

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SPECIAL MEETING – MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2006 – 5 PM

JUDGE WELSH HEARING ROOM

Chairman Cheryl Andrews convened this special meeting at 5 PM noting the following attendees: Board of Selectmen members: Cheryl Andrews, Michele Couture, Sarah Peake, Richard Olson, David Nicolau.

Other attendees: Acting Assistant Town Manager Michelle Jarusiewicz (Town Manager Keith Bergman on Vacation)

Task Force Members: Marcene Marcoux, Clarence Walker, Chief Meyer, Sandy Turner, Ray Duarte, Ann Marie Broderick, Hersh Schwartz, Michael Valente, Mary-Jo Avellar, Rick Murray, Steve Melamed, Kerry Adams.

Recorder: Vernon G. Porter

The following are meeting minutes, in brief.

1. PLAN AN EVENT WITH FIREWORKS – TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2006 RECOMMENDED

Sandy Turner – There are two options to be considered this evening. Ray Duarte was able to get a hold of the contractor we use (Ocean State) and they can get us a local crew but it would be an additional \$5K. Ocean State is available on the 4th with their crew with the 5th of July as an available rain date.

The United Kingdom crew is available .. the only problem is when they get here the DPW has to use staff to get them to Ocean State to work through the details and to be certified.

Chief Meyer - Outer Cape Health will provide Staff for the triage center in tent provided by DPW at the Bas Relief from 7 pm to Midnight. The Outer Cape Health Clinic will be open during the day from 9 am to 5 pm.

Parade time will stay at 11 am.

Chief Trovato will be meeting with Cape Fire Chiefs this Thursday regarding additional ambulances.

There will be NO Parking on Route 6 this year. Ray will put up additional No parking signs alerting people we will ticket and tow on Route 6. This is a safety factor as well. Redirect people out to Race Point and Herring Cove with free parking and free shuttle buses to and from town.

Alcohol on the beach – Sheriff's Dept will patrol the beach. Will also have bike officers. Police Dept. will be short staffed and long overtime hours will have to be used. Officers will also have crowd control training. Chief Meyer said that he believes that his Dept has the public safety covered. All officers from the Police Dept. will be on duty.

The Judge Welsh Room will be used as the Command Post. Twenty-five (25) State Police will augment Police Department officers. Will have someone who constantly will take photographs. Seven (7) Sheriff's Deputies will assist us. Invited a team of four Plymouth Mounted Patrol to join us from 6 pm to 2 am. Commercial Street will remain open.

Will use teams of officers. State Police will be in teams of 3 or 4 and one will always be a Provincetown officer. Sheriff's officers will also help with any necessary bookings and transport.

Plain-clothes officers will filter through the crowd this year to assist with observing potential problem areas.

The Mounted Patrol from Plymouth will be a team of four will assist with crowd control as well as being a tourist attraction. Their hours will be from 6 pm to 2 am.

Traffic flow – keep Ryder Street open this year. Turn left onto Bradford. From Standish vehicles will turn Right on Bradford.

Community Action Team (CAT)– go into hot spots and recognize problems .. on standby in case of emergency. Want to keep it low profile, smooth and flowing.

Open comments from Task Force were voiced – with special thanks to everyone for all their support and working together. Several business owners have indicated that they will make donations towards the total budget. Mary-Jo Avellar questioned using a photographer.

Rick Murray said he and Bill Dougal are donating \$1K and that Fanizzi's is donating \$6K and Joy McNulty and John Yingling will each donate \$1K .. and he encourages everyone to spread the word about the Fireworks fund for any and all donations. He also mentioned that it would be nice if the Chief or a representative from the Police Department could attend the upcoming PBG and Chamber meetings to disseminate all the right information.

David Nicolau – It's been great working with everybody the last week .. it's empowering actually to work side by side with everybody to get the job done and I hope we have. As far as ATV's go, one thing I do know is that high tide is at noon .. so you're going to have a little problem on the beaches.

I support using Ocean State crew for the \$5000. And I'm in hopes that we can continue to use the Task Force for future events.

Lynn Davies – Although the Visitor Services Board voted against supporting the Fireworks Article, I will bring to the board at the next meeting a request to contribute \$3,000 towards the fireworks out of our marketing funds.

Michele Couture – Would like to thank everyone on the Task Force. It has been a wonderful collaboration. Special thanks to Chief Trovato and to Chief Meyer. Although there may be some things that I don't agree with – I think they know their job and I will go along with their professionalism and I do agree with cameras. Thanks to Outer Cape, Dr. Lacy and Henry Tuttle, for their participation – because the issue was always safety for me and my comfort level has been taken care of by Outer Cape's participation. Planning means safety for the citizens and I feel comfortable that things have been taken care of. Also, thanks to the rank and file of the Police Department – they are going to have to pull double shifts and they are the familiar faces and the comfort level for people. I'm always very proud of our police department.

Sarah Peake - I'd like to thank everybody who came here on Monday night a week ago. We get the best things done in this community when our citizens are involved. My vote, initially, to cancel the fireworks was based 100% in concern for public safety after hearing from our public safety officials – and if those concerns had not been addressed, I would be voting that way again this evening for the good of the community – for the good of our guest and to support our Chiefs (both the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief). But I think to everybody's credit, including those two departments that those issues have been addressed – they certainly have been addressed to my satisfaction. I know there are no guarantees that are 100% but all we can do is take precautions that reasonable people would take.

MOTION. *Vote to have a joint meeting with the Visitor Services Board on Monday, March 27, 2006.*

Motion by: Sarah Peake Seconded by: David Nicolau Yea 5 Nay

A couple of comments Chief (Meyer) on your report. I share the concern about the ATV's on the beach and actually I hadn't thought about it in terms of the way Mr. Melamed put it, but I know one reason the Seashore uses ATV's out at Hearing Cove Beach, and I've heard the former Park Superintendent say this, it's a really a way to give warning to people that the officers are coming and in that case cover up and here I'm wondering if what the results will be is that someone will put a beer can under their beach blanket and it not be seen. And Mr. Nicolau raises a good point about what time high tide is. I would hope that some of these officers who are here to ride on the ATV's would also consider parking them and getting off and walking the beach as well – which I make that request. Chief Meyer – If I can respond to that? Sarah – Yes, sure. - Chief Meyer – I really don't intend on having my officers walk up and down that beach and I know a couple of us did it last year and we found alcohol down there – we were responding to a dog call and accidentally found the booze. But as you remember from that first meeting when we had all the citizens in here there were telling us that in fact the alcohol was on the beach – so, really we're trying to get the message out loud and clear that we're not going to

allow it. Now, high tide will be better than ATV's, quite frankly. The problem may take of itself. I've spoken to a number of our officers and quite frankly they can't slog up and down through that sand. Sarah – Too much equipment, too hot? Chief – Glen can tell you and he's younger than I am. Glen – You take a 20 lb gun belt and a bulletproof vest and a pair of heavy steel toe boots not to mention humidity. Chief Meyer - It's too much to expect. Sarah – That's helpful to understand that.

In the crowd control training – will there be training in the use of special weapons? Answer – We have them in the arsenal available and a certified officer who is available for that but only use in an emergency.

And I'm thrilled to hear that you're not going to allow parking along Route 6. Will be have extra buses on duty for people who want to get back out to the Race Point parking lot after the fireworks? Answer – There will be shuttles working. Sarah - The other reason I'm thrilled we're not going to allow to people to park along Route 6 is that I think there is ample parking in those two parking lots and part of the problem that we've had is that we've tried to accommodate more people through parking options than we can really accommodate on the beach and on Commercial Street. If those lots fill up what will we do about either turning people around or making suggestions of other places to park, etc. Answer – The Seashore will be patrolling and we'll take it up with them

We've come a long way in the last two weeks – so thank you each and every one of you.

Richard Olson - I'm actually somewhat disappointed because I had looked forward to coming here this evening and being grumpy and contrarian and you've removed any reasons that I've might have had to do so. This has turned into a circle back pat. I will join my colleagues and offer my kudo to town staff and the task force and also to thank the waterfront business owners for stepping up to the plate and setting an example of putting their money where we need it.

Cheryl Andrews - It's been a lot of work. The incidents of last year broke my heart. I felt that it was my job to say that I would not vote for fireworks. It's critical to send out messages that bad behavior is not allowed and things are not going to be tolerated.

Thank you to everyone. This is a team effort and hopefully with all the publicity people will handle themselves differently.

Sarah Peake - David Nicolau has mentioned an ongoing Fire Works Task Force. I think it will help to have this as a standing committee to have the fireworks become a public, private partnership.

Cheryl Andrews – I echo Sarah's comments. It will be my position to have a standing committee. I think you'll see it on the warrant .. and a public, private partnership.

MOTION: Move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve fireworks on Tuesday, July 4, 2006 and a rain date of July 5, 2006 and direct the Town Manager and staff to make all necessary arrangements to carry out this vote within the limits of town meeting appropriations and donations.

Motion by: David Nicolau Seconded by: Michele Couture

Yea 4 Nay 1 (Cheryl Andrews)

MOTION: Move that the Board of Selectmen vote to reaffirm its vote of March 27, 2005, pursuant to MGL C.44,§53A, to establish a separate gift fund account the proceeds of which shall be used without further appropriation to augment monies appropriated for the annual Fourth of July Fireworks display.

Motion by: Michele Couture Seconded by: Sarah Peake Yea 5 Nay 0

MOTION: Move that the Board of Selectmen vote to contract with Ocean State Pyrotechnics of Seabrook, New Hampshire and their staff for the July 4, 2006 fireworks.

Motion by: Sarah Peake Seconded by: David Nicolau Yea 5 Nay 0

Motion to adjourn by Michele Couture at 6:40 pm.

Minutes transcribed by: Vernon G. Porter

March 21, 2006