

# MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting

Town Council Chambers

**MONDAY, October 23, 2017**

## **6:00 P.M. Call to Order**

**Present:** Councilors Copp, Edes, Gruber, Stiles, Storey-King and Turner

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Copp, to recess to Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A., § 405(6)(C) re: real property.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

Councilor Bingham arrived at 6:48 P.M.

Reconvene to regular session at 7:00 P.M.

## **I. BUSINESS INTRODUCTION**

Mark Fortin of Food Stop said that he has owned Food Stop since 1999. He has a butcher and a chef which allows him to offer many different items. Food Stop is open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the weekends. They have a large wine selection, offer take-out food with daily specials, groceries, and a butcher shop. They have partnered with Spring Brook Farm to offer roasted chickens and eggs.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Councilor Bingham, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to accept the September 25, 2017 meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

## **III. MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **To hear a report from Girl Scout, Audrey Hankinson re: Gold Award Service Project**

Audrey Hankinson presented her Gold Award Project, which is the highest award that you can earn in Girl Scouts, similar to the Boy Scouts Eagle Scout Award. Her project is a house number project that offers residents 2 fluorescent house number signs, which the fire explorers will install on their house or mailbox post, for \$15.00. Visible house numbers are very important for emergency responders to find a home quickly in an emergency.

## What is this project?

### A summary of the ordinance

(specifically on house numbers)

The number itself must be at least four inches tall, of a contrasting color to its background, and visible from the street.

When the main structure is 50 feet or closer to the edge of the street, the house number can be displayed on the front of the residence where it can be clearly seen.

When the main structure is more than 50 feet from the edge of the street, the house number must be displayed on a post, fence, wall or mailbox at the property line next to the driveway.

Any number that might be mistaken for the house's number must be removed from the property.

It's the responsibility of the owner of a new structure to obtain an assigned number for the residence.

### Why is this important?

It's very important that houses are labeled properly and clearly labeled so that emergency vehicles and others who may need to find your home can do so efficiently. These signs can be clearly seen from the road, and reduces the amount of time an emergency vehicle uses to search for the residence. Using the same sign for each house creates consistency, and allows the emergency responders to know exactly what they're looking for.

## How can I get signs?

- 1 Fill out the order form.
- 2 Drop it off at town hall or mail it in. (See instructions on order form)
- 3 Hang up your signs!



"Having consistent and clearly visible address markings can help us find you and render assistance when you need it most."

—Police Chief Rumsey

"Every second counts. If we can't find you we can't help you. A fire doubles in size every minute, so time is of the essence."

—Fire Chief Small

If you have additional questions, please contact Audrey at [AMHgoldaward@gmail.com](mailto:AMHgoldaward@gmail.com), or the town at (207) 829-5559.

## Who is Audrey?



My name is Audrey Hankinson, and I'm currently a student at Greely High School in Cumberland. I'm a Senior in Girl Scouts, and have been a part of Scouts since first grade. I've completed the Bronze Award

with my previous troop, and the Silver Award in eighth grade by myself. I decided to move on to the Gold Award because I wanted to make a real difference in my community and to experience a great big project such as this.

## The Gold Award

The Gold Award is the highest award a girl can earn in Girl Scouts. It is available to Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts, which includes all of high school years. The award has some prerequisites, however, the project's subject can be almost anything. There is a proposal period, where the girl answers a series of questions asking about what the girl wants to do for the project, including who she'll work with, or what she'll do to make the project sustainable. The project also has the possibility to open up many opportunities to girls.

## 4-H/Food Pantry Update

Town Manager Shane said that Council Stiles has been working very hard to collect donations for the 4-H auction to benefit the food pantry. This year, he successfully raised \$15,647 and the food pantry was able to purchase 2 steer and 4 pigs. The food pantry now has 2 large freezers full of meat. This is close to 3 months of protein for 85 families. He thanked Councilor Stiles for all his efforts and work with the 4-H club.

## IV. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Rita Farry of the Aging in Place Committee said that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum on Aging will be held on Saturday, November 4th at Greely Middle School. This will be a great event with vendors, speakers, and lunch. It is a celebration of all the good work that the Aging in Place Committee has been doing. It is free and everybody is welcome.

Cathy Wright of 60 Skillin Road said that she went on the historical Cumberland tour recently. This is an event that the Cumberland Historical Society hosts and it is a very interesting. She urged everyone to attend if they are able.

In regard to moving the Public Works facility, she said that she feels that it should stay in its current location because it is a good, central location. If it must be relocated, she thinks it could go on Middle Road (near Storey Brothers), the West Cumberland pit or the Allen property on Route 100.

Chairman Edes responded that the Town has looked at a minimum of 12 different sites in which to relocate the Public Works facility, including talking to North Yarmouth to see if a joint facility would be feasible. We are still actively looking for a new location.

## **V. LEGISLATION AND POLICY**

### **17 – 141 To hear a report from Janine Gorham of the Forest Lake Association re: Forest Lake Watershed Survey Results.**

Janine Gorham of the Forest Lake Association explained that the last Forest Lake watershed survey was done in 2003. Forest Lake lays in 3 townships, Cumberland, Gray and Windham. The lake is approximately 3.3 miles and has 400 properties around it. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, 14 volunteers and staff from DEP and Cumberland County Soil and Water District met for a 2 hour class on how to conduct a survey, then went out into the field to conduct the survey. The basic purpose of the survey was to identify and prioritize problem sites and any areas where rainwater would be running into the lake over bare or un-vegetated soil, or potential pollutions, such as animal waste or failed septic systems. 33 of the problem sites were residential, mostly on private, dirt roads. Letters will be sent to property owners notifying them of what was found and possible solutions. Next steps include identifying new sites compared to the 2003 survey, identifying contributing factors for those sites previously identified, applying for federal grant funding to help property owners fix problem areas, continuous monitoring and updating a database of survey sites, and expanding outreach and education efforts.

### **17 – 142 To hear a presentation from the Conservation Subdivision Commission re: draft ordinance and to consider next steps in process.**

Mike Schwindt, Chairman of the Conservation Subdivision Commission presented the following:

#### **Conservation Subdivision Committee**

PRESENTATION TO TOWN COUNCIL  
10-23-17

#### **Current Subdivision Ordinance**

Permits 3 types of subdivisions:

- Traditional
- Clustered
- Dispersed

All 3 types were amended/added on 4/12/99, likely as part of the implementation of the 1998 Comp Plan.

## Town Council Charge

- Conduct the following steps to advise Town Council on advisability of adopting a conservation subdivision ordinance:  
4 STEPS.....

1

*Research and develop, with the assistance of a consultant and town staff, a draft conservation subdivision ordinance, taking into consideration the results of an opinion survey conducted in summer, 2015 and discussions by the Ad Hoc Land Use Advisory Committee on the subject.*

2

*Consider which areas of town to use this:  
Options include: All areas, only areas in the designated growth district, only in the RR 1 and 2 districts.*

3

*Determine if the current cluster provisions are sufficient to protect the rural character of the town or whether a more restrictive ordinance is needed.*

4

*Consider waiver language for hardship situations.*

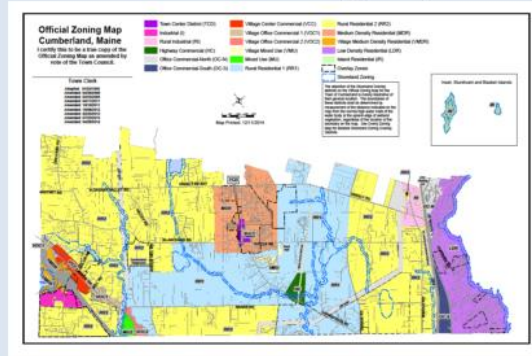
## Recommended Actions

- Delete Dispersed Option
- Delete Cluster Option
- Keep Traditional Option
- Add Conservation Subdivision Option

## Why Add Conservation Type?

1. Called for in 2009 Comprehensive Plan;
2. Protect prime agricultural land from development;
3. Preserve desirable open space areas;
4. Preserve scenic views within & outside subdivision;
5. Provide a way to link existing trails and open space;
6. Preserve wildlife corridors;
7. Lessen visual impact;
8. Encourage social interaction among lot owners;
9. Encourage Street designs that reduce traffic speeds and promote interconnectivity
10. Utilize a more inclusive process for design of lots.

## Current Zoning Map



## Committee

- Alan Blanchard, Vice Chair
- Paul Auclair
- Sam York
- Meg Coon
- Sally Stockwell
- Council Liaison: Tom Gruber
- Planning Board Liaison: Peter Sherr
- Robert Waterhouse, Former Chair

Submitted by: Mike Schwindt, Chair

*Staff Support: Carla Nixon, Town Planner; Christina Silberman, Administrative Asst.; Dan Bacon, Gorrill Palmer, Consultant*

Motion by Councilor Bingham, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to set a joint workshop with the Town Council and Planning Board and then set a public hearing date to consider and act on forwarding the Conservation Subdivision Ordinance to the Planning Board for a public hearing and recommendation.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

## 17 – 143 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on an Automobile Graveyard/Junkyard Permit for Cumberland Salvage, Inc.

Town Manager Shane said that the application is complete and staff is recommending approval.

Chairman Edes opened the Public Hearing.

Public discussion: none

Chairman Edes closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Bingham, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to approve the Automobile Graveyard/Junkyard Permit for Cumberland Salvage, Inc.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Copp abstained) MOTION PASSED



**17 – 144 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on amendments to Chapter 48 (Coastal Waters), Section 2 (Definitions), to add Dinghy, Section 5 (Dockage Time Limit), Section 6 (Dinghy Dockage), and renumbering of remainder of Chapter 48, as recommended by the Coastal Waters Commission**

Town Manager Shane said that the Coastal Waters Commission has met, developed the language, and is recommending approval.

Chairman Edes opened the Public Hearing.

Public discussion: none

Chairman Edes closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Turner, seconded by Councilor Storey-King, to amend Chapter 48 (Coastal Waters), Section 2 (Definitions), to add Dinghy, Section 5 (Dockage Time Limit), Section 6 (Dinghy Dockage), and renumbering of remainder of Chapter 48, as recommended by the Coastal Waters Commission.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

Chairman Edes took items 17-149 and 17-150 out of order and acted on them next.

**17 – 145 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on amendments to Chapter 315 (Zoning), Section 4 (Word Use and Definitions – Accessory Dwelling Unit) and to amend Section 45 (Conversions) of the Cumberland Code, as recommended by the Planning Board.**

Town Manager Shane explained that this item received a unanimous recommendation from the Planning Board. This would allow property owners who do not have a large enough lot for 2 houses, the ability to construct an accessory dwelling unit the size of approximately 40% of the living space existing house, with at least one of the structures being occupied by the owner.

Chairman Edes opened the Public Hearing.

Public discussion: none

Chairman Edes closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to amend Chapter 315 (Zoning), Section 4 (Word Use and Definitions – Accessory Dwelling Unit) and to amend Section 45 (Conversions) of the Cumberland Code, as recommended by the Planning Board.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

**17 – 146 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on amendments to Chapter 315 (Zoning), section 4 (Word Use and Definitions) and Section 6 (Rural Residential Districts (RR1 and RR2)) to add Farm-based Special Events as a new definition and a permitted use in the Rural Residential 1 and Rural Residential 2 zoning districts, and to amend Chapter 315 to include a new Section 315-49.1 “Farm-based Special Events”, of the Cumberland Code, as recommend by the Planning Board.**

Town Manager Shane explained that the Planning Board recommended this and also recommended adding this use to the MDR Zone in order to include the Sweetser farm, which is the only farm in the MDR. This will allow farm based specialty events, such as farm weddings or other non-typical farm events, in order to allow additional revenue sources for farmers.

Chairman Edes opened the Public Hearing.

Public discussion: Linda Higgins of 107 Bruce Hill Road, asked the Council to keep in mind that there are some families that would be adversely affected by the traffic these events would bring. She is an abutter to the farm that

requested this, and her back yard is parallel to the long dirt driveway that people would use to get in and out of these functions. Her family uses their backyard a lot and they would be affected more than any other neighbor.

Tom Munroe said that he and his wife moved to Cumberland 12 years ago and started farming at the old Abbott farm. They have recently expanded and are working on growing and trying to make the farming aspect work for them. The Town has a Comprehensive Plan in place and he feels that it is important to farmers to generate another means to make their farms work. Of the approximately 30 registered farms in Town that could potentially qualify for this, only about 12 are working farms, and of those 12, how many of them are going to host up to 8 events per year? A license application will have to be completed, then a site plan review, then proof that the event can be hosted in a safe and proper manner. We have the means to control any issues that may come up. The biggest concerns that he has heard is about traffic and noise, but it won't be all night long and these are big farms with a lot of buffering. He is hoping to host events for non-profit organizations such as Make-a-Wish Foundation, Strive and the Morrison Center. He would not put his property or his family at risk. He thinks that we need to trust the process and we can make this work for the people of this Town and the farming community.

Bill Kinney said that he used to manage Winslow Park. If they had events that were going to be serving alcohol, it was required that they had to have a police officer or security person present in order to control the crowd. This worked very well for them.

Josh Houghton 99 Bruce Hill Road said that the reason he and his family moved to Cumberland was because of the farms and the beautiful open space. There was an article in the Forecaster a few weeks about the last working farm in Falmouth. This should be a cautionary tale for Cumberland. The ability to give additional sources of revenue to these farms is incumbent on us to try to do so. The licensing aspect of this is a smart move on the Town's part. If someone is not playing by the rules, the Town will have the ability to take their license away. He feels that it would behoove us all to approve this.

Jennifer Cummings of Falmouth is a landscaper who has done some landscaping for one of the farms who wants to do these types of events. Having grown up in rural Maine, it is hard to see so many farms gone now and she feels this is something that we won't get back. Any way that we can find to help farms earn some extra revenue is really important.

Greg Fryer of 111 Bruce Hill Road said that his wife Joanne is one of the forces that got this revived. A committee of 15 volunteers worked long and hard on our Comprehensive Plan. The plan has provided valuable guidance to this Council on many occasions. There are differences in each town's Comprehensive Plan. It is not a coincidence that the cover of the Cumberland Comprehensive Plan has a photo of an iconic farm. The Town of Falmouth has a photo of a cluster development behind Walmart on their cover.

### Town Plan Cover Photos – Cumberland/Falmouth



While open space is important to both Towns, Falmouth has a different strategy. They have a very active Route One business corridor that generates a lot of tax revenue and they preserve open space by purchasing it. There was a survey done before the Comprehensive Plan Committee began their work. That survey revealed, very loudly, that the tax payers in this Town did not want to see increased taxes in order to buy open space. This is the difference between us and Falmouth. This is a difference in attitude and attitude counts. There are several references to agriculture in our Comprehensive Plan. One such reference says, *“no longer is agricultural/farmland preservation just about keeping open space for visual enjoyment and for limiting the impact of development on the town’s budget; it may be that communities will one day need these lands to produce food once again. This combined with the desirability of growing food close to where it will be consumed, is a key tenet of the sustainability movement”*.

Kate Roosa of Hideaway Acres (34 Rosa Way) said that she has worked with children with severe challenges and getting them out into nature and reconnecting them with the naturalized world, is something we all could benefit from in our daily lives. Her vision at Hideaway Acres is to have their open space be open to the community and be a place where she can support people being able to have those types of experiences with animals, nature and agriculture. As a young person who took a risk by jumping into farming life, it is a bit of a financial struggle and she would appreciate any opportunity that she has to be creative about bringing income into the farm so that she has the resources to make programs available to the community.

Carolyn Small 273 Tuttle Road has been a resident since 1962. In 1962, there was a number of large, historical family farms and open land in the area, which determined the gentle, pastoral character of the Town. Over the past 55 years, there has been an increasing change in the identity of the Town from rural and open, to more urban and developed. Then, a couple of years ago, we proudly announced that Cumberland was distinguished as a “business friendly community”. Please do not dismiss this opportunity to not only encourage a new and interesting business, but to do it while preserving our rich, historical, agricultural identity. Do we want to continue as Cumberland, Maine, or ooze into being merely Portland North?

Jeff Storey of Spring Brook Farm thanked the Council for the approval that they granted him earlier this evening for tree cutting in Twin Brook. This will help him make ends meet, along with other things he is doing to supplement his farming operation. He hopes that the Council approves this and he realizes that the Council is supportive to keep farms in Cumberland. He appreciates everything that the Council does to support him and he hopes that they will do the same for the rest of the Cumberland farmers.

Joanne Fryer of 111 Bruce Hill Road said that she proposed this use last January. She thanked Town staff for all their help through the process. Every farm in Cumberland is a small farm and they all have found their special niche. One objection that she keeps hearing is about serving alcohol at these events. Every business in this Town serves alcohol. She is very sensitive to the issue of serving alcohol. She lost her sister a few years ago when she was hit by a drunk driver. These events are going to be held in their home and alcohol will only be served by licensed vendors. It will be regulated and they will be careful. If this does not pass, we need to amend the Comprehensive Plan and make it clear that Cumberland has changed their priorities. A lot of people have worked very hard and relied on the Comprehensive Plan for guidance.

Ed Stebbins of Hult Way said that as a neighbor of the Fryer’s and the Munroe’s. A lot of good points have been made this evening about farms and as a neighbor, he has no opposition to them hosting events at their farms.

Chairman Edes closed the Public Hearing.



Councilor Bingham said that he has been involved in every Comprehensive Plan since 1987 and is quite familiar with the language. We have placed emphasis on trying to preserve the farms. If you look at past Council agendas, every few months there is an item that comes before the Council that is related to farming. The efforts of the Council to work toward the preservation of farms is well documented. He thinks it comes down to the issue of weddings specifically. He is sympathetic to the neighbors because of the noise concerns and he is not sure that he will be able to support this.

Councilor Turner said that he was also on the Comprehensive Plan Committee in 1987 and it was foresighted to recognize that we need to support the farms that are left in Cumberland. He remembers in the late 80's when the Town sent out a questionnaire and one of the questions asked if residents were in favor of open space. Most people checked off yes to that question. He feels that we have a responsibility to support farming. He does agree with Councilor Bingham as far as weddings and noise are concerned, but more importantly, serving alcohol. Not everyone is going to monitor alcohol consumption as well as they should, but the licensing aspect of the ordinance has enough checks and balances in place that will allow the Town to revoke the licenses of offenders. He is in favor of this.

Councilor Stiles said that he feels that this ordinance should have gone to the Council to consider before going to the Ordinance Committee. Many of the Councilors have not had enough time to review it and he still has a lot of questions about the language. He does not like the way it is written and he cannot support it.

Councilor Gruber said that when he first heard about this, he was adamantly against it because of control and disturbance issues. If residents in the area are able to hear the noise, it will distract from their quality of life. He likes the annual license aspect. If there any issues, no license next year. His objection to this is 8 events per year. If it was 5 events per year, he would be in favor.

Councilor Storey-King said that she is going to support this. She feels that the licensing aspect will be helpful in allowing the neighbors to be involved in the site plan review process in order for a farm to get approved for a license.

Councilor Copp said that he realizes that there is nobody who works harder than a farmer. The problem that he has with this ordinance is that a commercial business will be allowed in a residential neighborhood. He cannot put weddings and farms together. He is totally in favor of farmers, but he cannot support this.

Councilor Gruber said that if we could reduce the 8 events per year to 5, he would support it.

Chairman Edes said that his issue with this is disturbing the neighbors and the noise. When the Town considered moving the Public Works garage to the fairgrounds, the number one complaint we heard from the neighbors was the potential noise and traffic. He heard the Bruce Hill neighborhood loud and clear and he can't get past that.

Councilor Bingham said that he is not in favor of 5 events per year.

Councilor Turner said that he is not in favor unless it goes to 5 events per year.

Councilor Stiles said that since there appears to be a lot of controversy on this and he suggested tabling.

Councilor Stiles moved to table. No second. Motion failed.

Motion by Councilor Storey-King, seconded by Councilor Turner, to amend Chapter 315 (Zoning), section 4 (Word Use and Definitions) and Section 6 (Rural Residential Districts (RR1 and RR2)) to add Farm-based Special

Events as a new definition and a permitted use in the Rural Residential 1, Rural Residential 2, and the existing farms in the Medium Density Residential zoning districts, and to amend Chapter 315 to include a new Section 315-49.1 “Farm-based Special Events”, of the Cumberland Code, as recommend by the Planning Board.

VOTE: 2-5 (Bingham, Gruber, Copp, Edes and Stiles opposed) MOTION FAILS

Councilor Storey-King moved, Councilor Turner seconded, to amend the original motion to include an amendment to the new Section 315-49.1(A) “Farm-based Special Events” as follows: *No more than five (5) Farm Based Specialty Events may be held on the same property within one calendar year.*

VOTE: 3-4 (Bingham, Copp, Edes and Stiles opposed) MOTION FAILS

**17 – 147 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on amendments to Chapter 84 (Fees and Fines), Article 1 (Fee Schedule), Section 12 (Moorings) and Section 22 (Site Plan Fees), of the Cumberland Code.**

Town Manager Shane explained that this is simply updating the site plan fees for staff review and the mooring fees (as recommended by the Coastal Waters Commission).

Chairman Edes opened the Public Hearing

Public discussion: none

Chairman Edes closed the Public Hearing

Motion by Councilor Bingham, seconded by Councilor Copp, to amend Chapter 84 (Fees and Fines), Article 1 (Fee Schedule), Section 12 (Moorings) and Section 22 (Site Plan Fees) of the Cumberland Code.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

**17 – 148 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on a Mass Gathering Permit for the Maine Vintage Market to be held at the Cumberland Fairgrounds on May 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

Mike Timmons of the Cumberland Farmer’s Club said that the Farmer’s Club Board has not voted to approve this new event yet, because they have questions that still need to be answered. He will meet with the event planner and since the event is 7 months away, there is plenty of time to bring it back. He suggested tabling it.

Motion by Councilor Bingham, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to table.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

**17 – 149 To consider and act on authorizing the Town Manager to execute a 5-year agreement with Jeff Storey for timber harvesting at Twin Brook Recreational Facility pursuant to the management plan developed in 2016.**

Town Manager Shane explained that the Town Council accepted Mr. Storey’s 5-year timber harvesting plan last year and last year was the probationary year. He did an outstanding job. The Lands & Conservation Commission Forestry Subcommittee will walk the area and make any necessary recommendations for cutting going forward. Mr. Storey would like to purchase equipment for future cutting and is waiting for approval of the 5-year agreement. The Finance Committee has discussed this and is recommending approval.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to authorize the Town Manager to execute a 5-year agreement with Jeff Storey for timber harvesting at Twin Brook Recreational Facility pursuant to the management plan developed in 2016, and to incorporate Forest Management practices as recommended by the Lands & Conservation Commission Forestry Subcommittee.

**17 – 150 To accept and award the bid for the purchase of the former Whitman house, as recommended by the Finance Committee.**

Town Manager Shane said that we attempted to put this house out to bid in July with a minimum bid of \$25,000, and received no bids. If we destroyed the house and disposed of it, it would cost the Town close to \$10,000. The Council authorized advertising the sale of the house to the highest bidder. We received 2 bids (\$1,200 and \$2,501) and the high bidder was Spencer Googins, our new Public Works mechanic. Spencer is prepared to move the house to its new location. The Finance Committee has discussed this and is recommending acceptance and award of the bid.

Motion by Councilor Stiles, seconded by Councilor Turner, to accept and award the bid for the purchase of the former Whitman house to Spencer Googins for \$2,501.00, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

**17 – 151 To hear a report from the Council Chairman outlining the next steps in the Request for Qualifications for the multi-generational neighborhood proposal process.**

Chairman Edes explained that the Town Council heard presentations from two firms that were interested in developing the Town owned land adjacent to the Town Forest. He wants the public to understand that there is no commitment by the Town to do anything with the property at this point and the developer that was chosen knows this. There are a lot of options to consider including senior housing, multi-generational housing, the Public Works garage could go on the property, or we could choose do nothing with it. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be a public forum at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School, which will allow the public to voice their concerns, ask questions and give their opinion as to what they think the Town should do with the property. The Town Council wants to hear from the public on this matter.

**17 – 152 To authorize the Town Manager to accept an anonymous donation of \$25,000 to the food pantry and fuel assistance fund.**

Town Manager Shane said that late this afternoon, we received a very generous donation for \$25,000 from a Cumberland family who wants to remain anonymous. This family typically makes large donations to the food pantry and fuel assistance fund a couple of times per year. These people are amazing and he wishes he could thank them publically.

Motion by Councilor Bingham, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to authorize the Town Manager to accept an anonymous donation of \$25,000 to the food pantry and fuel assistance fund.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**Councilor Bingham** – he feels badly about the farm issue because his mother's family were farmers in Vermont and his father founded the Androscoggin Valley Soil Conservation District in 1947. He has always tried to support farmers during his years on the Council.

**Councilor Gruber** – he thanked Rita Farry of the Aging in Place Committee for coming to the meeting this evening to remind everyone again that the AIP Community Forum is on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Middle School.

Thank you to everyone who is involved with the Food Pantry, and thank you to Councilor Stiles for his continuous efforts in collecting money for the 4-H auction.

He thanked Audrey Hankinson for the sign project she did for her Girl Scout Gold Service Award Project.

**Councilor Storey-King** – MSAD 51 is having a Community Dialogue on November 9<sup>th</sup> to get the community's help in writing their new 3-year strategic plan. The Superintendent uses the current strategic plan to help him in making school wide decisions.

She is disappointed with the farm base specialty event vote this evening because it was specifically mentioned in our Comprehensive Plan and the Planning Board supported it unanimously. She was given the advice once that you do not go against your board's recommendation unless you have a very good reason.

**Councilor Copp** – there was an article in the paper recently about Cumberland Police Sergeant, Tom Burgess, who was recognized for checking in on an elderly resident in our community. The gentleman has no relatives who live nearby and he needed food. Sergeant Burgess brought him some food from our Food Pantry and cooked him a hot meal. He continued to check in on him and he is now in a rehabilitation facility getting the help he needs. This is a fine example of our police department going above and beyond for our residents.

**Chairman Edes** – condolences to the Wilkinson family. Terry Wilkinson, who was a long time Industrial Arts teacher at Greely Middle School, passed away recently. He was a good man who was very well respected.

During his 5 years on the Town Council, there has not been a tougher item to deliberate on than the farm based specialty events. He grew up on a farm on Tuttle Road. After his dad passed away in 1985, his mother sold it. This item was near and dear to his heart, but he could not get past the noise issue.

**Councilor Stiles** – he would be in favor of revisiting the farm based specialty event ordinance. He did not like the way it was worded and therefore, could not support it.

He thanked everyone who supported his efforts to collect money for the 4-H auction that benefited the food pantry.

**Councilor Turner** – none

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilor Bingham, seconded by Councilor Copp, to adjourn.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

TIME: 9:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore  
Council Secretary