

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 12, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.
LINCOLN CENTER HEARING ROOM**

ONE MEETING AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor Spadaccini, Deputy Mayor Peak, Secretary Pelletier, Directors Tweedie, Beckman, Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, and Farina

ALSO: General Manager Shanley and Town Attorney Naab

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mayor Spadaccini.

2. AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS.

There were no awards or presentations at this time.

3. OPENING OF MEETING TO ELECTORS OR TAXPAYERS WHO WISH TO BE HEARD ON ANY SUBJECT WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Bonnie Schuetz, 12 Conway Road, asked whether a decision had been made about the Police Chief. Mr. Shanley stated that first interviews have not taken place yet. Ms. Schuetz expressed concern about the condition of the inside of the buildings at the Parkade and potholes in need of repair on Crosby and Sanford Roads.

Milt Perlman, 3 Sanford Road, suggested using Cheney Tech and Manchester High students who are studying carpentry for rehabilitation work in Town buildings. He does not agree with the policy of hiring Manchester residents in exchange for tax breaks and thinks it may be illegal. Mr. Perlman said the Town should not get involved in the demolition of the Willie's building. He noted that East Hartford and Manchester received \$2 Million in Federal stimulus funds to build a trail and suggested the money be used to repair roadways instead. Mr. Perlman said he can't believe that the Town would allow the 300 students from Nathan Hale to be bused to other schools. The Board of Directors has an obligation to make sure the Board of Education spends money on the children in Town. Mr. Perlman noted an article in the newspaper saying that the State budget is in disrepair and asked if the funding going to municipalities is in question.

General Manager Shanley explained to Mr. Perlman that the money allocated for the repaving of the bikeway was not a project prioritized by Manchester or East Hartford and must be spent on that project. On the positive side, it is funding that will not have to come from the Town's budget in five years.

Tom Crockett, 149 Sunny Brook Drive, complimented the Board of Directors, saying it did a good job on the budget. Mr. Crockett said he is against the renaming of Robertson Field to commemorate Randy Smith. He liked Randy Smith and thought he was a great sports writer but does not think he fits the criteria put forth in the policy. There are many other people who volunteer in this Town; Mr. Smith was a paid sports writer.

Director Zingler said he saw that two people on the Park and Recreation Commission voted against renaming the field and asked if the other vote was for similar reasons.

Mr. Crockett responded that the other “nay” voter also thinks the park should be named for volunteers, not paid people.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, spoke about a Civil War monument in New Haven that honors men of color. He said he attended a conference about closing the achievement gap and said he hopes the K-12 Equity Supervisor position will be maintained within the Board of Education’s budget. Mr. Stringfellow addressed some public comments made during a recent Board meeting.

Bill Ogden, 137 Branford Street, said that the problem with the Reminder being thrown all over the streets hasn’t changed. He asked why the Maintenance Departments of the Board of Education and the Town are not combined. He has heard two different answers and he would like the correct answer. Mr. Ogden expressed concern over the fact that nobody is sure how many people the fire house will hold; he wonders how much money we will be spending for how many people. He spoke about the diesel stacks on school buses. Mr. Ogden spoke about the potholes in Town and said he hasn’t seen any trucks out making repairs yet.

Jim Kurlowicz, 27 Columbus Street, spoke about the Town’s three free days at Manchester Country Club. One was held Sunday and people were only notified the Tuesday or Wednesday before; more notice is needed. He requested a report on how the day went, including the number of attendees. Mr. Kurlowicz noted that last month the Board approved a settlement in the Ventura case and asked if the settlement amount included the cost of outside counsel and Town Attorney fees. He spoke about the particulars of the case, said he thinks that the case could have been avoided, and that there is more to the case than people know.

Mayor Spadaccini explained that the money for paving the bikeway is coming from the Federal Government. When prioritizing, the Parkade area was the top project. A project further down the list was chosen and the Town accepted the money to avoid future costs. He mentioned the Buckland area project being funded by Federal funds. Mr. Spadaccini said that the construction season is just starting and several roads and sidewalks are scheduled for this season. He addressed comments made regarding the Town’s days at Manchester Country Club and said he was disappointed in the timing of the advertising. Despite the late notice, 102 Manchester residents golfed that day, most of whom are non-members. There is ample notice for the other two Town days.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

- A. **ADOPTED** - Actions, April 7, 2009 – Regular Meeting
- B. **ADOPTED** - Minutes, April 7, 2009 – Regular Meeting
- C. **ADOPTED** - Actions, April 14, 2009 – Regular Meeting
- D. **ADOPTED** - Minutes, April 14, 2009 – Regular Meeting
- E. **ADOPTED** - Actions, April 21, 2009 – Regular Meeting
- F. **ADOPTED** - Minutes, April 21, 2009 – Regular Meeting
- G. **ADOPTED** - Minutes, April 28, 2009 – Policy Briefing Meeting

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

5. COMMUNICATIONS.

Director Zingler received an e-mail from a resident of Charter Oak Street who has been in contact with the Town Attorney's office regarding the delivery of the Reminder. He suggested the use of roadside tubes or return to delivery to the front door.

Director Kissmann received an e-mail from a resident of Saddle Hill Road regarding a street light that hasn't been working for many months. Mr. Kissmann reviewed the timeline of requests for repair, including calls and e-mails with no response. Mr. Kissmann also received an e-mail from a resident of Vernon Street who thanked the Town for responding to his complaint regarding speeders on Vernon Street. The resident has previously contacted the Police Department with no response. When he contacted Mr. Kissmann, who in turn contacted Mr. Shanley, the problem was immediately addressed.

Mark Carlino, Director of Public Works, explained that a street light out for a lengthy amount of time usually results from a problem with the power supply and the Town must wait for CL&P to make the repair.

Director Kissmann said that in the two cases he mentioned, follow up procedure was not correct. Customer service procedures should be followed; the department should at least contact the person making the complaint.

Deputy Mayor Peak received a letter and packet of information from a resident of Brian Drive regarding the work planned for the Buckland area. He is concerned by the proposal of the DOT to extend the off-ramp for I-84 closer to his neighborhood. Mr. Peak asked what the Board can do if it chooses to be involved.

Director Farina received an e-mail from a citizen asking that the Town write to the Reminder to say it would treat current delivery practices as littering and that the Town will begin fining them for each instance. Mr. Farina would like to see Town staff address delivery issues. He also received communications from two residents of High Ledge Circle regarding ongoing construction issues in their neighborhood. They feel the building site is being used as a rock quarry. Mr. Farina would like Town staff to look into regulations on how long a developer has to get rid of stone that is already ground up.

Secretary Pelletier said she shares Director Farina's concerns about the situation on High Ledge Circle. She said that this is a Planning and Zoning Commission matter; questions were asked and answered at a recent meeting regarding exactly this issue.

Director Kissmann agreed with Secretary Pelletier that the High Ledge issue is a Planning and Zoning issue. He suggested researching the records back to the original developer as he remembers a permit granted to do stone crushing that had restrictions included.

Director Tweedie has also spoken with a couple residents in the High Ledge area and has asked the General Manager to make the information concerning this development available to the Board of Directors.

Director Farina mentioned the upcoming Public Hearing on May 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

General Manager Shanley added that any person with concerns about the extension can go to the meeting and comment directly to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The frustration felt by the residents and Board members is shared by Town staff. He explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission can decide not to grant an extension, but that leaves us with an incomplete development. Someone can then buy the development and finish it; however, that means work begins again.

Mayor Spadaccini said he is aware of the issues with this development and has been in contact with some of the residents in the area. Everyone agrees that this project has gone on too long but the question is what to do with it as it exists. We can refuse to grant the extension request and leave the project unfinished or allow the developer to finish. Either decision has negatives associated with it. Now there seems to be a radon issue.

General Manager Shanley said that radon was an issue in 2005, but it is an issue among the developer, the blaster, and the homeowner.

Mayor Spadaccini received a notification that the Counsel for Environmental Quality is holding a public hearing on May 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. and invites interested parties to comment on environmental issues that may affect our community. He received a memorandum from Mr. Desmarais regarding the real property tax exemption. If the Board chooses to allow property owners that lease to non-profits a tax exemption there will be significant financial ramifications. Mr. Spadaccini spoke with the resident from Brian Road and agrees with his concerns. He would like to see efforts made to avoid encroaching on the Brian Road neighborhood. Mr. Spadaccini received a notification of an open house at Time Out for Parents' new facility.

6. **REPORTS.**

A. Manager's Report.

1. Update: Economic Development Working Groups.

Mark Pellegrini, Director of Neighborhood Services and Economic Development, reported on the Economic Development Working Groups. There are currently three teams: Branding and Marketing, Small Business, and Workforce Development. The Branding and Marketing team has made good progress and is looking at some broad themes. The Small Business team is in the fact finding, origination stage. Workforce Development has had some scheduling difficulties

and is working on recruiting. All groups will be reporting on their progress at the next Economic Summit, which is tentatively scheduled for June 23 at Manchester Community College.

Mayor Spadaccini said it sounds like the teams are off to a good start. He has heard positive comments from several people who have participated in the groups. He said keeping economic development moving is key in these hard times.

Secretary Pelletier said she serves on the Marketing and Branding team and is amazed at the level of expertise the group possesses.

Deputy Mayor Peak said he expects each group, at the end of the process, to bring one sufficiently vetted idea forth. If a couple of good ideas come from this, we can get the community to work together.

Mr. Pellegrini said the committees are open to new members and asked that interested parties contact him at 647-3044 to volunteer.

Mr. Pellegrini addressed previous comments made regarding the Buckland area study and explained that there are currently a number of recommendations. At this point in time, they are only lines on paper being used to plan priorities. If the Board of Directors has concerns about some of the recommendations, now would be the appropriate time to communicate them.

General Manager Shanley said he will draft a letter for the Board's review. He reported that the Town extended the electrical contract with TransCanada until 2012 and was able to acquire an attractive rate.

Director Zingler distributed promotional materials for Pride in Manchester week, reviewed many of the activities that will take place, and thanked the community volunteers and sponsors for their support.

7. PRESENTATION OF BID WAIVER REQUESTS.

There were no bid waivers presented at this time.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

A. Appropriation to Special Projects as follows:

1. Human Services – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) \$1,050
for the purchase of computer equipment to support the VITA site to be financed by a grant from the Walmart Foundation and Bank of America through the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut.
2. Health Department – Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program \$5,320
to be financed by a grant from the Connecticut Department of Public Health.
3. Emergency Management - Equipment, Training and Exercise Grant \$15,000
for purchase of furnishings for the Emergency Operations Center
to be financed by a grant from U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Mayor Spadaccini opened the floor for public comment at this time. There being no public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

Director Zingler commended Mary Roche Cronin, her staff, the volunteers and the coalition. This year, 127 people used VITA for tax preparation, \$33,914 of EITC funds were returned and total tax refunds were \$121,858. Mr. Zingler suggested recognizing the volunteers for their 246 hours of community service to the Town. He would also like a representative from the IRS at a future meeting to inform the Board of any other tax incentives coming through the Recovery Act.

Secretary Pelletier also acknowledged Mary Roche Cronin and her staff.

Mayor Spadaccini said that the volunteers that run the VITA site are fantastic; they work hard and know their stuff.

- B. Appropriations to Education Special Projects as follows:
 - 1. Bilingual Education Program (FY 2008/09) \$7,965
to be financed a grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Mayor Spadaccini opened the floor for public comment at this time. There being no public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

- C. Appropriation to Capital Reserve –
 - Cheney Theater Courtyard/Walkway Replacement \$30,000
for replacement of the public walkway and courtyard at Cheney Theater
to be financed by a grant from the Timken Foundation.

General Manager Shanley explained that this is a project the Board of Directors wanted to fund but it was taken out of the budget. Timken awarded a grant to finance the replacement, which has become a safety issue due to unlevel stones.

Mayor Spadaccini opened the floor for public comment at this time. There being no public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

Director O’Neill asked what will be done with the stone that is there now, whether it will be recycled or used elsewhere.

Mr. Carlino explained that the patio is 1 ½” brick set on concrete. The brick allows water to get beneath it, but the concrete does not so the water settles between the two. The brick will not be reused, but it will be recycled.

Secretary Pelletier asked if Cheney Hall has made a decision on what to replace the patio with.

Mr. Carlino said the consensus seems to be stamped concrete, which will have a brick look.

Deputy Mayor Peak thanked Timken, who has emerged as a community partner. He wondered whether the unlevel patio could have been caused by delivery vehicles.

Mr. Carlino thinks the problem was mostly caused by water. He is aware that delivery trucks use that patio and the new design will address this issue.

Director Zingler asked about the timeline for the project. Mr. Carlino responded that it should be completed sometime this summer.

Mayor Spadaccini thanked Timken, who is a great partner in promoting economic development in Town. He appreciates the grant and looks forward to the improvements at Cheney Hall.

- D. Appropriation to Public Works Capital Projects (2005 Bond)..... \$25,000 for the Design, Construction, Inspection and Maintenance of safety improvements to Slater Street at Best Buy and Circuit City Driveways to be financed by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation utilizing Federal Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Mayor Spadaccini opened the floor for public comment at this time. There being no public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

- E. Approval of program proposals submitted by community agencies and Town departments desiring to participate in the 2009 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act.

Mayor Spadaccini opened the floor for public comment at this time. There being no public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

- F. Approval of an amendment to the Town of Manchester's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 129, Section 129-4, to provide for increases in building permit fees. (A copy of the proposed amendment may be seen in the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours.)

Daniel Loos, Chief Building Official, described the changes in permit fees, including an increase in the initial fee from \$0 to \$100, an increase per \$1,000 value from \$14 to \$15 and an added fee for starting work without a permit.

Mayor Spadaccini opened the floor for public comment at this time. There being no public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

Secretary Pelletier, Directors Kissmann, Farina, Tweedie, and Zingler, Mr. Loos, and Mr. Carlino discussed the merits of a fee for starting work without a permit of twice the permit fee with a maximum of \$99 or twice the permit fee without a maximum.

Director O'Neill asked when the change becomes effective.

Town Attorney Naab explained that it is effective ten days after publication. He said that if the ordinance is amended, an additional public hearing would need to be held since the change is substantive in nature.

ADOPTED – MOTION TO AMEND FEE FOR STARTING WORK WITHOUT A PERMIT TO TWO TIMES THE NORMAL FEE WITH NO MAXIMUM.

Director O’Neill moved and Secretary Pelletier seconded the motion.

**Six Voted in Favor
Pelletier, Tweedie, Zingler, O’Neill, Kissmann, Farina
Three Voted in Opposition
Spadaccini, Peak, Beckman**

TABLED – MOTION TO TABLE ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER’S CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 129, SECTION 129-4.

Director O’Neill moved and Secretary Pelletier seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

9. CONSENT CALENDAR (with the addition of item 8.E).

8A. Appropriation to Special Projects as follows:

1. Human Services – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) \$1,050
for the purchase of computer equipment to support the VITA site to be financed by a grant from the Walmart Foundation and Bank of America through the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut.
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- for the Design, Construction, Inspection and Maintenance of safety improvements to Slater Street at Best Buy and Circuit City Driveways to be financed by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation utilizing Federal Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

8E. Approval of program proposals submitted by community agencies and Town departments desiring to participate in the 2009 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act.

12A. Appropriation to Special Projects (under \$500) as follows:

1. Police Donations Revenue Account – D.A.R.E. \$8
from monies remaining from ice cream social and graduation party.

Director Farina moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

RECESS.

The Board of Directors took a brief recess at 9:45 p.m. and returned at 9:58 p.m.

Director Beckman moved and Director Zingler seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

A. Creation of a policy board regarding Channel 16.

Director Zingler noted a memorandum from Attorney Tim O’Neil that included recommendations from Peter Talbot of Cox Communications regarding establishing a policy board to oversee the use of Channel 16. The original resolution called for establishing a board comprised of two professionals and four Town residents, two of whom would be members of the Board of Directors. Remaining appointments would be made by the General Manager for two-year terms.

Deputy Mayor Peak said he thought it was reasonable to want to create a policy regarding Channel 16. He understands that two things should be included in the policy: programming should be exclusively produced by the Town of Manchester and should be non-commercial. He suggested Town staff give the Board a draft policy that seems reasonable and appropriate for Manchester.

ADOPTED - MOTION TO AUTHORIZE TOWN STAFF, IN CONSULTATION WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND PROFESSIONALS AS DEEMED NECESSARY, TO DRAFT A POLICY BASED ON PRINCIPLES PRESENT IN OTHER MUNICIPAL POLICIES.

Deputy Mayor Peak moved and Director Tweedie seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

B. **ADOPTED** - Appropriation to General Fund –
Manchester Regional Academy (MRA) \$125,000
to be financed by additional out of town student tuition payments. (Tabled 4/21/09)

Deputy Mayor Peak moved and Director Zingler seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

C. Resolution regarding language in tax abatement agreements.

ADOPTED – MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

“Resolved by the Board of Directors of the Town of Manchester that any agreement approved by the Board of Directors pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes

Sections 12-65b and 12-65h will contain a provision that requires any party receiving a tax assessment benefit from the agreement to commit to filing all open employment postings with the Town of Manchester's Director of Administrative Services, whereby the Human Resources Department will utilize all standard practices of employment notification to assist and encourage Manchester residents to seek local employment opportunities."

Director Tweedie moved and Director Farina seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

ADOPTED – MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION REGARDING LANGUAGE IN TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENTS AS AMENDED.

Director Farina moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

D. **APPOINTED** - Appointment of a member (R) to the Redevelopment Agency, with a term expiring November 2010, to fill the vacancy left by Dan Moran – Gerald Cope, . 283 Timrod Road.

Director Tweedie moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

12. NEW BUSINESS.

B. **APPOINTED** - Appointment of a member (D) to the Library Advisory Board, with a term expiring November 2011, to fill the vacancy left by Pat Ladd (deceased) – Alan . Krupp, 294 Grissom Road.

Director Zingler acknowledged Mrs. Ladd's community service. He has spoken with several individuals in the community and they have all said Mrs. Ladd was always there for Manchester.

Mayor Spadaccini said that Mrs. Ladd was a very nice, kind-hearted person who will be missed.

Deputy Mayor Peak served with Mrs. Ladd on the Library Board and she will be missed.

Director Zingler moved and Deputy Mayor Peak seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

C. **AUTHORIZED** - Authorization for the Chief Building Official to incur expenses for the repair or demolition of 444 Center Street (former Willie's restaurant).

General Manager Shanley explained that the next step is to get onto the property and do an assessment. Needed repairs and hazardous materials will be reviewed.

Deputy Mayor Peak said that when there is a vacant building with significant violations, this is the right step to take and he will support it.

General Manager Shanley cautioned that the property owner has significant legal rights. As the process moves forward, it is not likely to be quick. Mr. Shanley will keep the Board informed.

Director Farina said he supports this action with some reservation. He was concerned that the Town would be unable to place a lien on the property and he needed to be guaranteed that the money will be reimbursed to the enterprise fund. He has been given assurance that there is an ordinance in place that states the Town can put a lien on the property and will recoup the costs.

Secretary Pelletier said \$14,000 seems like a high figure for assessment and asked if that is for two buildings.

Mr. Loos explained that it includes both the front and back buildings and reminded the Board that asbestos and lead paint is involved. The vendor is from the State bid list so we are getting a good price.

Mr. Carlino further explained that the cost is for a full assessment of the building, estimating what it would cost to bring it back to a usable building as well as estimating demolition costs.

Director Tweedie moved and Director Beckman seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

D. Renaming Robertson Field to Randy Smith Field.

Mayor Spadaccini reminded the Board that this proposal was brought forward a year ago, just after Mr. Smith passed. There is no formal policy but the Board has been following a draft policy that suggests no changes be made for one year. Randy Smith worked for the Journal Inquirer for 37 years and was named Connecticut's Sportswriter of the Year seven times. He wrote about professional and local sports. Mr. Spadaccini has received an endorsement from the Editor of the Journal Inquirer as well as a Sportswriter for the Journal Inquirer. He understands the opinions of people in opposition to this change; the problem is there are always deserving people who have made contributions but haven't had a similar honor. Mr. Smith made a profound and sustained contribution to the community.

Director Zingler acknowledges Mr. Smith's contributions but noted that the Journal Inquirer Track Meet at the High School is now called the Randy Smith Journal Inquirer Track Meet. He is also concerned about the split vote on the Park and Recreation Commission. Items of this nature should be voted on unanimously.

DEFEATED - MOTION TO TABLE.

Director Farina moved and Director Zingler seconded the motion.

Four Voted in Favor

Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, Farina

Five Voted in Opposition

Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman

Secretary Pelletier said she respects the individuals who serve on the Park and Recreation Commission, but the policy clearly states that the Board of Directors makes the final decision. Mr. Smith was notable in Town, was a lifelong resident, a graduate of Manchester's public schools, and a recognized local, state, and national sportswriter.

Director O'Neill related a recent e-mail she received from someone who was told that a facility was named after one person, then later renamed after someone else. She suggested records be kept. Ms. O'Neill also suggested a short biography about the person each field is named after on the Town's website.

ADOPTED – MOTION TO RENAME ROBERTSON FIELD TO RANDY SMITH FIELD.

Mayor Spadaccini moved and Deputy Mayor Peak seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

ADOPTED – MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO GO BEYOND ELEVEN O'CLOCK.

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Farina seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

E. Discussion: Paralegal Internship at the Youth Service Bureau.

Director Beckman explained that the Youth Service Bureau currently has a program through Capital Workforce Partners that provides on the job training for Manchester's youth. After some research, Mr. Beckman has found that local law firms have expressed interest in participating in the program. The expectation is that the student would receive competitive on the job training for a field that is full of opportunities. The Department of Labor projects that this field will grow and estimates wages at approximately \$23.69 per hour on the average. Mr. Beckman said it is important to provide young adults the opportunity to achieve. Experience is required for many jobs and he hopes this program will provide the opportunity for many students to graduate with experience. Mr. Beckman thanked Mary Roche Cronin and the Youth Service Bureau.

Director Farina said this sounds like a good program and asked if the Board of Education was approached regarding this program.

Director Beckman said he did approach the Board of Education initially and staff seemed enthusiastic. At a curriculum meeting, however, Board of Education members were not so enthusiastic and the Superintendent's Office said that this program would not be pursued.

Director Farina asked who would fund the program and what the total cost to the Town would be.

General Manager Shanley explained that local law firms would host the students and the program would be funded through Capital Workforce Partners.

Mary Roche Cronin, Director of Human Services, explained that funding for Capital Workforce Partners has changed and now includes year long programming for participants through age 24.

Director Farina commended the groundwork and said it sounds like the details need to be worked out. He referred to an e-mail he sent to fellow Board members with information about a grant through NLC aimed at engaging disconnected youth. The grant deadline is the end of May and there is a conference call tomorrow. The grant would help with the technical assistance.

Deputy Mayor Peak agrees that the program Mr. Beckman proposed is a good fit but does not agree that details still need to be worked out. There is a turn-key program that this concept can just be plugged into.

Ms. Roche Cronin confirmed that this is an established program. There may be money available to make this a year round program rather than a summer program.

Secretary Pelletier thanked Ms. Roche Cronin and her staff. She said she is not opposed to the NLC endeavor, but would like to know exactly what the Town will be getting involved in.

Director O'Neill asked if this would be a paid internship and was answered in the affirmative. She mentioned the mock trial program that was run through Manchester Community College and asked if some type of enrichment would be part of the program.

Ms. Roche Cronin explained that enrichment is part of the overall Capital Workforce Partner's philosophy. There is plenty of room for creativity with the program.

Director Tweedie is proud of the work that Mr. Beckman has done. He watched the process and struggles and is glad to see this program progressing.

Mayor Spadaccini agreed that this program is a winner. Whether the program ends at the end of the summer or is year round, it is still an internship, which is valuable for a number of reasons.

F. Use of Town land for community gardens.

Director Farina said that he had asked Town staff to look into different spots that can be used as a community garden. There is an acre of the Starsiak farm that can be used. Mr. Farina suggested giving this project to the Conservation Commission to work out the details.

Director Zingler applauded the idea. We have all read in the newspapers and seen on T.V. that people are turning to gardening to cut back on costs. Communities across the country are initiating community gardens. He thinks this is a great idea worth exploring and encouraged the Conservation Commission to look at the Senior Center guidelines as an example.

Mayor Spadaccini said we are ahead of the curve on this issue, but thinks the Starsiak farm seems problematic. There are issues with access, water, and lack of fencing. He would like the Conservation Commission to investigate other locations that make sense as community gardens.

Deputy Mayor Peak agreed it is worthy to have the Conservation Commission spend time developing this concept. He envisions something like what exists at the Senior Center, but bigger and more central. It would be nice to have it near a bus line, near parking, and easy to get to.

Director O'Neill mentioned the "parklets" in the middle of neighborhoods and suggested those might be good locations for community gardens.

General Manager Shanley will refer this item to the Conservation Commission for further development.

Secretary Pelletier asked if there is a need for community gardens and if there are locations near where there is interest. She likes the idea of the parklets in neighborhoods but thinks the Town needs to identify potential participants.

Director Farina said that he had envisioned the parklets originally, but the Starsiak property was identified as the property that made the most sense and was available quickly.

13. COMMENT AND DISCUSSION BY BOARD MEMBERS ON ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA OR OF GENERAL CONCERN.

Director O'Neill said that if a bond will be voted on in November, we should be thinking about roadwork to be included in the bond by June or July.

14. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned until the June 2, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors at 7:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Center Hearing Room.

Director Beckman moved and Director Tweedie seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

Adjourned: 11:43 p.m.

gem

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Secretary, Manchester Board of Directors