

## PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday April 15, 2008

### ATTENDEES:

Bill Pritchard, Chair

John Barnes

Larry Lannom

Susan Milner

Arthur Schatzkin

Monique Shimm

Lance Hoffman, Town Council Liaison

Absent: Blaney Harper, Costis Toregas

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

There were no public comments.

The minutes of the February 19, 2008 meeting were approved.

### **Leland Center playground equipment:**

Susan Milner reports that the playground design will begin this week for the Elm Street Park. She will follow-up to ensure and coordinate Town involvement.

### **Town Speed Limit:**

The Chair reported that the Council had adopted the PSC recommendation of a Town-wide speed limit of 25 mph, with reduced speed limits on five streets and two alleys. During the open hearing, some residents advocated a Town-wide speed limit of 20 mph, a view supported by one council member. Town counsel stated that the Council sets the speed limit. Following the Council meeting, the Chair confirmed the information provided by Joseph Cutro, PE, that the Town could set the speed limit as it sees fit but that a Town-wide limit of 20 mph would not be supported under state law.

The PSC reconsidered the matter and again agreed that the Town's laws should comply with state law and that the proper Town-wide speed limit is 25 mph, except for those streets recommended for reduced speed limits.

### **Household Recycling:**

Monique Shimm is planning a Forecast article on recycling plastics.

Consideration of large blue bins (wheeled) for paper recycling was tabled. Some residents have expressed opposition and it is not clear that the change would lead to increased recycling.

### **Sidewalks:**

A public hearing on the construction of sidewalks on Oakridge and Thornapple was held as part of the regularly scheduled Council meeting. The civil engineering firm that drafted the sidewalk plans attended the meeting.

Lance Hoffman will be meeting with the civil engineers, Town arborist, water engineer and Joseph Cutro (traffic engineer) to review the plans and discuss the points made at the public hearing.

Monique Shimm was concerned about the presentation of the plan with only 9 days notice as well as the how and when to involve residents in the design. In particular, it would be helpful if the engineer designing the sidewalk took advantage of resident insight into the streets and common usage, e.g., the location of school bus stops. Ms. Shimm also felt that the letter from the Town to the residents of the street could be improved by providing more background, being more inviting of resident comments and allowing more advance notice before the hearing. These issues may be addressed with changes in the implementation of the policy.

**Town Forecast:**

Ms. Shimm expressed concern that articles in the Town Forecast occasionally include admonitions regarding certain matters as if they reflect actual rules or regulations rather than the author's personal opinion or preference. For example, the Forecast has stated that dogs must be leashed when on the owner's property which Ms. Shimm states is not the case. The PSC voted to recommend that information reported in the Forecast be accurate and, in the case of restrictions on behavior, should reflect actual rules and regulations or otherwise be signed as the personal opinion of the author(s).

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50