

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SPECIAL MEETING – JULY 15, 2002

OPEN FORUM

JUDGE WELSH HEARING ROOM

Chairman Mary-Jo Avellar opened the meeting 6:30 PM noting the following attendees:

Board of Selectmen members: Mary-Jo Avellar, Cheryl Andrews, Michele Couture, Sarah Peake, Richard Olson.

Other attendees: Town Manager Keith Bergman, Assistant Town Manager Mark Latour

Recorder: Secretary to the Board of Selectmen Vernon Porter

The following are meeting minutes, in brief.

1 PUBLIC FORM TO HEAR THE CONCERNS OF THE CITIZENS

Michele Couture asked that the meeting be extend to one hour. All members agreed.

Sarah Peake asked that the Selectmen be able to respond to any comments received from the citizens. Chairman Avellar agreed.

Andrew Barasda - problems with traffic at the intersection of Bradford Street and Howland Street near the Patrician. Cars & truck parking and you can't see coming around the corners of either Howland or Bradford Streets. A very dangerous intersection. [Chief Meyer will look into this matter.]

Brenda Hayward – “This is an emotional and painful statement for me to make. Two weeks ago I was racially attacked by six white males who refused to give me passage on a sidewalk who said they had paid to be here and that I should move and walk around them and they used the ‘N’ word. I am about ready to leave town. This is not the first time the use of the word Nigger has been used. This is supposed to be a diverse town – but it is not. We need to do something about this. We need to look strong and hard and reinstate the Hate Crimes Working Group. It has to be something that is in front of everybody that we will not tolerate this kind of action in this town. We did it with Rev. Phelps when he came here – the whole town came together. Thank you.”

Sarah Peake - I've talked with you on this matter. In the past there was an active 'Hate Crimes Working Group' that produced posters that were posted in guesthouse and public buildings throughout town that said, "Provincetown does not tolerate hate" and any kind of isms. That is an important statement for us to make and I think we need to bring new life into that Hate Crimes Working Group to make things happen. I think that the events of last week, around the 4th with the two hate incidents that occurred, says to me that we need to sharpen our focus on this issue, once again. I am committed to working with you Brenda. It is a very important issue for all of us on the Board and a very touchy subject for all of us.

Cheryl Andrews - Brenda, we all love you and it is absolutely heartbreaking and horrible and I hope you do not leave town. I am glad to hear you say publically that this is not a diverse town. I think the town is becoming less and less diverse. I am not convinced that government can do much about it, unfortunately. But for you to go through the pain and remind us of what is out there, from your perspective, is very good for all of us and I am glad you did it. I am open to anything we can do to help out - to at least help you personally, and to what we can do here in town.

Michele Couture - I've talked with Brenda before the meeting.

Mary-Jo Avellar - I believe that our colleagues have spoken for all of us in saying that we do not want you to leave.

Also would like as a future agenda item: Bring back Hate Crimes Working Group that would involve members of the business community (PBG, Chamber of Commerce and people who bring special events to Provincetown) - to remind them that we are not going to tolerate this kind of behavior against anyone.

Rachel White - Walking force -patrolling the beach because of the people that were using the Boatslip area - those people are now coming towards the West end. Don't know the answer but just wanted to mention it.

Klaus Betten - Regarding traffic at the Duarte parking area. It keeps coming up year after year and nothing is being done to alleviate the backups that occur on a daily basis. Traffic backs up on Bradford Street and on Conwell Street - it is a nightmare. I recommended that traffic enter the lot from Standish St. Extension several years ago and nothing has been done. Isn't there something that can be done to elevate this problem?

Mary-Jo Avellar - can we get a report back at our next regular meeting as an agenda item.

Dick Caouette - re: 8 Lovett's Court - 6th parking space permitted without abutters being notified of meeting change.. Encroachment issue involving the Planning Board. He was told to put a fence up and it was taken down

MOTION: *Move that the Board of Selectmen vote to have staff report by no later than July 22, 2002 on the particulars of the case of 8 Lovett's Court.*

Motion by: Michele Couture Seconded by: Richard Olson Yea 5 Nay 0

George Meixner - What can and will the town do towards noise pollution? Particularly motorbikes on Bradford and Commercial Street and airplane advertising. Also, speed limit on Bradford Street - people are not adhering to it.

Richard Olson - Had the privilege of riding with Chief Meyer on Friday night in the new Police SUV. There were some stops and some citations were given to motorcyclists. So the issue is being addressed.

Sarah Peake - Spoke with Butch at the Airport and the FAA controls the airspace. The planes have to maintain a certain minimum altitude over Provincetown. If anyone feels the airplane is flying too low, they need to get the plane number off the tail and call the Provincetown Airport and report the number to them and they will report it. None of the advertising planes leave from Provincetown airport.

Rob Tosner - Very disheartening to hear about Brenda Haywood's incident. On the VSB we talked about revising a visitor's guide to behavior when you are visiting Provincetown, certainly that will be a good part of that.

Tonight I speak to you as a business owner and not in my capacity as the Director of the PBG. I like to know where this Board stands towards Tourism as Provincetown's economic engine?

Sarah Peake - I, like you, stand firmly on Tourism. I feel I have an understanding that it is important to this community as a major economic engine. I don't see the arts and Tourism as mutually exclusive either. A lot of this has come up because of the memo that Keith has generated on Economic Development and I thank you for emailing it to the PBG members. Regarding looking at this new position for Economic Development - I do not believe it is exclusive of tourism - I see it working hand and glove.

Richard Olson - I echo those sentiments.

Cheryl Andrews - Tourism to Cape Cod is apple pie to America. Tourism is the bloodline of the Cape. I think that periodically we should stop and look at what we are doing and say, "is this where we really want to go?" or should be doing something a little bit different?" It is important to look at some of the issues you raised and see if it is the right way to go, etc.

Michele Couture - To expand on what Cheryl was saying, I think that Tourism and year-round Economic Development are not mutually exclusive. I think you can have one and not suck away from the other. I think we obviously have to do more to enhance the economic viability of Provincetown in the off-season and I can't help thinking that one would certainly feed into the other. Nobody should feel threatened. I think they are not mutually

exclusive and I think by us looking into it that it can only benefit tourism and certainly not take away from it. I, for one, am encouraging Mr. Bergman to really look into this in a way that is encompassing both things.

Mary-Jo Avellar - I don't see any threat to tourism either but I do have some questions. The promotion aspects as I do recognize that there is a drain that is placed on the resources of the community. I questions: a) drain on the resources and b) worried about battles that may be looming over how the money gets allocated. We have to make sure that while we are bringing tourism into Provincetown that we are providing the services they need - by that I mean restrooms, etc. and that we are not putting additional strain on the resources that we have. I agree with Dr. Andrews, in particular, that it is not enough to just accept the fact that Tourism is our major economy. We have to keep looking at how we are doing it and find ways to fine-tune it.

Rob Tosner - that is specifically why I did not discuss that proposal because Keith has been very open in providing us with that information and is meeting with the VSB tomorrow. It is just an opportunity to ask questions. My statement, in any way, did not oppose that proposal. My statement was my own private statement and not that of the PBG.

Steve Melamed - Relative to the suspension of the Tourism Director. Wish I had been advised of the situation instead of learning of it in the press.

Would appreciate the support of the Board of Selectmen when the request of the VSB comes before you for the approval of the Fall Arts Festival grant next Monday.

Michele Couture - Tourism Director is a personnel issue and is handled exclusive by the Town Manager and even the Board of Selectmen do not comment on it.

Request as an agenda item by Michele Couture: Hate Crime Workshop Group.

Motion to adjourned by Michele Couture at 7:06 pm.

Minutes transcribed by: Vernon Porter – July 17, 2002