Town Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 9, 2015, at 7:00 PM, in the Matthew Thornton Room

Chairman Harrington called the meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Vice Chairman Mahon, Councilor Boyd, Councilor Dwyer, Councilor Rothhaus, Councilor Woods, and Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Paul Micali. Councilor Koenig and Town Manager Cabanel were excused.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Harrington led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

Voting Day is Tuesday, April 14th between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School All Purpose Room.

Regular meetings of the Town Council will be conducted on Thursday, April 23rd and May 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room.

The Parks & Recreation Department Administrative Offices will be moving back to Wasserman Park for the season on Tuesday, April 14th.

This year's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 18th. The event will run from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 882-1046 or visit our website at www.merrimackparksandrec.org for specific details.

Dog licensing and rabies clinic this Saturday, April 11th from 9:00 a.m. - Noon. Rabies shots are being sponsored by the Rotary Club and are available at the ambulance garage. Town Clerk's office will be open at that time for dog licensing.

Save the Date: May 9th is the Police Open House.

1. **Kinder Morgan – Proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) Pipeline Project**
   Submitted by Town Council Chairman Nancy Harrington and Vice Chair Tom Mahon

Chairman Harrington thanked Town Moderator, Lynn Christensen, for serving as Moderator of the March 26th meeting. She also expressed gratitude for the public participation.

- **Informational Reports and Updates**
- **Action Items**

  - Continue to press Kinder Morgan for public meeting in Merrimack - **Meeting held 3/26/15**

  - Request the Council to take no action regarding request from Kinder Morgan to survey Town-owned parcels until Merrimack public meeting - **Completed**

  - Place NED Pipeline Update on Future Council Agendas - **Completed**

- Update list of properties that directly abut proposed pipeline route with a list of properties that fall into pipeline hazard zone - **Completed**

- Consider consultant to:
  - Research community property value effects of recent pipeline installations – **Engaged Avitar**
  - Evaluate impacts on sewer line – **Engaged Wright Pierce**

- Support Conservation Commission's efforts to update data for environmental impacts on HHNP and Gilmore Woods Memorial Forest - **Ongoing**

- Support Merrimack Village District's efforts to protect Wellhead Protection Zone and Aquifer Protection Zone - **Ongoing**

- Request Kinder Morgan list of abutters notified of project and requests for permission to survey – **Responded that by FERC rules they cannot provide abutter list**

- Work with property owners to develop a list of who has been notified of the project and requests for surveys.

- Maintain contacts at FERC and NH Congressional Delegation – **Ongoing (NH delegation attends Managers' meetings)**

- Consult with Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) regarding where they are in the process with Kinder Morgan and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) - **No response**

- Consult and share information with large companies (Anheuser Busch/InBev, Elbit Systems, Premium Outlets, Fidelity, PanAm Railways, PSNH, Pennichuck, etc.) - **Meeting held 2/26/15: Will be ongoing**

- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) - **Pending formal application**

- Council voted to stand in strong opposition to the NED Pipeline - Send letter to Governor/Federal Delegation.
  - Letter to Governor - **has been approved, and a copy will be placed on the Town's website.**
  - Letter to Congressional Delegation
  - Letter to Local Representatives

Chairman Harrington opened the floor for public comment.

Debra Huffman, 60 Amherst Road

Stated Town Manager Cabanel made mention, during the March 26th meeting, that she no longer attends the meetings of the Managers/Administrators from the various towns that gather to discuss the NED Pipeline project. Ms. Huffman remarked the Town Manager had stated Merrimack is sort of ahead of the game, etc.

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She stated her understanding Merrimack has hired its own attorney and is not interested in joining the group in the hiring of an attorney. She continued Town Manager Cabanel had remarked the group was sort of not cohesive or was falling apart. However, that is not the case at this time. She remarked there were 9 towns represented at the meeting conducted the prior week.
Having just come from a meeting at Senator Ayotte's offices, she is aware one of the Senator's administrators, Matt Flanders, attends each of those meetings. She stated her belief the Town of Merrimack should be represented at those meetings, and that there is a great deal of information to be shared. She suggested the possibility of having a citizen advocate attend and report back to the Council. If nothing else, the Town should be on the email list so there is an awareness of what the other towns are doing.

Chairman Harrington stated her understanding the Town Manager did not attend the prior week's meeting due to a conflict, and her belief the intent is to continue participating in those meetings and the sharing of information. Ms. Huffman reiterated her understanding the Town Manager stated she was not participating because we are so far ahead of them. Merrimack is no longer included on emails.

Assistant Town Manager Micali stated when the agenda came out for the last meeting he contacted the Town Manager in Brookline, and made him aware he and the Town Manager would be unable to attend. At that meeting, the intent was to go over the scope of work for their legal counsel. The Town continues to receive emails from the Brookline Town Manager. He is unsure why Merrimack was not on the minutes, but it is still part of the group. He noted typical attendance from the Congressional Delegation has been 1 or 2, and attendance in general has been as low as 4.

Ms. Huffman commented she is aware the Council has asked residents to request of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to conduct a scoping meeting in Merrimack, however, given the number of people that were present for the Town meeting (400+), there is the need for a larger venue. She suggested the request to FERC could be that they conduct multiple scoping meetings in Hillsborough County.

Chairman Harrington commented there is nothing to be lost by notifying FERC of the desire for a scoping meeting to be conducted in Merrimack, of the size of the community and level of interest already demonstrated, and suggest it may be beneficial to conduct a single scoping meeting for the residents of Merrimack and another to cover the remainder of Hillsborough County.

Vice Chairman Mahon commented the Town Manager had mentioned to him that somewhere there has been the thought the FERC may conduct a scoping meeting in Nashua as there may be larger venues available in that community. However, there is nothing firm about that. With regard to the amount of information that is likely to be presented to FERC during scoping meeting(s), he noted they have stenographers available to take that information down (verbatim transcript).

Gina Rosati, 15 Dunbarton Drive

Questioned whether an update is available regarding engaging the larger companies in Town. Chairman Harrington stated a meeting was conducted, and information was shared. The opportunity for further meetings was presented. However, to date, no feedback has been received.

Vice Chairman Mahon noted, at the Conservation Commission meeting held on the 6th, representatives of Anheuser Busch presented plans for the expansion of their facility. After they had completed their

presentation they remained present to hear the Commission's discussion on the proposed NED Pipeline project.

Jody Vaillancourt, 35 Greenleaf Street, Merrimack

Stated she was present for the Conservation Commission meeting during which a representative from Anheuser Busch said the proposed pipeline would go right through their retention pond. That is one of the issues that has them very concerned and paying attention.

Ms. Rosati spoke of the metering station possibly coming to Merrimack. The station would require 1.43 acres to build and .92 acres to operate. This is where the Mercaptan is added, which would give the gas its odor. Mercaptan is flammable. Last Christmas Eve there was a fire at the metering station in Chartiers Township, PA that evacuated about a dozen local homes. She stated her belief the metering station was supposed to be in Amherst, and questioned at what point they started talking about Merrimack.

Councilor Boyd responded during the March 26th meeting someone raised the question that at some particular point, as growth expands, there would be a need for additional metering stations. He stated his understanding, based on a review of the environmental report and putting two and two together, the arithmetic lends itself so that there would be a metering station somewhere in Merrimack and another somewhere beyond the compressor station that is proposed in New Ipswich. That is not part of the current plan. That would be at some nebulous point in the future. At this time, the plan indicates the metering station to be located in Amherst.

Councilor Dwyer spoke of mention that Kelly Ayotte's office is sending representatives to the meeting, and state the need to understand neither the Governor's Office, the two Senators, or our two Congressman have come out in opposition to the pipeline. If their offices are sending representatives they have been very clear in being neutral. No one from the Congressional Delegation, the Senate, or the Governor has made any public statements either for or against the pipeline.

Carol DiPirro, 10 Cambridge Drive

Stated originally she was referenced to the Amherst website. Since that time the Town has done a great job of updating its website. She had believed someone would be monitoring an email address on the Town website, but has not seen that to be the case. Chairman Harrington stated she is aware the Town Manager has been monitoring the site. When last she questioned it, nothing had been received. As several weeks have gone by since that time, she stated she would check back with the Town Manager for an update. Assistant Town Manager Micali stated the email address is directed to the Town Manager.

Ms. DiPirro questioned if the website has a link established for sending email. Chairman Harrington responded she will check with the Town Manager.

Amanda Yonkin, 57 Naticook Road

Remarked she participates in a few different statewide groups concerning the proposed NED Pipeline project. She was confused during the meeting of the Conservation Commission when Councilor Mahon

commented on an unraveling of solidarity among the towns. She questioned what he is seeing that she is not.

Vice Chairman Mahon responded about a month ago a report was produced by the public relations individual for an anti-pipeline group that stated it was rumored that one of the towns in the western part of the State had talked to Kinder Morgan or Tennessee Gas about accepting the pumping station in lieu of their next door neighbor. That went nowhere. He received a copy of an email of an attempted exchange between Amherst and Milford about certain questions and activities. Amherst was asking to get together with Milford to do something and there was no reply. He took that as people trying to be careful, maybe not having their minds made up about doing something. From that standpoint they hadn't gotten together enough to have a position.

He stated his experience is these kinds of things happen. It is the process of people trying to get their arms around an issue, and trying to work it out.

Ms. Yonkin stated she was surprised as it seems as though the towns are working together much better now than they were even a month ago. Vice Chairman Mahon stated his agreement. He remarked there are times when he looks at things differently than others, and he is looking for other indicators, etc. based on experiences he has had with this kind of grouping activity. There are certain phases they go through and certain things that happen. It is just the fact that they just haven't gotten their thinking together and sat down and exchanged their views to the point where everybody is comfortable with what they want to do and how they want to do it.

Ms. Yonkin stated that is why it is important that we continue attending those meetings. She remarked she must have misunderstood the remarks he made at the Conservation Commission meeting as she had believed he had stated the Town Manager was no longer participating in the meetings. Vice Chairman Mahon responded that had been his understanding.

Ms. Yonkin commented she is aware the Council has stated it would not meet with Kinder Morgan privately, and questioned whether that includes their contractors, etc. She asked how discussions would take place between the Town and Kinder Morgan. Chairman Harrington stated her personal opinion no meeting would occur that the public would not know about. If at some point in the future there is the need to sit down and discuss our interests that will be made known to the public. She remarked, in her opinion, unless there is a legal reason that would prohibit it, any meetings would be conducted in public.

Krista Bradshaw, 54 Whittier Road

Questioned if the Town has heard from Kinder Morgan regarding surveying Town owned land. Assistant Town Manager Micali responded the attorneys are working on language, and nothing has been finalized as of this time.

Ms. Bradshaw questioned if Kinder Morgan has tried to renegotiate language the Town has put in place, and the Town is modifying where the guidelines for surveying. Chairman Harrington commented we're not going to modify anything. Assistant Town Manager Micali stated his belief the discussions are regarding legalese. Ms. Bradshaw questioned, and was informed a date has not been set.

Ms. Bradshaw questioned, when a date is set, ifs that would be known about prior to it happening? Chairman Harrington responded unless there is a legal reason she is unaware of, she does not see why it would not be known/posted on the website with all other public information.

Ms. Bradshaw requested clarification on the number of affected homeowners, which Kinder Morgan has identified as 61. She stated that number is not true for Merrimack. Mr. Jim Hartman, Right of Way Agent, Kinder Morgan, was asked for his definition of affected landowners, and his response was land owners and a 400' corridor. Ms. Bradshaw stated her belief the Town Manager has previously stated the Town itself was trying to pull the numbers together. She asked if that number could be made available.

Vice Chairman Mahon stated that information was pulled a month ago. Ms. Bradshaw requested the information be made public. Vice Chairman Mahon noted Statute allows Kinder Morgan to withhold the names of the property owners.

Ms. Bradshaw stated she lives on Whittier Road. The homeowners (64 individuals) share common land. Chairman Harrington stated her recollection Kinder Morgan recognized that during the March 26th meeting, and stated that would be corrected.

Ms. Bradshaw reiterated her desire is for the Town to correct the number that is out in the media. Kinder Morgan is stating the proposed route is intended to lessen the impact on people. If we can start correcting those numbers she would be pleased. Chairman Harrington stated that would be added to the list of Action Items.

Vice Chairman Mahon stated he had asked the Town Manager, early on, to have the Assessing Office put together a list of any property that touched the route/corridor. That is the list that was developed. That is the number and it was more than 61. Ms. Bradshaw restated there are 64 in her neighborhood alone. Vice Chairman Mahon stated they were not talking about common land ownership. Ms. Bradshaw reiterated Kinder Morgan has stated their definition is land owners. They are all individual land owners of that piece of land.

Debra Huffman, 60 Amherst Road

Requested the next agenda include an update from staff on the NRPC meetings.

Councilor Boyd requested the Council be informed of the accurate number of homeowners impacted when the information becomes available. Chairman Harrington responded absolutely. At that time, there will be the need to discuss how to make that publicly known.

Comments From the Press and Public

Lynn Christensen, Town Moderator, thanked the Town Council for the electronic signs reminding residents of Voting Day and polling locations.

Chris Christensen, 27 Greatstone Drive

Stated the Rotary Club held its annual Excellence in the Workplace Award Ceremony during the morning hours. Two Town employees, Tim Thompson and Adam Jacobs, were recognized for their excellence in the workplace.

Recognitions, Resignations and Retirements

1. Recognition of Ice Skating Rink Volunteers

Submitted by Town Councilor Finlay Rothhaus
The Town Council would like to formally recognize the dedicated individuals that volunteer their time maintaining the ice skating rink located on O'Gara Drive behind the Skate Board Park.

Councilor Rothhaus commented his son went off to college a few years back and didn't continue playing hockey, which left him pretty devastated. Now he has a 16 month old grandson who broke his skates out on the Town rink. They loved it, and are very appreciative of all of the work the volunteers do. Chairman Harrington remarked these gentlemen voluntarily maintain the skating rink for the benefit of the citizens of Merrimack.

Councilor Rothhaus spoke of the amount of work involved and the equipment necessary to keep the rink in the fantastic condition they do.

Chairman Harrington identified the volunteers by name: Richard Peters, Bill Mackie, Richard Maloon, Kevin Stuer, and Lance Ford. In recognition of their efforts, the volunteers were provided with Dunkin Donuts gift certificates and will receive a certificate from the Council recognizing and stating appreciation for all of their hard work.

Appointments

1. **Annual Review with the Parks and Recreation Committee**
   Submitted by Parks and Recreation Committee Chair Chris Christensen
   Per Town of Merrimack Charter Section 6-6, at least annually, there should be an annual review with the Parks and Recreation Committee. This agenda item is to highlight the committee's significant actions, current projects, anticipated actions, and to raise any concerns the Council should know or could act on.

Chris Christensen, Chairman, Parks and Recreation Committee (Committee), stated there have been a lot of new activities, which has brought some new enthusiasm. New people are being brought into the parks, and the Committee is excited about that. At the end of last year there were about 25 programs. That number is now closer to 125. He remarked Matt Casparius, Director of Parks & Recreation, has done a great deal, which the Committee is grateful for. He commented it is not always that the Parks & Recreation Committee or Department is doing the program, but he is coordinating it and getting other organizations to sponsor events, which are bringing people into the parks.

In the past, the Committee focused on facilities. As this Council has supported improvements to the facilities over the past few years, the focus is now moving from facilities to programs. Behind that is the thought that programs bring in more people. In some instances whether camp or some other program, registration fees are generating revenue. He stated the belief getting programs going and more people involved is the long-term future of the Department and Committee.

The Committee is starting to work more with the Conservation Commission to do some outdoor activities that involve conservation land, e.g., hiking, nature walks, etc. Last year the Committee began working together with the Library on summer concerts. That collaboration is important for getting more people involved, but there is also some synergy in funding.

The Committee's next meeting will be around goal setting for the coming year. Some of that will be programming, some facilities, and some budget related.

Mr. Christensen commented a year ago discussions were being held regarding amending the Bylaws to adjust the number of people on the Committee. Earlier in the evening two perspective members were interviewed, which would bring the Committee up to full strength with the exception of one alternate position. He suggested that to be an indication of the increased level of excitement. Mr. Christensen stated the desire for the Town Council to appoint an Alternate Liaison as well as a Liaison to the Committee.

Councilor Woods expressed his gratitude.

Vice Chairman Mahon commented the report speaks to one of the issues discussed by the Council when recruiting for the position of Director of Parks & Recreation, e.g., wanted to upgrade the position and the ability of the position. The Town is seeing the benefit of that in Director Casparius through his efforts towards improving activities for the community.

Mr. Christensen stated Mr. Casparius brings the skill and background for planning, which the Town has not had previously. One of the things he believes will come around this year is somewhat of a Town-wide Master Plan. Perhaps not a Master Plan as detailed as has been done for other areas, but one that would address issues that could come up such as a location for a full sized basketball court, etc.

Chairman Harrington expressed her gratitude to Mr. Christensen and all of the volunteers that serve on the Committee.

Public Hearing - None

Legislative Updates from State Representatives

Mr. Christensen remarked there has been a great deal of publicity around the House passed budget. The budget the House passed is in the first of three steps. It has to go to the Senate and return to the House in a Committee of Conference. A good deal of news has been reported regarding cuts to programs. There have been adjustments as is the case every year in every budget, but the budget spends about $200-$300 million more next year than what is being spent currently. Mr. Christensen stated his belief, in this case, it is a good thing because they are not doing new taxes and they are meeting the basic needs of all. When you hear there is a 50% cut in this, etc. that frequently is from the Governor's budget, which was an increase. If you increase 10% and then only increase 3% it seems to be a 7% cut when it is not.

Town Manager's Report

This year's first Household Hazardous Waste collection will be held on Saturday, April 18th at the Nashua Public Works garage at 9 Stadium Drive from 8:00 a.m. - Noon. There is a fee of $10, which covers 10 gallons or 20 pounds of material. For a list of acceptable materials please check out the Solid Waste Division site on the Town web.

The Sunset Shores Sewerage project has been awarded to Lexington Excavation. Construction should commence in the next couple of weeks with completion of the project expected in September of this year.

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North American Infrared is scheduled to begin work next week to repair several badly damaged sections of pavement prior to the Town paving on areas of Bedford Road, Meetinghouse Road and Wire Road. This will correct base pavement issues and large potholes.

Earth day is coming up (April 22nd). Citizens interested in getting involved with roadside or park cleanups can contact the Highway Division at 603-423-8551.

Street sweeping is scheduled to begin the week of April 20th. Updates and schedule will be posted on the Town website and Public Works Facebook page.

Construction of the Manchester Street Bridge is ongoing, and is expected to be completed by the end of July 2015.

Atherton Road selective tree cutting will begin next week.

The cabin at Wasserman Park (in the area of the old dining hall) is scheduled to be raised sometime next week.

Four electronic message boards have been placed at various locations throughout Town advertising the April 14th election; Reeds Ferry Fire Station, Watson Park, Continental Boulevard by the mall, and 80 Turkey Hill Road. Also being utilized are three message boards located at the Police Station, Merrimack Village District, and the Library, and two sandwich boards located at Wasserman Park and the South Fire Station.

The Voter's Guide for the Town went out last week. The School sent out their Voter's Guide on Tuesday.

Councilor Rothhaus questioned if abutters would be notified of the selective tree cutting on Atherton Road, and was informed that has already taken place. Notice was sent out in the middle of March.

Consent Agenda - None

Old Business

1. **O'Gara Drive Tennis Courts**
   Submitted by Town Council Chairman Nancy Harrington and Vice Chair Tom Mahon
   Town Council to follow up on the discussion concerning the O'Gara Drive tennis courts.

Chairman Harrington stated the Town has been informed of the ability to apply for the conversion for alternative recreational site and types.

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Mahon that the Town Council immediately apply to the State for the conversion for alternative recreational site and types.
MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

The request was made for the Town Manager to begin the process with a formal letter.

New Business

There being no objection, the Council went out of the regular order of business to take up Item #3.

3. **Join the New Hampshire Clique Grant for the Merrimack Police Department**
   Submitted by Lieutenant Paul Trepaney
   Seeking Town Council approval to accept a NH Highway Safety grant in the amount of $2,254.82, for the Merrimack Police Department to participate in the Join the New Hampshire Clique Seatbelt Enforcement blitz being conducted statewide May 18-31, 2015, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15.

Lieutenant Paul Trepaney requested approval by the Council to accept a New Hampshire Highway Safety Grant in the amount of $2,254.82, which would allow Merrimack to participate in the state-wide safety blitz for their Clique it or Ticket campaign in the May 18th - 31st time period, and to authorize the Town Manager to sign the contract as the authorizing official.

Councilor Rothhaus remarked he sees this as an educational opportunity, and questioned if the grant requires a certain percent of documentation to be in tickets for non-compliance or if the opportunity would be mostly used for education. Lt. Trepaney responded there is no percentage of enforcement perse, but it is an enforcement action for seatbelt violations. The department is supposed to enforce those. The officers do have discretion in certain circumstances, and can issue warnings.

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Mahon to approve and accept a New Hampshire Highway Safety grant in the amount of Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Four Dollars and Eighty Two Cents ($2,254.82) for the Merrimack Police Department to participate in the Join the New Hampshire Clique Seatbelt Enforcement blitz being conducted statewide May 18-31, 2015, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15, and furthermore to authorize the Town Manager and/or her proxy to sign the contract as the authorizing official and any other documents that may be necessary to perfect the transaction. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

The Council returned to the regular order of business.

1. **Committee Appointments**
   Submitted by Town Council Chairman Nancy Harrington and Vice Chair Tom Mahon
   The Town Council to consider appointing the following recommended individuals to Town committees, pursuant to Charter Article 4-8:
   - Donald Miner - Agricultural Commission (Full)
   - Jeffery Sebring - Planning Board (Alternate)
   - Adonis Elfakih - Technology Committee (Full)

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Mahon to appoint the following individuals; Donald Miner as a Full member to the Agricultural Commission, Jeffery Sebring as an Alternate member to the Planning Board, and Adonis Elfakih as a Full member to the Technology Committee, pursuant to Charter Article 4-8. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

Councilor Boyd noted he, Chairman Harrington, and Councilor Mahon had the opportunity to interview Mr. Sebring for the Alternate position to the Planning Board. He believes they came away from that feeling very good about a gentlemen who has been in Town for a very long period of time, and who, after considerable participation with the Master Plan, has stepped up to serve on the Planning Board.

Councilor Boyd thanked the individuals for their willingness to support the community in this fashion.

DRAFT

Chairman Harrington commented on the recent increase in volunteers to Town boards/committees/commissions, and expressed her gratitude for residents volunteering to assist the Town in this manner.

Oath of Office administered by Chairman Harrington to Adonis Elfakih.

2. Concession Stand at Martel Field

Submitted by Suzanne Mailhiot

The Town Council to consider a request to restore and open the concession stand at Martel Field, which would also serve as a permanent memorial in honor of Sergeant Ed Pane.

Ms. Suzanne Mailhiot stated the desire for the opportunity to restore and rebuild the abandoned concession stand at Martel Field. The intent is to rename the concession stand as a permanent memorial to Sergeant Ed Pane who was a close friend, teammate, and dedicated officer of the Merrimack Police Department, and to create more of a family atmosphere at the field.

Ms. Mailhiot stated the Building Inspector has been to the site to review the building, and she has been in contact with the Health Officer. ServSafe, a food and beverage safety training and certificate program administered by the National Restaurant Association will be conducting several classes in the near future, which she intends to participate in.
Ms. Mailhiot stated the intent to restore the bathrooms and install a staircase to the second level that would meet code requirements. It was noted there is a requirement for two exits. Currently there is one exit, and access is a pull down attic access. The Fire Department will not allow for use of the upper level under the current conditions. The intent would be to construct a staircase on the back access of the building and install a door to allow for a second access.

Ms. Mailhiot stated the hope would be for the facility/building to be open on Mondays and Wednesdays to accommodate the Men's League and Friday nights to accommodate the Southern New Hampshire Co-ed Softball League. In addition, they wish to operate the facility seasonally during games and tournaments from May through October.

Assistant Town Manager Micali stated Ms. Mailhiot first approached him with the idea in late October. She has met with the Building Inspector and Health Officer to ensure the building would be up to code. In the past, the Senior Center ran the concession stand. They discontinued its use about 5 years ago. The hope is to bring that amenity back to the field. The Town will not be responsible for the cleaning of the restroom facility. The softball league will have that responsibility.

In the past, the field was a family destination where softball games were conducted, the scoreboard was utilized, and Merrimack was one of the premier leagues in the State. The desire is to return the field to its former condition/use.

Councilor Boyd commented on the importance of having the bathroom facilities in working order as tournaments require it. He questioned if consideration was given to portable toilets from a cost perspective. Ms. Mailhiot stated that was a consideration; however, the individuals involved in the discussion of restoring the facility, particularly females, desired restoring the permanent structure.

Councilor Rothhaus stated his support of the project. He commented he can remember the time when tournaments were conducted at the field and the number of people such events brought to Town.

Councilor Boyd stated his support of the project. He requested additional information on the proposal for the Memory Wall. Ms. Mailhiot stated the desire to create a location where families and friends could attach a name plate to honor and remember loved ones at a location where they spent a good deal of time making memories with friends and teammates.

Councilor Boyd spoke of the need to work closely with Director Casparius throughout the process.

MOTION made by Councilor Dwyer and seconded by Councilor Boyd to approve the request to restore and open the concession stand at Martel Field, which would also serve as a permanent memorial in honor of Sergeant Ed Pane, that the Committee work with the Building Department to ensure all aspects of the project meet code requirements, and to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate a contract. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

Minutes

Approve the minutes from the following Town Council meetings:

March 11, 2015

The following amendment was offered:

Councilor Rothhaus should be identified as having been in attendance.

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Mahon to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2015 Special Session as amended. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

March 12, 2015

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Woods to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2015 Town Council Meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

Comments from the Press - None

Comments from the Public - None

Comments from the Council

Councilor Boyd spoke of a recent article in the Merrimack Patch regarding the Dog Park at Wasserman Park. He stated a desire to publicly recognize the committee for the hard work they have been quietly doing. The article reported they have raised $21,000 of their $60,000 goal, and were able to solicit Golden Bone sponsorship from All Paws & Pets Crematory, which made a $5,000 donation and Mark Morris, D.D.S. who recently opened Merrimack Smiles, a family dentistry. He made a contribution of $2,500.

He commented it is very gratifying to see the Committee begin to knock on doors, and raise the funds necessary to make the dog park a reality. He thanked the donors and the volunteers who have been passionate and tenacious in their pursuit of providing a quality facility for the canine in the community.

DRAFT

Councilor Boyd offered his best to Councilors Mahon, Koenig, Harrington, and Woods during the upcoming elections.

Councilor Woods encouraged residents of Merrimack to get out to vote on Tuesday, April 14th, and stated he would appreciate the support of the voters for himself and his colleagues who are running for re-election.

Chairman Harrington requested residents get out to vote on Voting Day, and commented the Council has done its best to make residents aware of when and where voting will take place.

Adjourn

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Mahon to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

The April 9, 2015 meeting of the Town Council was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan

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