

**TOWN OF HOPKINTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Public Hearing Date: June 14, 2007  
High School Athletic Center  
MINUTES**

**Board of Selectmen members present:** Muriel E. Kramer, Chairwoman; Mary Pratt, Vice-Chairwoman; Michael Shepard; Brian Herr; Matt Zetek

**Town Manager's Office:** Fire Chief Gary Daugherty, Acting Town Manager; Geri Holland, Executive Assistant

**HCAM:** Jim Cozzens, Technician

**News Media:** Richard Conn, MetroWest News; Robert Falcione, HopNews

**Counselors:** Attorney Richard DeAngelis, Town Counsel; and Attorney John Dennis

**Boulder Capital LLC:** Roy MacDowell, Jr. and Steven Zieff

**Weston Nurseries of Hopkinton:** Wayne Mezitt and Peter Mezitt

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**Public Meeting Opened/Pledge of Allegiance (Room 215)**

**7:00 p.m.** Mrs. Kramer, Chairwoman, opened the public meeting and invited everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Selectman Zetek stepped off the Board at this time.

Mrs. Kramer stated that tonight's public meeting is part of the Ch. 61A Hearing process to hear comments from residents regarding the Weston Nurseries property located in Hopkinton, MA. Mrs. Kramer read the public hearing notice. (A copy of the Hearing Notice is attached to these minutes.) Mrs. Kramer said that this public hearing would reconvene on June 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Auditorium when the Board of Selectmen would vote as to whether or not to exercise the town's right of first refusal in accordance to M. G. L. C. 61A. Mrs. Kramer said that the Board of Selectmen would listen to what residents have to say this evening; and asked residents to first identify themselves and give a 2-3 minute statement. She also said that Selectmen Zetek stepped off the Board, as he is an abutter to the property. Mrs. Kramer further explained the process as mandated by State law regarding how the Town has to legally vote as to whether or not to purchase the Weston Nurseries property. She said that residents would still need to vote on June 18 and then the Board of Selectmen would make the final vote at the June 19 meeting. Mr. Shepard reiterated how this hearing is mandatory and the purpose of this hearing is to allow citizens to give their comments as to whether the Board should vote to purchase or not purchase the property. Attorney DeAngelis further explained the process and timeframe and the complexity of this particular Ch. 61A property due to Weston Nurseries filing for bankruptcy. He said that the process including the recent Town Meeting vote, this public hearing, the Special Town Meeting ballot vote on June 18<sup>th</sup>, and the final public hearing on June 19<sup>th</sup> as all being mandatory.

The following residents offered their names and addresses and gave a public statement as to whether or not the Board of Selectmen should purchase the property. A copy of the public hearing tape is available at the Town Manager's Office and will be kept on file with these minutes.

Sandra Altamura: 33 Elm Street; Ronald Eldridge: 10 Alexander Road; Tegan Henderson: 82 Franklin Road; Lillian Holden: 10 Pleasant Street; Douglas Resnick: 63 South Mill Street; Mathew Zetek: 16 Wilson Street; Christopher Barry Jr.: 17 Clinton Street; Susan Amendola: 82 Frankland Road; Patricia Rydberg: 6 Clinton Street; William McCarthy: 5 Linden Street; Jennifer Lund: 15 College Street; Brian Morrison: 22 Piazza Lane; Brendan Tedstone: 45A Pleasant Street; Paul Wright: 28 Hayden Road Street; Claire Wright: 28 Hayden Rowe; Brian Shulman: 11 Valentine Road; Clark Waterfall: 7 Clinton Street; Louisa DeCollibus: 72Front Street; John Mosher: 13 West Elm Street; Jean Bertschmann: 4 Cider Mill Road; Harold Schmidt: 49 Franklin Road; Peter Sullivan: 319 Wood Street; Dennis Katz: 22 Kruger Road; Francis Moschini: 13 Clinton Street; Kathy Whalen: 7 Cross Street; Nadine Stewart: 26 Alprilla Farm

Road; Raymond Lynds: 70 Teresa Road; Joe Markey: 39 Ash Street; Ron Roux: 122 Pond Street; Vascen Bogigian: 204 Winter Street; Don Bartlett: 7 Lorigan Road; Robert Kirshy: 16 Pheasant Hill Road; Christopher Small: 5 Reservoir Road; RJ Dourney: 18 Hearthstone Road; Mavis O'Leary: 11 Curtis Road; Nicole Siglin: 5 Valentine Road; Steven Tucker: 90 Haywood Street; Michael Kennedy: 111 Winter Street; Peter Herbert: 6 B Street; Karen Phillips: 55 Hayward Street; Julia Linnell: 5 Reservoir Road; John Mosher: 13 West Elm Street; William Griffin: 19 Greystone Lane.

Attached to the minutes are various written documents from residents that voiced their comments about this issue.

Peter Mezitt, Weston Nurseries, on behalf of the Mezitt family including Wayne Mezitt, Beth Mezitt, Karen Mezitt and himself, read a letter that states their wish to fully inform the Town about the implication of the Town's vote on Monday, June 18; and how they are asking the Town to vote "no" on ballot Question 1 at this Monday night's Special Town election. The letter is attached to the minutes and is part of the record.

Mr. MacDowell, Boulder Capital, stated that he understands the community's concerns. He said that if the Town can afford it, they should buy it; but if not, Boulder Capital will willingly work with the town to see the project through and do what is best for the town. He recognized the fact that this is a huge legacy to the Town and will address all environmental issues.

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**Meeting Adjourned:**

**10:30 p.m. Vote:** Mrs. Kramer entertained a motion to continue the public hearing on June 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School Auditorium at which time the Board of Selectmen would vote as to whether or not to exercise their first right of refusal. **So moved Mr. Herr. Second Mrs. Pratt. Unanimously voted.**

Respectfully submitted,

Geri Holland  
Executive Assistant

Date approved: 8/28/07

Attachments