

DPW Commission Meeting  
Wed., August 31, 2016  
Conference Room A, Town Hall, 5pm

Present were: Director J. Parisi, Chairman Reed and Commissioners Gardner and Sena.

5:10 pm: Meeting called to order.

**Parker Street Retaining Wall & Sidewalk Repairs**

Pierce Sears, Broadway and John Salisbury, Highland Street, were in attendance. The granite wall on the upper side has fallen into Mr. Sears' property. It was stated that the wall was built on their property, the survey pins are behind the wall. In 1907 the bottling factory was constructed. A retaining wall was built about 109 years ago; it gave away a few weeks ago. Mr. Sears requested that the town see if they are responsible for the repairs to the wall. Director Parisi said Town Counsel said there doesn't appear to be any negligence or liability on the town's part. The wall has been moving for a number of years, they have done some repairs over time. We will need a quick decision so repairs can move forward. The DPW is prepared to assist behind the wall after the wall has been reconstructed.

Commissioner Gardner said the town needs a retaining wall because without it the sidewalk will collapse. We need to build a retaining wall to the town's specifications on our side of the property so it properly supports the sidewalk. He said he sees this as the town's responsibility.

Director Parisi said he had spoken to the Building Inspector today; anything over 4' has to have engineered stamped plans. A reinforced concrete wall would need to be installed. Chairman Reed said we need to build something on the town's side.

Director Parisi said there is a difference between what was there and what the town will build.

Commissioner Gardner said we would need to ask the Finance Committee for the funds.

Commissioner Sena said the town is liable for public safety and we can't rely on a citizen to repair the wall on his side for us to our structural standards.

Chairman Reed said if Mr. Sears opted not to repair this, the town would have to do this to restore the sidewalk.

Commissioner Gardner said Mr. Sears could repair the wall to suit his needs but he wouldn't need to meet the town's standards.

Commissioner Sena spoke about precast blocking instead of a concrete wall. He said that could be a quick way out and the DPW could do the work.

Mr. Salisbury said they appreciate the effort and time spent on this. He said if the town needs different kinds of cooperation from Mr. Sears he would like to provide that, maybe an easement to complete this. The end of the garage was built in 1941. Mr. Sears would want a good idea of what is going to happen; the actual scope of the work. Maybe he could put some plantings in that would help it look finished.

Chairman Reed said we need to get some engineering drawings going; the road needs to hold up.

Director Parisi said it's on Mr. Sears' land, if he chooses not to repair; the town would have to pursue legal action because it needs to be repaired. He said their property has caused harm to town property. We don't have the obligation to repair this.

Chairman Reed questioned if there is something we could do to determine the scope of the project, while we are waiting to hear from Town Counsel.

Commissioner Gardner said he would like to speak to legal counsel on this. He said if the town isn't technically responsible for this, he wouldn't want to commit funds to the repair. He asked if it is determined that the town isn't 100% responsible for this, would Mr. Sears' be willing to contribute to the cost. Mr. Sears said he would consider whatever is reasonable.

Chairman Reed said we will conclude this issue quickly after we get additional information.

**Drought conditions:**

Director Parisi said the current water restriction allows for one hour of hand held watering between the hours of 5pm and 8pm. No other water use (swimming pools, washing cars, etc.) is allowed. He said the pumping rates are 673,000 gallons/day on average; that is still a sizable amount of water. If we could reduce that, it would be beneficial.

Commissioner Gardner asked about the next level of restriction. Director Parisi said no outdoor use at all would be the next level.

Chris Martin said we are using 25,000 gallons more/day than last year and last year there were no water restrictions. Cape Pond is at its lowest at 5', we could hit 4' pretty quickly. In 2001 Cape Pond was 3'. He said water quality is going downhill fast at Cape Pond.

Chairman Reed said how about allowing water use (every other day) on odd/even sides of street. This would need more enforcement. He recommended we get through this week and next week and see where we stand.

Director Parisi said if DEP declares a water emergency, then we could go to Steel Derrick. We'd have to ban all outside water use before doing that.

Director Parisi said we could pull from Steel Derrick if we exhaust Cape Pond and Carlson's quarry.

Chairman Reed recommended trying allowing the odd side of the street to water one day and the even side on the next day; that should reduce usage.

Director Parisi said he would work with Chris Martin around the algae issues to see what we can resolve.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9/14; an update on the water restriction will be provided at that meeting

Commissioner Gardner moved to increase the water restriction to allow use on the odd-even sides of the street, seconded by Commissioner Sena; Vote: 2-1; Chairman Reed is opposed.

Commissioner Gardner has made some calls on the references for the Designer Selection Committee on vendors for the barn. More information will be available for the next meeting.

6:15pm Commissioner Gardner moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sena, Vote: 3-0.