

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
FEBRUARY 17, 2015  
10:00 AM

PRESENT: George Lawrence, Chairman, Becky Doyle, Woody Meiszner, Joanne Meshna, Deb Harrity, Tim Jones

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was held to review a proposal from Deb Harrity and Tim Jones for the use of town-owned land on Old Tenney Road, lots 11/91a and 11/90-6. They propose doing organic agriculture including livestock grazing and/or other food production (grains, vegetables, fruit) and/or seed production. Use of the fields would be for a minimum of 10 years (8 year lease plus two years additional if land is reclaimed for soccer fields) with automatic renewals every 5 years. Any wooden structures built and electric fencing would be movable. Mr. Jones stated the organic farming would be done according to best practices.

It was agreed the deed would state for organic agricultural uses only with no permanent structures. The use will be for active farming and if not maintained as farming, the lease can be terminated. The annual payment should be in the lease. Mr. Jones noted that with organic farming, it will be 3-5 years before any profits are recognized.

Jeff Crocker's memorandum submitted on February 10, 2015 was reviewed. With regard to his question on exclusivity to Harrity/Jones, the town attorney will be contacted to determine wording. The Town's insurance requirements were discussed and Mr. Jones offered to sign a waiver relieving the Town from any liability; this will also be referred to Attorney Mayer as well as the question of right to use the fields in perpetuity or for a limited period of time.

The proposal also lists possibilities for value back to the Town for the use of the two lots: 1) farm products contributed to food banks for local residents; Selectman Doyle suggested this include contributions to the Welfare Director; 2) annual percent of profit payments – it was suggested a specific percentage be added and a fund be designated for deposit of the profits; 3) intern/apprentice farmer possibilities for local residents- Mr. Jones and Ms. Harrity would be willing to instruct residents on organic farming.

Selectman Doyle will contact Attorney Mayer.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Meshna, Land Use Manager

February 17, 2015 Board of Selectmen minutes approved by the Board:

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George H. Lawrence, Chairman

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Rebecca M. Doyle

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Woody Meiszner