

**ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Public Session I**  
**May 5, 2008**  
**ALTON TOWN HALL**

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**Convene:** At 6:02pm, Chairman Sherwood convened the Board in public session. The following members of the Board and staff were present:

Alan Sherwood, Chairman  
William Curtin, Vice-Chair  
Peter Bolster, Selectman  
Stephan McMahon, Selectman  
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator  
Kenneth Roberts, Highway Agent  
Sharon Penney, Town Planner

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Moment of Silence:**

Chairman Sherwood led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Chairman Sherwood asked if there were any changes to the agenda but none were suggested.

S. McMahon motioned to approve the agenda, as submitted, and W. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Sherwood announced that he would approach the subject of the traffic circle a little differently. He stated they would discuss it in a similar manner that the Zoning Board reviewed cases, by discussing the case and then allowing public input.

**Announcements:**

There will be a Public Hearing on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 6:00pm at the Alton Town Hall, second floor, to discuss the reconstruction of Stockbridge Corner Road. A letter has been sent out to all the abutters.

The Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 26, 2008. S. McMahon, W. Curtin, and P. Bolster confirmed they will be marching in the parade.

R. Bailey had no announcements.

**Selectmen's Committee Reports:**

S. McMahon announced there would be a meeting of the Alton Budget Committee on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 6:30PM.

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P. Bolster announced that the Alton Central School Building & Grounds Committee would be meeting next week. They were waiting for more information from reports to be available.

P. Bolster reported that the Down Town Revitalization Committee was looking for a location to set the flagpole.

P. Bolster reported that the Recreation Committee is working on the Alton As A Park initiative. He reported that a brochure and a map will be available soon and spoke about some of the parks and other recreation areas around the town that are available for the public to explore. There will be an article in the paper about these public lands soon.

P. Bolster spoke about the coming of the Russian Bench in 2009 and felt that the location for where the bench would be placed. He suggested the Recreation Commission should work with the Rotary Club and other organizations to find a location and bring the suggestion to the Selectmen for approval. He asked if there should be a vote on this suggestion. W. Curtin stated he had read in the papers that the Rotary Club had already decided where the bench would be placed. P. Bolster responded that the Rotary Club would make suggestions but the Selectmen would make the decision.

W. Curtin reported that the Planning Board had announced the bugs and ticks were out, as they had just completed a site walk. He stated that the Water Commission will be flushing hydrants at sometime this month.

W. Curtin reported that the Alton Historical Society was seeking additional members so that they could be eligible for a \$25,000 grant.

Chairman Sherwood stated it was a good day to be on the Mt. Washington and noted that Pat Rockwood got to be there with the Governor Lynch today.

Chairman Sherwood reported that the first Hazardous Waste Collection will be in Wolfeboro, on May 17 and the Alton collection date is set for July 11-12.

Chairman Sherwood reported that the Belknap Range Conservation Collation will hold a workshop on May 28, at the Gilman Museum. The same workshop will be held in Gilford on May 15. He spoke about some of the subjects that will be covered in the workshop.

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P. Bolster spoke about the three benches, similar to the ones by the Library, had been ordered and would be placed by the beach when they arrive in mid-May. He noted there had been an article in the paper thanking folks for their contributions for the purchase and installation of the benches. He thanked Ruth Arsenault for her fund raising efforts.

P. Bolster reported on the Rotary Club's shelter at the beach. He spoke about the 20' set back law at the beach and asked if R. Bailey was able to find out the law. R. Bailey stated that both houses had approved this to go back to July 21 and they had to be 20 feet back.

**Town Administrator's Report:**

R. Bailey reported there is lead on the bandstand and they will get bids on how to appropriately deal with the lead, so the paint will be removed in the correct manner.

Chairman Sherwood announced he would be attending the next meeting and would be out of town. W. Curtin will be chairing the next meeting.

R. Bailey reported the next workshop dates would be on May 9 at 3:30pm and May 13 at 8:30am. He stated he would try to set up some meetings with some of the department heads.

**Public Input I:**

Ruth Messier commented on the new curtains on the stage and felt they did a great job. She spoke about the issue with the telephone numbers for the Alton Police Department and the forwarding of the numbers to the Laconia Police Dispatch after hours. She reported she had dialed the 3752 number and got the Laconia Dispatch and it took 20 minutes for the Alton Police Department to return her call. She stated the officer who answered her call gave her a card with the 3752 number on it. She asked why there was a Business number and the number for the Laconia Dispatch listed in the phonebook when there was someone at the Alton Police Department during the time she called and that the Alton Police Department was full-time. She felt the "Business" listing should be removed from the local directory.

R. Messier spoke about the Alton Traffic Circle options that the Selectmen would be looking at and spoke about the traffic circle in Meredith. She stated she would go around the Lake to avoid the traffic circle in Meredith and felt it was not safe.

Robert Longabaugh spoke about the Alton Traffic Circle options. He stated the money was earmarked for improvements and felt the traffic circle should be made to operate as a real traffic circle. He spoke about an article he had distributed to the Selectmen about roundabouts. He felt the money should be spent while it was in hand.

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**Approval of Selectmen's Minutes:**

Chairman Sherwood asked if there were any comments about the meeting minutes. W. Curtin noted a correction on page 2, "a" should be changed to "an".

Chairman Sherwood motioned to approve the public and non-public meeting minutes of April 21, 2008, as amended, and W. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Review of Traffic Circle Options:**

Chairman Sherwood stated he would like to put a three-part suggestion about the traffic circle out to the Board for discussion. He reported that the first part of the suggestion is to ask the DOT to put the design of the round a bout on hold at this time and to focus on improvements to the existing circle. The second part of the proposal is to ask the DOT about the inclusion of some other amenities in the project, such as sidewalk improvement. He stated they were looking at ways to make the current circle safer and enable it to handle more traffic. The third part of the proposal is to ask the DOT to work with the town to broaden the scope of the earmarks to also include the section of 28N, towards Barnstead, to make improvements to the roads there.

W. Curtin suggested looking at the area around Hannaford's, where the Huggins Hospital Rehab Building will be going in, for sidewalks and intersection areas.

P. Bolster spoke about the importance of safety and the flow of traffic in the circle.

Chairman Sherwood spoke about the action that is being taking to learn more about the language in the funds being earmarked for this project. He stated that they were looking into it and would have more money later.

P. Bolster spoke about the benefits of having a "park and ride" parking lot in the town so that people could ride-share to save money and gasoline consumption. He spoke about the "park and ride" lot in Barrington, NH and noted it was the only one there. He felt this was something that should be encouraged.

Chairman Sherwood spoke about reconfiguring the circle so that access from Route 11 North, so there would be a merger forced for a right a-way. P. Bolster spoke about the re-aligning of the entrances to make it a little less complicated coming into the circle.

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It was the consensus of the Board that they agreed with most of the basic engineering changes proposed by the DOT. The Board agreed with the addition of the sidewalks and with the park and ride. S. McMahon spoke about the need for sidewalks up to the school. P. Bolster spoke about the public health aspect of having sidewalks. The Board agreed with asking the Commissioner of the DOT for a review of the language of the AMRs and to find out if any money would be available for any of these changes.

Sharon Penney, Alton Town Planner, stated that the Selectmen had brought up the proposed changes and she fully supported this project. She offered her support as a liaison with the DOT.

Reuben Wentworth, asked where the money came from for this project and noted that it was rumored that J. Bradley had earmarked the money for the Alton Traffic Circle and asked if anyone had asked Bradley why. R. Wentworth spoke about issues with having the sidewalks that would cross the Traffic Circle. He spoke about some of the issues with the proposed recommendations with the Traffic Circle and felt the Selectmen should wait until they had a good plan before they made a recommendation. He asked when the Selectmen had met to discuss these three suggestions and P. Bolster responded there had been some one on one discussion. R. Wentworth spoke about the public opinion in the past meetings about the roundabout.

R. Wentworth reported there were seventeen accidents in a year at the Alton Circle and in the Keene Roundabout there were about 17 accidents in a month. He suggested the Selectmen take more time to think about their recommendations and recommended changing signage in the circle.

P. Bolster spoke about the article that B. Longabaugh had given the Selectmen about the traffic improvements made in New York. He spoke about the figures reported of accidents.

Chris Consentino spoke about her history of the having property abutting the Alton Traffic Circle. She felt there wasn't a problem with the Alton Traffic Circle and felt that it shouldn't be changed. She spoke about her concerns with having sidewalks in the area of the Alton Traffic Circle. She felt the current sidewalks had problems and were in need of repair.

Marybee Longabaugh stated there had never been a round a bout she had liked. She spoke about one in Brattleboro, VT and one in Meredith, NH. She spoke about some of the ones in NY that had been put in where they lived. She felt that the tourists and visitors would have problems with circle because they weren't used to it.

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Reuben Wentworth spoke about the roundabouts and noted that they were put in place to replace intersections. He noted that P. Bolster had spoken about accidents but felt the accidents he had referred to would be caused by driver error and were not design flaws. R. Wentworth stated that Route 28 and Route 11 needed to be improved before the circle was improved. He spoke about the history of some of the roads and projects suggested in the past for the roads.

R. Messier asked who would be plowing and maintaining sidewalks down by Route 28, because it is a state highway. She spoke about her concerns with the traffic flow in a circle and yields/stop signs. She stated she was glad the Board was not going in the direction of a roundabout.

Raymond Howard stated the one thing broken in the circle was by the Dunkin Doughnuts and felt a turn lane or something else should be implemented there. He felt that was something that should be addressed.

Greg Fuller asked if a roundabout was a small traffic circle with a monument in the middle in Kennebunk, ME and felt it was a bad design. He spoke about the Dunkin Doughnuts traffic issues. He stated he knew the money was earmarked but felt that maybe some of the things that needed to be fixed could be fixed and then the remaining money could be returned. He asked that if sidewalks were placed around the circle that he would imagine crosswalks would be put in place. He felt that crosswalks in the circle were a bad idea.

Christine Consentino asked where the crosswalks would be placed and Chairman Sherwood stated that no crosswalks would be in the circle but there would be crosswalks by Hannaford's, near the traffic light. There was discussion about the three issues the Selectmen are looking at and it was asked if this was something that would be voted on in the future. She spoke about the Main Street and Old Wolfeboro Road, and issues with the parking places there blocking drivers' views at the intersection.

Kenneth Roberts, Alton Highway Agent, spoke about beautification to the Alton Traffic Circle. He felt this was a good opportunity to place a "Welcome to Alton" sign and some other things that would make the area more inviting. P. Bolster spoke about the original design plans, which he had found in his old church, of the circle and K. Roberts suggested he should give a copy to the Board. K. Roberts spoke about snow removal and reported they would be going out to bid on some of those issues soon.

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Raymond Carbone of "The Laconia Daily Sun", stated that he hadn't heard about the turning lane for the Dunkin Doughnuts yet and asked if that was something that would be restricted and noted it he didn't know who owned the property there. Chairman Sherwood stated that they weren't prepared to discuss that this evening.

R. Wentworth thanked the Board for allowing the public to speak and appreciated the Board listening to the public.

R.. Longbaugh felt the Selectmen were on the right track to investigate how the money should be used.

K. Argiropolis spoke about the need for more sidewalks in the elementary/middle school zone and asked the Selectmen if they would consider this area in their plans.

R. Messier felt a "park and ride" was a good option. She suggested to have one available, if not near the traffic circle, then there should be one at the Bay.

Chairman Sherwood closed public input.

P. Bolster felt the Board should move forward with the three-part plan. Chairman Sherwood stated he was going to ask the state what was going to be done by the DOT and that they were to give the DOT a recommendation. He stated he would ask them to focus on minor changes to the circle that would focus on capacity and safety. He would ask them to look at other things they could do in the immediate area of the circle, such as a turn lane for Dunkin Doughnuts, signage changes, etc. There was discussion about placing other signs in the area. He stated he would first ask the commissioner to broaden the earmarks for other improvements and some other high priority areas.

P. Bolster motion to move forward with the three-part plan and to ask the DOT to focus on the existing circle and W. Curtin seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of three with S. McMahon abstaining.

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**Highway Accessory Items:**

R. Bailey reported the Highway Department had requested bids for calcium chloride, crack seal, line painting, plowing and roadside mowing. Bids were opened on April 24, 2008 at 2:00pm by K. Roberts and W. Curtin. R. Bailey reviewed the list of bids submitted for approval:

- Calcium Chloride – Rocky Mountain Farm; \$0.81/gal
- Crack Seal – Nicom Coating Corp; \$1.35/lb.
- Line Painting – Highway Safety Systems; \$12,097.00
- Plowing – Land n Lakes Property Management; \$70.00
- Roadside Mowing – MB Tractor; \$36.00/hr

P. Bolster motioned to approve the recommended lowest bids for highway accessory items, as presented. S. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Hawkers and Vendors License:**

R. Bailey reported there was a new request for a hawkers and vendors license. The Board reviewed the list of conditions for a hawkers and vendors license. W. Curtin recommended placing "Shibley's By the Pier" on the list of fixed vendors. There was discussion about some of issues in the past with vendors in the area of Alton Bay, competing with fixed businesses in the area.

S. McMahon motioned to grand a hawkers and vendors license to North East Ice Cream, S. Portland, ME, from May through October, 11:00am until 8:00pm, along with the six conditions on the application along with the condition that the vendor is restricted from selling within one hundred feet from The Corner Store to Pop's Clam Shell, in Alton Bay. W. Curtin amended the motion to include that music broadcasted from the ice cream truck was also to be turned off within one hundred feet of The Corner Store to Pop's Clam Shell and seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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**Vote on Land Use Items as Presented by the Town Assessor**

Chairman Sherwood read a memo from Kathy Currier, dated April 30, 2008, that was included in the Board's packet:

- Timber Tax; \$516.90
- Gravel Tax; \$346.28
- Intent to Excavate
- Land Use Change Tax; \$14,140.00
- Administrative Abatement; \$192.88
- 2006 Board of Tax and Land Appeals Statement; \$113.00 (2006) and \$113.00 (2007).

Chairman Sherwood motioned to approve the land use items, as presented, and S. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Public Input II:**

K. Roberts asked what the fines were for violations of the hawkers and vendors license. R. Bailey responded he would need to check into it. K. Roberts spoke about an issue last year with an unapproved vendor selling ice cream at the Bay during July 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion to Move to Non-Public Session**

At 8:00pm, Chairman Sherwood motioned to move the meeting into non-public session to discuss matters covered under RSA 91-A: 3, II (a), (c) and (e) and W. Curtin seconded the motion. All Board members were polled and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

, Recorder, Public Session

Minutes Approved 5-19-08