Town Of Needham Board of Selectman
Minutes for January 8, 2008
Needham Town Hall

6:45 p.m. Informal Session:

7:00 p.m. Call To Order

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman Gerald Wasserman at 7:00 p.m. Those present were: John Bulian, John H. Cogswell, Daniel P. Matthews, James Healy, Gerald Wasserman, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Recording Secretary Greg Cooper.

7:00 p.m. Announcements:

Mr. Wasserman had a few announcements.

Emergency Notification:

Mr. Wasserman reported that a major water main break occurred today at Webster Street and Hillside Avenue. He stated that residents were notified via the Reverse 911 system. Mr. Wasserman stated that crews are working to fix the break and residents may experience temporary discoloration of the water.

Needham Coalition for Suicide Prevention:

Mr. Wasserman stated that the Needham Suicide Prevention Coalition is receiving State recognition from the Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention for its work within the Town.

Needham Dispatcher Honored:

Mr. Wasserman stated that Dave Stewart, a Needham Emergency Dispatcher, received a citation from the Mayor of Newton for his off duty efforts at an accident in Newton.

Harry Greenlaw Recognition:

The Board recognized Harry Greenlaw, Needham Animal Control Officer, for his 38 years of service to the Town. Mr. Greenlaw is retiring.

7:05 p.m. Appoint Assessor:

The Board met with the Board of Assessors (Kevin Foley and Edmund Donnelly) to appoint a candidate to the vacancy on the Board of

Assessors. Thomas Colarusso was recommended to serve the remaining four months of the vacated post.
Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen and Board of Assessors vote to appoint Thomas Colarusso to fill the vacancy on the Board of Assessors through April 7, 2008. Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approved 7-0.

7:10 p.m. Senior Center Options:
Susanne Hughes – Chair of the Council on Aging, Jamie Gutner – COA Executive Director, and Carol deLemos – COA Board member appeared before the Board to discuss options for proceeding with the Senior Center Project. Ms. Hughes responded to the Town Manager's proposed timeline. She stated that the COA agrees with having another public hearing on the issue and would like a better explanation of the purpose for a survey and steering committee. Ms. Hughes stated that the COA has already done some surveying and she doesn't know what benefit additional surveying will have. She stated that many possible locations for a Senior Center have been studied and the COA used its own trust funds to further develop the Ridge Hill Project.

The Board discussed the purpose of a Steering Committee and felt that it would serve an advocate role and help communicate the need for a senior center to the residents of the Town.

Mr. Healy stated that not one person he has spoken with stated their support for the November Warrant Article that was subsequently pulled. He feels more public support needs to be built for the project. Mr. Healy stated that a consultant could identify the level of service needed for a senior center and at what cost. Mr. Cogswell stated that very few people in Town understand the need for a senior center. He feels a steering committee can help educate residents and build a strong coalition of support. Ms. Hughes stated that a consultant does not need to identify basic senior center services because that has already been done and information is readily available on what services a senior center should have.

Mr. Matthews stated that there have been communication problems and that a Town agency needs to take the lead on the project and carry it through to completion. He stated that a lot of communication is needed.

Mr. Wasserman stated that roles and responsibilities need to be defined to move the project forward.

The Board discussed whether Town operating funds were available to support the project. There was agreement that their may be some but disagreement on how much that might be. It was agreed that whatever amount is available that it would not cover the entire cost of the project and private donations would likely be necessary.

The Board discussed a possible survey to inform residents and get information on support for the project.

The Board agreed to meet with the COA again at its next meeting to make a decision on the timeline and process.

Irwin Silverstein, Precinct A, asked if the land transfer for Ridge Hill was approved by the State. The Board stated that the Governor signed the transfer.

8:15 p.m. Consent Agenda:

Motion by Mr. Cogswell that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approve request for one day Special Alcohol License from Scott Milliken for the Village Club Building Association's Beach Party event to be held on Saturday, January 19, 2008 in the Village Club's Highlandville Hall, 83 Morton Street. The event will run**

from 7:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight. 80 to 100 attendees are expected, tickets are $10 each. There will be snacks served and musical entertainment and dancing.

2. **Approve d/b/a change for L.B. Bistro, Inc. currently d/b/a Euro Taste, 1257 Highland Avenue to d/b/a Gabriella's Bistro.**
3. **Designate John H. Cogswell to represent the Board of Selectmen at the MIIA Annual Meeting.**
4. **Approve minutes from November 5, 2007 (4:00 p.m.), November 5, 2007 (7:00 p.m.), December 18, 2007 (regular & executive).**
5. **Accept the following donations received by the Needham Fire Department:**
   - **In memory of Donald Cooley**
     - **Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dolezal $50.00**
     - **Mr. & Mrs. Tischler $20.00**
   - **For our Student Awareness of Fire Education program: The Bond Family $50.00**
6. **Accept the following donations received by the Needham Health Department:**
   For the Gift of Warmth Program
     - **First Baptist Church in Needham $343.33**
     - **The Congregational Church of Needham Outreach Funds Committee $2,500.00**
     - **H. Thomas & Shanin S. Sagafi $150.00**
7. **Accept the donation of $19.00 received by the Park and Recreation Commission for the Miscellaneous Parks Trust Fund Donations account for the period of December 18 through December 27, 2007.**
8. **Sign the Warrant for the Tuesday, February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary.**
9. **Accept the following donations made to the Needham Community Revitalization Trust Fund:**
     - **Betsy Tedoldi $50**
     - **MaryRuth & Richard Perras $100**
     - **Meredith & Donald Page $25**
     - **Andrew Caulfield & Suzana Assahina $25**
     - **John & Regina Ballinger $200**
     - **Anita Olson $50**
10. **Accept a $40 donation from Mr.& Mrs. Eric Lowitt made to the Needham Police Department for child safety seat installation.**

11. Water and Sewer Abatement #1063

Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approved 5-0.

8:15 p.m. Mr. Merson, DPW Director, appeared before the Board with one item for the Board’s consideration.

Mr. Merson gave the Board an update on the Webster Street water main break. He stated that water pressure is back for most of the Town and that work to repair the break should be completed by early tomorrow.

1. Webster Street Utility Pole relocation Update: Mr. Merson provided the Board with an update on the relocation of utility poles on Webster Street. He stated that Verizon and the DPW met at the site on December 11 and found that the poles needed to be further away from the road than first anticipated because of underground impediments. He stated that instead of 3 feet the poles would be closer to 7 feet away from the curbing. He stated that no safety issues would result from the change. The Board asked when the project could start and how long it would take. Mr. Merson stated that it can begin immediately and estimated it could take several months to move all the lines.

   John Harry, 821 Webster Street, asked if the poles could be moved across the street. Mr. Merson stated that the DPW asked Verizon this but other complications were identified.

   Nancy Koss, 814 Webster Street, stated that the new pole location is directly in the middle of her property and asked that something be done.

   The Board asked Mr. Merson to work with residents on addressing their issues.

8:30 p.m. Ms. Fitzpatrick appeared before the Board with three items for the Board’s consideration:

1. Town Hall Historic Preservation Project:

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that she has received the preliminary estimates from the consultant on the cost of the three proposed renovations and the estimated portion that would be covered by the Community Preservation Fund. These costs and reimbursements were as follows:

	Cost(millions)	CPF Eligible
Option 1	$15.7	$14.3
Option 2	$16.2	$7.4
Option 3	$20.4	$14

The Board discussed the proposed options. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that a refined proposal needs to be presented to the Community Preservation Committee by January 30, 2008. Mr. Wasserman asked the Board to e-mail the Town Manager with specific questions. Mr. Healy stated that a lot of work needs to be completed before Town Meeting in April. Ms. Fitzpatrick presented a timeline for the project.

Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen vote to endorse the Town Hall preservation Project Timeline dated 1/4/08, subject to change.
Second: Mr. Cogswell. Unanimously approved 5-0.

2. Call for Special Town Meeting:
Ms Fitzpatrick presented the Board with a list of preliminary articles for the proposed Special Town Meeting scheduled for March 3, 2008.
Motion by Mr. Healy that the Board of Selectmen vote to call for a Special Town Meeting and open the warrant for the meeting to be held on March 3, 2008 at the Newman School.
Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approved 5-0.

3. Proposed By-law Amendment/Golf Course Lease:
As the Board requested at its last meeting, Ms. Fitzpatrick provided a proposed change to the General By-laws of the Town which would allow the lease of the land currently used by the Needham Golf Club for a period greater than 10 years.

Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve a proposed General By-law change, which would allow for a lease of the town land used by the Needham Golf Club of greater than 10 years, to appear in the warrant of the March 3, 2008 Special Town Meeting Warrant.
Second: Mr. Cogswell. Unanimously approved 5-0.

9:05 p.m. Board Discussion:

1. MMA Resolutions:
Mr. Wasserman asked that the Board consider endorsing the MMA's Fiscal Policy Committee's Resolution on Municipal and School Finance for Fiscal 2009. The resolution will be voted on at the upcoming MMA Annual Business Meeting on January 12, 2008. Mr. Healy stated that he did not wholly agree with all the elements of the resolution and therefore could not vote in favor of endorsing. Mr. Wasserman appreciated Mr. Healy's position and stated that he should provide more background information in the future to Board members. Mr. Matthews stated that the MMA needs to reach consensus on policy issues and therefore the resolutions are sometimes vague.
Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve and authorize the Chairman to cast the Town's vote in support of a proposed resolution drafted by the MMA Fiscal Policy Committee: Resolution on Municipal and School Finance for Fiscal Year 2009.
Second: Mr. Bulian. Approved 4-1. Mr. Healy voted nay.

Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board vote to authorize the Chairman to act on behalf of the Board for any other action that may be presented at the MMA Annual Business Meeting on January 12, 2008.
Second: Mr. Cogswell. Unanimously approved 5-0.

2. Historic Commissioner Appointment:
Mr. Matthews stated that he met with Mr. Bulian to review candidates to serve on the Historic Commission on behalf of the Board. The

Commission currently does not have enough members to have a quorum.
Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen vote to appoint John H. Cogswell to serve on the Town of Needham Historic Commission.
Second: Mr. Bulian. Approved 3-0-1. Mr. Healy and Mr. Cogswell abstained.

9:20p.m. Adjourn:
Motion by Mr. Healy that the Board of Selectmen vote to adjourn the January 8, 2008 Board of Selectmen Meeting.
Second: Mr. Cogswell. Unanimously approved 5-0.