**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes** September 22, 2014 15 Bridge St. 6 p.m.

**Public Viewing of Potential Tree Project:** Chairman John Payne, selectmen Bob Manners and Joe Judd, and Town Administrator Terry Narkewicz met in front of Plants for Pleasure at 15 Bridge St. with the Ad Hoc Tree Committee represented by Jim Richardson, tree warden, and Kevin Parsons to present a plan for tree replacement to about 12 business owners and residents. Jim demonstrated the type and usage of clay pavers that are ADA approved. The pavers also allow more oxygen and water to tree roots helping to avoid sidewalk heaving from tree roots. Public responses to the plan were mixed with main concerns being lowered visibility of businesses and potential messes to clean up from berries. Jim said the serviceberry trees which grow approximately 20 feet high do not leave a mess as birds quickly eat the berries. Several expressed the desire to have two instead of three trees planted and spots that were aligned with brick portions of the buildings were identified as appropriate. The work is expected to take place in late October following the foliage season.

**Memorial Hall 7:00 pm**

**Call to Order**: Chairman Payne called the meeting to order at Memorial Hall at 7 p.m. Other members present: Robert Manners and Joe Judd, and Town Administrator Terry Narkewicz.

**Media Present:** None

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Joe put forward the motion to accept minutes as read for September 8, 2014, Bob seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**Noteworthy News:** Bob mentioned the movie The Judge, which was partially filmed in Shelburne Falls, would open on October 10.

Joe mentioned the 100th Anniversary of The Mohawk Trail and the cooperative effort being made by the Franklin County Community Development Corporation, The Mohawk Trail Association, and various chambers of commerce from Franklin and Berkshire County as well as the Quabbin region to bring attention to and celebrate the event. Joe said the collective group will be looking to businesses and other to help generate a scarecrow theme.

**Department Liaison Reports:**

**Police:** No updates.

**Town Hall:** No updates.

**Pratt Building:** Bob said the Arms Library/Pratt Building received a grant for $7,000 that has been used to make lighting and electrical improvements to the building which will be more energy efficient and improve the general atmosphere.

**Highway Department:** John said Alan Aldrich was offered the highway department position having passed all appropriate tests. Two other candidates were unable to pass the needed tests and the town will repost the position. Applications are due by Sept. 30.

**Cowell Gym:** Joe said quotes for the windows are in at $338 per window and $1,800 for flooring. A quote for an over-sized door is still being sought with a 45-minute to one-hour fire door rating. Community Action is hoping to open the new food pantry location in October. Joe made a motion to accept the quotes, minus sales tax. Bob seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Senior Center:** Joe said progress is being made on the center’s long-term plans.

**Memorial Hall:** Roof replacement plans on track.

**Cemetery Commission:** Joe said the commission is looking at a method of documenting plots including records of purchased plots/transfer of plots.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Appointments:**

**7:15 p.m.** Selectmen met with **Douglas Merrill RE: Class II Auto Request, 1155 Mohawk Trail**. Douglas said his family has been in the auto repair business in Granby for 20 years. Having been an integral part of the family business he moved on to become a personal auto shopper. He said he is looking to have 12-15 energy-efficient, SUV, and/or luxury vehicles on site with 2-3 located closer to the road and the rest placed further back on the property. Doulas said he wanted his business to be “classy” and was only looking to place tasteful signage with appropriate lighting. Joe said he was concerned about the traffic going in and out of the property due to the proximity of a dangerous intersection. John also mentioned the intersection, which is in the area of Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters is a bad area for black ice. Douglas said there will be very little in and out traffic as the vehicles are primarily being stored onsite and he mainly works elsewhere, coming to the site when a sale is being made. There will be no auto repairs being done on site including detailing. Selectmen requested Douglas adhere to town bylaws regarding signage and that he limit the number of cars on site to 10. Douglas said he hopes to open in Oct. or early Nov.

Joe made a motion to grant the Class II Auto Request with the selectmen’s stipulations; Bob seconded the vote mentioning the 10-car stipulation, the motion carried unanimously.

**7:30 p.m. Jim Richardson, Tree Warden, RE: Bridge St. Tree Replacement:** Relating to the earlier viewing of pavers and locations for planting Jim said despite apprehensions he felt good about the plan which will replace two trees this fall. Selectmen expressed their pleasure with the pavers and the fall tree plan. John said some street signage may need to be relocated in relation to the trees being planted and he would check with the highway dept. Joe made a motion to approve the plan to install two trees at the lower end of Bridge St. Bob seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

**Memorial Hall Roof Replacement:** Covered in liaison report.

**Cowell Gymnasium Improvements Recommended by DPH:** covered in liaison report.

**Highway Laborer Position:** Covered in liaison report.

**FRCOG RE:** Franklin Regional Planning Board and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee representation. Selectmen are looking for find someone who would like to serve as the town’s representative.

**New Business:**

**Conservation Commission Part-time Clerical RE: Recommendation for Hire:** Faye Whitney was recommended for the position. Joe moved to accept the recommendation. Bob seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**The Art Garden RE: Request for a One-Day Liquor License:** Working in cooperation with the Recreation Committee and Cowell Gymnasium representatives stated they would like to have permission for a liquor license for beer and wine only for a Halloween party to be held Nov. 1 at the gym. Patrons would only be able to purchase two tickets for alcoholic beverages. Selectmen strongly advised good practices in serving alcohol and representatives assured the board they would be as diligent as possible, Joe moved to approve the request and Bob seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The Board also agreed to waive the fee for said license.

**Other Business:**

**Cemetery Commissioner Appointment:** Bob made a motion to appoint Richard Bole to the position of Cemetery Commissioner. Joe seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Reserve Officer Appointment:** Bob made a motion to appoint Kurt Wilkins as Reserve Officer for the Town of Shelburne. Joe seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Emergency Management Planning Committee:** Selectmen discussed who would represent the board this year for the committee. Joe stated he did not wish to be the representative this year, but with further discussion agreed to participate for one more year. Bob made a motion to appoint Joe to represent the board on the Emergency Management Planning Committee. John seconded the motion which carried unanimously. John also said he would like to see quarterly or semi-annual reports from the committee.

**Sale of Surplus Equipment:** Terry said a1991 Ford Expedition 4x4 and a 1990’s Zwack 10-foot steel spreader body had been put out to bid. One bid was received for the spreader for $400. No bids were received for the Ford Expedition. Joe made a motion to accept the bid for $400 for the Zwack spreader body. Bob seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Correspondence:** Selectmen received a letter of support for the fall tree planting from Nancy Dole saying it “was important to have healthy trees on Bridge St.”

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment:** John presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cris Carl