

WINTHROP TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes

May 6, 2013 7 P.M.

Attendance: Chairman Kevin Cookson: Priscilla Jenkins (arrived at 7:10 p.m.), Sarah Fuller, Larry Fitzgerald, Linda Caprara, Ken Buck Sr., Don Ellis, Jeffrey Woolston (Town Manager) and Julie Winberg (Secretary)

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m.

Ordered that the Winthrop Town Council meet to consider the following items:

Approve the April 1, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Buck, the minutes for this meeting were approved with a vote of 6-0.

Item #43 – Winthrop School Budget Presentation

An estimated school budget was presented noting that the Superintendant will be present at the next Town Budget Workshop to answer any questions. The School Board has maintained their pledge to not increase their local share. \$240,000 still needs to be cut and they will be working on that in the next two weeks. They will be abiding by their goal for a budget that is flat funded. There are two bonds that will be retired next year. Five ed. Techs will have been hired and at the present time the school department is in the middle of negotiations with the techs and teachers. There are three students left that are attending the Wayne Program.

The lunch program is still struggling and it is estimated that the program will be \$21,000 in the red. They are presently renegotiating contracts for cleaning and fuel.

Item #37 – Consider Flag Poles at Norcross Point Veteran's Memorial

Item #42 –Franco-American Memorial Light Discussion

Three flag poles are proposed and will be placed behind the monument at Norcross Point. The center pole will be 25' high and will be the American Flag. There will be two 20' poles on either side representing the POW's and the State of Maine. If these flags are illuminated they do not have to be taken down at sunset and illumination is being further explored. The poles have been ordered and paid for by Charlie's Auto for \$3,500. The Lions Club will be paying for the flags. For more information on this, one can visit the website for the American Legion. Note:

there is no ongoing maintenance for these poles as they are aluminum and maintenance free. The ropes will be replaced every few years. CMP will install the connection at no charge.

Motion by Buck and seconded by Caprara this request was unanimously approved.

Item #38 – Consider Winthrop Historical Society Requests

Linda Huff was in attendance and presented the request to approve two proposals: digital indexing of historical material stored in the town's vault, and requesting that the town contact the Historical Society before disposing, arbitrarily anything that may be historical.

Their goal is to preserve, promote, and share the town's history. They will also have the right to publish historical information and giving the credit to the source when applicable.

The town agreed to contact the Society on items they feel they do not need prior to throwing anything out.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Caprara, passing with a unanimous vote, approving these requests and asking the Town Manager to work with the Historical Society to draft a memorandum of understanding granting permission of same.

Item #39 – Solar Farm Feasibility Assessment

A review of the preliminary Solar Farm Feasibility Assessment in reference to the Winthrop Landfill Superfund Site which was submitted to the Council on December 18, 2012 was reviewed as well as a brief overview of ReVision Energy. They are Northern New England's leading installer of solar hot water and solar electricity systems for homes, businesses, schools and nonprofits serving Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. An interesting fact: Maine and New Hampshire have an abundant solar resource as these two states get 30% more sunshine per year than Germany. This country is the world leader in solar energy installations. Since ReVision is a full service renewable energy company their design, sales, and installation touts the best customer service in the business. We are a full service renewable energy company offering design, sales, installation and the best customer service in the business providing a 24-hour emergency number.

On March 7, 2013 bipartisan legislation was submitted in the US Senate to 'modernize and improve key elements of the Environment Protection Agency's Brownfields Program' the Winthrop Green Committee has taken the responsibility of following the progress of this proposed legislation to identify its potential application to the Town of Winthrop, and WKEDA, through its membership on the Committee, will update the remaining Towns within the area.

Item #40 – Review Mass Gathering Ordinance

A draft of this ordinance for mass gatherings was circulated by Chief of Police, Joe Young. The council was in favor of guidelines for mass gatherings but felt that this draft needed further review. The Town Manager will go over this draft and compare it with other ordinances for mass gatherings from neighboring towns and state.

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Buck passing with a unanimous vote to table this item to the town council meeting to be held in July.

Item #47 – Public Hearing on Victualer’s license applications

Item #49 – Public Hearing on Liquor License for Tubby’s Ice Cream

Pond Town Tavern

Item #51 – Public Hearing on Special Entertainment Permit for Pond Town Tavern

Public Hearing opened at 7:50 p.m. to consider these licenses for the following establishments.

American Legion Post #40
Annabesscook Farm
China Empress
Circle K
Commerce Center Café
Cumberland Farms
Fast Eddies
Flaky Tart
Full Court Deli
Kong’s Village
Mia Lina’s Italian Express
Moonshadow Farms
Hannaford Brothers
Old Colony Ice Cream
Peppers Restaurant
Pete’s Roast Beef
Pond Town Tavern
RT Farms
Subway
Sully’s Tavern
Tubby’s Ice Cream
Wicked Bean
Winthrop House of Pizza

There was no opposition to the above requests.

The public hearing closed at 7:57 p.m.

Item #48 – Consider Victualer’s license applications

Item #50 – Consider Liquor License

Item #52 – Consider Special Entertainment Permit

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Fuller these were all approved with a unanimous vote.

Item #41 – Norcross Point Bathrooms Discussion

Councilor Buck brought to the attention of the Councilors that he has had many requests from fisherman to unlock the bathrooms at Norcross Point in the early a.m.

The Council, after discussion, reminded the attendees that this was previously discussed and due to the ongoing vandalism, which occurred at all hours of the day and night, the decision was made to keep the bathrooms closed. Porto potties will be brought in when the lake staff begins work. Note: the cost per month for a porto potty, which is not ada compliant, is \$99.00 a month.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Jenkins to provide a porto potty for two months during open water fishing season died due to budget issues.

Item #44 – Cobbossee Watershed District Membership Discussion

Discussion centered on the possible withdrawal from the CWD and what the ramifications may or may not be. Four options were submitted for the Council to review in an effort to keep the relationship between town and Cobbossee. These were submitted for the town to review at the previous Budget Workshop meeting.

Councilors were divided as to whether to go to referendum or to decide among themselves and not abdicate their legislative duty. The attendees also spoke and were somewhat divided.

Motion by Fuller and seconded by Fitzgerald to continue the Council Meeting from 10:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. This motion passed with a vote of 6-1 (Buck).

Motion by Fitzgerald and seconded by Fuller not to proceed with the referendum vote. This past with a unanimous vote. CWD was requested to comeback on May 13th when another Budget Workshop will be held for a final decision as to which option the Council may or may not accept.

Item #45 – Consider Memorial Day Markers at Norcross Point

Wendy Dennis was in attendance to discuss this proposal with the Council.

The initial proposal was for a balloon launch but due to the shortage of helium, these markers will be lining the walk ways up to the memorial. The markers will be made of pvc poles with red, white, and blue ribbons attached. There is no cost to the town. Weather permitting, this will be done on July 4th and on Veterans Day in November.

This will continue to establish an increase in ‘community’. The Councilors were in favor of this idea. Motion by Caprara and seconded by Fuller, this request was past with a unanimous vote.

Item #46 – Consider an Executive Session to discuss a property tax abatement application, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405(6) (F).

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Jenkins, the Executive Session on this subject was tabled to the June Town Council meeting. This passed with a unanimous vote.

Motion by Caprara and seconded by Jenkins the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m. This passed with a unanimous vote.