

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – DECEMBER 6, 2006

Present: Ch. Patricia D. Carlino, Gordon D. Bailey, Frank A. Consolati, Board of Selectmen.
Robert L. Nason, Town Administrator

Also present: Jim Scalise, P.E., SK Design Group, Steven Roberts, property owner, Jeff Pechulis, engineer, and Dan Lovette, Hill Engineers

Ch. Carlino called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM

The purpose of this meeting was to have the Selectmen determine whether or not a mandatory environmental impact study should be done for the Berkshire Gateway Project on property that is now the Lee Travel Plaza on Route 102. The property owner is asking Mass. Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) for a waiver of this study. Jim Scalise, P.E., SK Design Group, came before the Board to make a presentation to show why the Selectmen should recommend this waiver. Mr. Scalise’s presentation included the subjects of drainage, traffic control and greenscape. Mr. Scalise also said that there was a lengthy meeting with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and felt that all questions were adequately addressed. Mr. Roberts introduced Jeff Pechulis who did the traffic study for the project. Mr. Pechulis stated that the traffic study has triggered a mandatory environmental impact study threshold for transportation by the MEPA. Mr. Roberts said this study would increase costs and extend the time it will take to complete the project.

Ch. Carlino opened the meeting to the public. Deidre Consolati asked if the Board had received comments from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The Board received a draft copy of the minutes of the meeting of Nov. 28, 2006. John Jones, an abutter, asked why he had not been notified of this meeting. The Board said that was not part of the process yet. Nelson Daley asked what is holding up the project. Sam Petal, motel owner, said he was in favor of the environmental impact study. Ch. Carlino asked what does doing the environmental impact study mean. Mr. Roberts replied, time and money. Dan Lovette, Hill Engineers, representing the town, was in favor of the waiver. Martin Deely, Planning Board member, went to the BRPC meeting and felt that the waiver is necessary. Drainage now is a problem and needs to be addressed. Selectman Consolati asked Mr. Scalise how long he had been working on the project and he said 18 months. Selectman Consolati felt this study was a delaying tactic and any questions he may have had were answered to his satisfaction and the waiver should be granted. Selectman Bailey said he is not opposed to moving the project forward but felt the waiver should not be granted. Ch. Carlino asked Mr. Scalise if traffic was the only trigger for the study. He said no. Other issues were the size of the project, flood plain and riverfront issues. Ch. Carlino said she was not opposed to the waiver. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted, two to one in favor of recommending the waiver of the environmental impact study.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne M. Alderman, Selectmen’s Secretary

cc:	Board of Selectmen	Principal Assessor	Dept. of Public Works
	Town Administrator	Board of Health	Town Treasurer
	Town Clerk	Conservation Commission	Town Reps. District Chairmen
	Town Collector	Police Chief	Superintendent of Schools
	Planning Board	Building Inspector	Town Accountant