. Brothers, Chairman

Brenda L. Vittner, Co-Interim Town Mgr.

Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman

Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

Robert C. Flanders

Charles G. Palm

Colette Worsman