

Minutes of the Special Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Members present: Gerard Chapdelaine, Chair; Alison May; Ed Childs; Suzanne Lupien; Sarah Nunan; Stephen Soares, Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Assistant to the Town Manager.

There were about 46 people in the audience.

Also participating: Bill Aldrich, Roger Blake, Judy Butler, Onita Connington, Peter French, Milton Frye, Dianne Griggs, Kelly Griggs, Nancy Hoggson, Ralph Hybels, Jaye Pershing Johnson, Don McCabe, Norm Miller, Nancy Osgood, Bob Pitiger, Sue Pitiger, Arline Rotman, Ava Sachsse, Mary Sachsse, David Sargent, Tom Slater, Jacqueline Springwater, Melinda Stucker, Liz Tuggle, Priscilla Vincent.

Chapdelaine opened the meeting at 6:31 pm.

McCabe spoke about the history of the Bandstand Committee and introduced members of the Committee (Joyce Childs, Cindy Edson, Peter French, Nancy Hoggson, Norm Miller, Sue Pitiger, Karen Ward, also Suzanne Lupien from the Selectboard).

Osgood went over the history of the bandstand itself including showing pictures and reading excerpts from "The Norwich Y.M.C. A. Band" written by an unknown individual.

Sue Pitiger went over the finances to date. The largest percentage of neighborhood participation on the fundraising came from folks at the Senior Housing. The Mascoma Savings Bank grant is still pending, if received the projected total raised so far is \$64,714.

French again went over the three options, mainly dealing with Option #1 Preservation and Option #3 Reconstruction, stating that the top priority was fitting into the neighborhood and keeping this a community project. French also said that he wanted to use local builders and hoped they would be willing to provide their services at cost.

The Bandstand Committee voted 6 to 2 in favor of Option #3.

Osgood, representing the Norwich Historical Society (NHS), said their NHS Board supports Option #1. She also stated that she hopes the Selectboard will not rush into a decision.

Rotman read a public statement from the Norwich Women's Club (NWC). The NWC unanimously endorses Option #3. She also added her own strong personal support for Option #3.

Griggs kicked off the public comments by going over his April 28th email to the Board. Griggs suggests the Selectboard reject all three options and continue to pursue townspeople input.

Ava Sachsse introduced herself as a 9th grader who previously attended Marion Cross School and loves the bandstand. She would like to see it preserved and believes other young people feel the same way.

There ensued a lively discussion of the bandstand during which approximately twenty townspeople and Bandstand Committee members spoke. Items brought up were: what to do with the old bandstand if a new one is built, discussing safety issues with the Norwich School Board, that the bandstand is a visual icon, the need for practicality, having a better functioning bandstand easier to maintain, the personal family history involved with the YMCA band, the ethical/moral obligation to make the bandstand handicapped accessible, the use of Huntley Meadows as an alternative site and the unique aspects of the bandstand especially the ceiling. There was also a discussion of the fundraising letter and the efforts of the Bandstand Committee members. Comments offered were: the fundraising letter was viewed as deceiving to some, the tyranny of the minority, respect for individual opinions and that the process has created rifts, no deception in letter and that there were compromises all around.

At this point in the meeting, the Board offered their comments. Nunan attended the last four Bandstand Committee meetings and would like to take this to the townspeople for a vote. Also interested in maybe having two bandstands and is not interested in the Selectboard deciding this issue tonight. Childs had questions on parts of the Keefe report. Osgood answered that historic structures have some leeway on accessibility. Childs is undecided between Option #2 Restoration and #3. He would like to defer the decision until we have feedback from the State relative to the suitability of our design for the handicap ramp. He also encouraged the Board to stick with one structure. May discussed the "spirit of accessibility" and asked if this was what the Town really wanted. She also wishes to keep maintenance costs down and supports Option #3. Lupien spoke about the complicated aspects of ADA compliance and the need to protect Town resources. She also supports a vote by the townspeople. Chapdelaine said he has been somewhat ambivalent about the whole thing, is listening to everybody and is not certain he knows what the majority of the Town wants. He would like to accommodate both sides and feels it is premature for the Selectboard to make a decision tonight.

By consensus, the Board agreed to defer the decision. French agreed to get a timeline from the State on their decision regarding design and ADA compliance.

Childs **moved** (2nd May) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on May 14, 2008.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Gerard Chapdelaine
Selectboard Chair

Next Regular Meeting – May 14, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Debt Management Policy (5/14/08)
- 2) Receipt of Black River Report (5/14/08)
- 3) Kendall Station Road (5/14/08)
- 4) Farrell Farm Road Acceptance as Town Highway (5/14/08)
- 5) Zoning Regulations (5/14/08)
- 6) NORCAP/Strategic Planning/Public Safety Facility (5/21/08)
- 7) Tracy Hall Rental Policy Review (5/28/08)
- 8) Personnel Policies Updates (5/28/08)
- 9) Revisit the Policy for Treatment of Special Articles on the Town Meeting Warning (6/11/08)
- 10) Class 1 Road Designation (9/24/08)

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATV RECORDS ALL REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE NORWICH SELECTBOARD. FOR A MORE DETAILED TRANSCRIPTION PLEASE REFER TO THE DVD. DVDs ARE AVAILABLE ONE WEEK AFTER AIRING AT THE NORWICH PUBLIC LIBRARY.