

**Special Joint Meeting**  
**Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Planning & Zoning, Zoning Board of Appeals, Economic Development Commission, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, Conservation Commission, Charter Commission, Sprague Water & Sewer, Sprague Library, Sprague Recreation Committee, Sprague Senior Coordinator, Resident Trooper, Baltic Fire Department**

**Tuesday January 15, 2008**

**5:00 PM**

**Court Room**

Attending: Cathy Osten, Bob Tardif, Sandor Bitman, Todd Hastings, Walter Treat, Donald Boushee, Thomas Hannon, Patrick McCormack, Noreen Foley, Claude Pellegrino, Richard Waterman, Richard Douville, Karen Collins, John Patterson, Ray Arpin, Kevin Generous, Paul Cipriani, Joe Osowski, Stan Walczyk, Reggie Patchell, Barbaranne Warner

**1. Discuss goals of each Board, Committee, Commission, and Department regarding their vision of the future of the Town of Sprague.**

C. Osten will hold quarterly meetings to discuss ongoing projects which the Boards and Commissions are working on. Listed below are ideas from each Board and Commission:

**Board of Selectmen - Cathy Osten**

1. Stabilize Water & Sewer issue - impact many issues the Town is trying to complete. 2. Increase resources economically stabilizing our tax base. 3. Settle the issue with Mukluk property.

**Uncas Health District – Patrick McCormack**

Work with Grant Writer, Communicate with all Departments; regionalization would benefit the town in receiving funds.

**Board of Finance – Claude Pellegrino**

Concurs with Water & Sewer issue – infrastructure; roads, street lights and sidewalks. Find other sources of funds to help offset taxes. Services - Senior Center, Library what do people want. Financial policies for the town complexity required to make things more professional and government stricter (changes in Federal requirements)

**Karen Collins** - Need more economic development; update website – would like to get more information from website

**Planning & Zoning – Richard Waterman**

Commission is near completion of zoning regulations changes; looking at three villages that will promote economic growth; formation of a municipality committee to evaluate all buildings structures that the town uses; suggests if no one volunteers for this committee, hire a consultant.

**Joe Osowski** - Future investigation for grants solar panels, revamp property taxes.

**Sandor Bitman** - Increase parking to keep businesses in town suggests municipal parking lot, in agreement in moving forward with sidewalks; more long term planning especially with Water & Sewer.

**Zoning Board of Appeals - Ray Arpin**

Continues to help applicants with relief on zoning regulations; work on public meetings.

**Inland Wetland and Watercourse - Paul Cipriani**

Need new members; process of updating regulations; major concern is the huge increase of development; enforce projects before approved, being more stringent letting no plans go through without being engineered (code enforcement)

**Charter Commission - Dick Douville**

Public hearing in February with all Boards asking for their input re: Charter issues; maybe another hearing in March; need more enforcement for buildings and properties that look like junk yards; enforcement of policies; dredge river to help flood control.

**Water & Sewer - Walter Treat, Todd Hastings** Goal –Baltic reservoir back on line; State would like this as an alternative source of water; repair dam; upgrade sewer plant; biggest issue is getting water in town; working with State and Grant Writer; need to expand sewer plant;

C. Osten is collaborating with Cascades and may provide some additional resources; pipeline to be worked on, nothing definite.

**Tom Hannon** - important to all work together to guide our town in the right direction; agrees with keeping properties cleaned up and is in agreement with the sidewalk project.

#### **Board of Selectman - Kevin Generous**

Several activities re: Baltic mill remediation, RFP approach for developer was successful because phase I and II studies was complete; develop some criteria for what the community wants in terms of development; Development Agency may be brought back to the Board of Selectmen; Strategic plan – business park off Inland Road; study with CERC defining what the process would be to get park up and running; should be discussing joint projects with Lisbon; trying to support local businesses; explore store front initiative; economic incentive; focus to implementing grants for commercial district for facade improvements;

CT Rural Dev – chose Sprague because strategic plan is in place.

Need a process for small cities grants – consider 2 to 3 projects choosing best project that will promote the Town's goal. New business in town Mohegan Sun Pautipaug Hill; work with them on town projects addressing their needs and concerns; net loss if Mohegan Tribe rebuilds their new facility in Franklin; road needs improvement, Tribe may help along with payment

**Fire Department - Bob Tardif**- new addition to station, growing out of facility; tanker for replacement

#### **Recreation Committee - Noreen Foley**

Will continue ongoing projects started by previous Chairman and work with other Commissions; need economic development; skateboard park to be donated by Cascades; need more members.

#### **Resident State Trooper - John Patterson**

Mountain bike arrests; focusing on criminal investigations and not just speeding; respond to complaints made by town citizens.

#### **Conservation Commission - Donald Boushee**

Working with recreation trails grant to enhance trails along river, move material out of canal to continue with this project; Committee needs more volunteers in town; annual volunteer picnic to celebrate working together as a community; request an e-mail list for all attending.

#### **Economic Development - Stan Walczyk**

Budget process; justify needs and wants, consistent process for all

#### **Library – Barbaranne Warner**

Produce a survey for patrons re: increased hours and how the Library can better serve the community.

C. Osten will hold meetings quarterly; continuation with communication aspect, everything discussed at this meeting will be taken into consideration. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 15, 2008 at 5:00PM.

## **2. Adjournment**

- Motion made by C. Osten, seconded by K. Generous to adjourn meeting at 6:30PM. Unanimously voted.

Catherine A. Osten, First Selectman