

MINUTES
CUMBERLAND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Cumberland Town Hall
Monday, September 10, 2007

6:00 p.m. WORKSHOP – Panel discussion re: municipal sex offender ordinance. Panel invitees included Cyndi Amato, Executive Director, Sexual Assault Response Services; Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Executive Director, ME Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Stephen Thomas, Licensed Professional Counselor; Christopher Arbor, Department of Probation and Parole; Councilor Stephen Moriarty; and Chairman Jeffrey Porter. Workshop concluded at 7:48 p.m.

Regular Meeting convened at **8:00 p.m.**

Present: Chairman Porter, Councilors Copp, Perfetti, Storey-King, Stiles, and Moriarty.
Excused: Councilor Turner

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
August 27, 2007

Motion by Councilor Copp; seconded by Councilor Perfetti, to approve the minutes as printed.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS PASSAGE 6-0

II. MANAGER'S REPORT

- Requested the addition of an agenda item to consider request by the Southern Maine Astronomer's Group to use the Twin Brook Facility October 13;
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection held this past weekend. We had the highest turnout ever with 157 vehicles/269 households participating. Unfortunately, Yarmouth concluded the event at 1:00 p.m., rather than 2:00 p.m., as we were originally informed;
- Information signs will be posted throughout town before community events such as bulky waste and elections; and
- Councilor Stiles indicated the DPW handed out recycling information during the hazardous waste event which was very useful.

III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None

IV. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

07 – 115 To hold a Public Hearing to fill Committee/Board vacancies.

Chairman Porter explained the Nominating Committee was not yet able to conduct interviews for the various board/committee openings and recommended tabling this item, with the exception of the appointments to the School Consolidation Committee. While the legislation authorizes the town to “appoint more than one member,” the Chair explained the participating communities have each appointed only one community and one elected representative. “It was decided this committee would be of equal weight.” Councilors Turner and Storey-King volunteered to serve. Councilor Storey-King addressed any concerns which might be raised regarding the perception of a conflict of interest. “I am passionate about our schools...and I would like to serve. I just didn’t know if it would be a conflict. I don’t anticipate it. I fully see my role as a representative of the people of Cumberland.” In response, Councilor Moriarty indicated he did not view it as “a legal conflict of interest; it’s a personal call.” Meetings will begin on September 24th. Councilor Moriarty suggested the alternate members would be likely to attend “almost as regularly” as the appointee, in order to be fully informed.

Motion by Councilor Moriarty; seconded by Councilor Stiles, to appoint Councilor Storey-King as the primary (elected) representative and Councilor Turner as the alternate.
VOTE: UNANIMOUS PASSAGE 5-0-1 (Councilor Storey-King abstained)

Next, Chairman Porter read the names of six citizens interested in serving as community representative.

Motion by Councilor Moriarty; seconded by Councilor Stiles, to appoint Mark Fortin as the primary community representative and Bill Richards as the alternate.
VOTE: UNANIMOUS PASSAGE 6-0

Motion by Councilor Stiles; seconded by Councilor Copp, to table the remaining appointments until the 9/24/07 meeting.
VOTE: UNANIMOUS PASSAGE 6-0

07 – 116 Discussion on “Cool Cities” and setting a public hearing for the adoption of U.S. Conference of Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement.

The Manager introduced this item by defining the Cool Cities Initiative as a local commitment, via municipal resolution, to address global warming by adopting policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol – 7% reduction from 1990 levels by 2012. “It’s become a popular effort” which “tries to engage the community...to look at all the issues that contribute to global warming.” He recommended the council seek community interest in a citizen committee, which he suggested would receive technical support from town staff.

Mr. Paul Weiss spoke on behalf of the initiative and committee establishment. He articulated his extensive background in climatology and related environmental areas, and submitted a listing of steps he takes personally to support this initiative. "This is the biggest concern of our times. This is happening all over the world. The true collapse of the north-wood ecosystem in Maine and our fishing industry can be dramatically affected in a very quick time. Maine will experience more ozone days; less clear skies; poor views; less snow; more ice and rain." He suggested the concept of the agreement is to "get municipalities to live within their means...to try to reduce the carbon emissions to these levels. Yeah, we're only one community but we can make an impact." The initiative anticipates taking an assessment of our community and what it uses. It doesn't need to cost the town money and the payback can be significant and quick. He offered "to get some ideas for proposals and get started on that. I'd be happy to be in charge of it. You have to take personal responsibility and you have to take community responsibility."

Chairman Porter expressed appreciation to Mr. Weiss for prompting this effort and responded, "a lot of the macro stuff really isn't within our purview. If there's a local piece to this, then that's where we belong. Putting a committee together is a very useful idea. Any opportunity to improve our efficiencies is a positive thing." Mr. Weiss suggested the formation of a committee is the first step. "It's an incremental plan; something that would be engaged and continued upon."

Chairman Porter requested a timeframe from the Manager who did not feel action was needed this evening. Many of the 12 items "have been hit, especially in recycling. I'm confident we're well on our way." Our resources to commit to it are limited, however, and he recommended this item be reviewed in workshop session; perhaps on October 22nd. Councilor Storey-King requested the Conservation Commission be invited to the workshop.

**07 – 117 To hear a request for the use of Twin Brook by the Southern
Maine Astronomers**

The Manager explained he received a request from the Southern Maine Astronomers to hold a "stargazing event" at Twin Brooks on October 13, 2007. Chairman Porter remarked that he "heard many very positive comments" regarding the last viewing held in Twin Brooks, and felt it is a very good use of the facility. He also requested that the group be requested to contact the surrounding neighbors again.

Motion by Councilor Moriarty; seconded by Councilor Stiles, to grant permission to the Southern Maine Astronomers to conduct a night time star gazing event on 10/13/07, on the same terms and conditions as last year.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS PASSAGE 6-0

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Copp – intersection of Goose Pond Road and Blackstrap - 54 separate mailboxes all on the same property and which serve Forest Lake residents – there have been numerous close calls - asked if the mailboxes could be relocated to Goose Pond Road for safety reasons. Manager stated we own property off the r-o-w which could work well. He will contact the post office.

Councilor Perfetti – he was skeptical at first re: the scope of the problem with underage use of alcohol; asked for consideration of continued discussions/forums; Manager replied that Officer Volk and Chief Charron will attend the 9/24 meeting to provide an update. Chair concurred the seriousness of the issue.

Councilor Storey-King – Haley Chandler and friends wish to express thanks for participation in the bottle drive to support the Kegl family; 9/24 is PTO Family First Night and attending the pig race held during the Cumberland Fair could serve as a great family event.

Councilor Porter – referred to a notice of violation order for corrective action by CEO re: more occupants than septic system can accommodate at 78A Harmon Way.

Councilor Stiles – school is back in session - please drive accordingly; will not be at the next meeting because of his role as leader of the Cumberland Fair's swine club; invited the public to attend and witness as his 4-h youth participate.

Councilor Moriarty – Route 88 committee held a site walk - quite informative and a good way to get started.

Town Manager – will postpone police update at the 10/24 meeting if some councilors will be absent; requested an Executive Session.

Motion by Councilor Stiles; seconded by Councilor Storey-King, to recess to Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(C) re: condition or use of real property.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS PASSAGE 6-0

TIME: 9:23 p.m.

Motion by Councilor Stiles; seconded by Councilor Copp, to return from Executive Session.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS PASSAGE 6-0

TIME: 9:50 p.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Copp; seconded by Councilor Storey-King to adjourn.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS PASSAGE 6-0

TIME: 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadeen M. Daniels, CMC
Town Clerk