

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2015**

MINUTES

Present: First Selectman Daniel Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman Jack Casey (in at 7:10 PM), Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Ted Stoutenberg, Member of the Public John Burdick; Open Space Preservation Commission Chairman Jean Cronauer (in at 7:30); Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

First Selectman Jerram called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Mr. Jerram stated that he would like to change the order of the agenda items and move “review/endorsement of Plan of Conservation and Development” to item number 1; moving the other agenda items below that in the order as listed on the agenda. This would allow for P&Z Chairman Ted Stoutenberg to be present during this discussion and then be free to leave the meeting, if he so desired. No objections were noted regarding changing the order of the agenda.

Review/endorsement of Plan of Conservation and Development:

First Selectman Jerram stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) has been hard at work reviewing and revising the current Plan of Conservation and Development. Jerram explained that P&Z has asked that the Board of Selectmen review the updated plan and, if agreeable to the Board, move the plan to be presented at a Public Hearing. Mr. Jerram introduced Mr. Stoutenberg, who explained that State Statutes dictate that municipalities review their plan at least once every ten years. It is not necessary to make any changes to the plan, but it is necessary to have a review of the plan. Mr. Stoutenberg noted that the plan is used for guidance and is a tool; not all things in the plan will be accomplished.

The Selectmen discussed the plan. Jerram, Kennerson and Casey were in agreement that the section regarding the permanent preservation of “Brodie South” seemed strong. They questioned whether it is necessary to adopt an easement that protects an area that is already owned by the Municipality since any changes to the use of that property would require town approvals. Stoutenberg restated that the Plan is for guidance only and there is no requirement to act on all aspects of the plan. Mr. Jerram then asked Mr. Stoutenberg if any consideration had been given to incorporating some kind of regulations regarding septic systems on properties along West Hill Lake. Jerram noted that this has been an area of concern for some people; stating that preservation of the water quality at the Lake is very important.

Stoutenberg replied that this is a gray area for the P&Z Commission as they were not certain

that they would have any jurisdiction over that matter; believing it to be more a matter for the health department.

MOTION: by Kennerson to endorse the Plan of Conservation and Development and to recommend moving it to Public Hearing to be held on July 22, 2015; seconded by Casey.

Unanimous.

MINUTES:

MOTION: by Kenerson to approve, as presented, the minutes of the Board of Selectmen regular meeting held on May 26, 2015.

Unanimous.

Opportunity for Public Comment:

No comments

Mr. Jerram took the opportunity to extend this thanks to John Burdick (present at the meeting) for all of his efforts in organizing the recent “what makes a vibrant downtown?” presentation sponsored by the Economic Development Commission. Jerram stated that he looked forward to partnering with the CT Main Street group to see what assistance they could provide in helping to further economic development in the downtown area.

Operations Updates:

Miscellaneous construction:

Mr. Jerram began by updating the Selectmen on various projects. He informed the Board that “things are happening.” He noted that New Hartford Marketplace, owners of a long standing empty parcel of land on Route 44, has filed for a 5 lot subdivision of the parcel. He stated that local builder Alan Borghesi has clients interested in commercial space and plans to construct space for them. Jerram stated that he has been informed that there is also a letter of intent for the Griffin parcel on the corner of 44 and 219. Also, the gas station located at 443 Main Street is planning a renovation. Dan stated that currently there are 7 new or renovated commercial buildings being considered right now; comparing this to the fact that there have only been 4 new or renovated commercial buildings in the entire last 15 years. He pointed out that this all adds to Grand List growth.

End of fiscal year:

First Selectman Jerram stated that bookkeeping is closing out the fiscal year and it looks to be in fairly good shape. He remarked that had there not been the additional appropriation, things would be very tight. He informed the Board that an unexpected mechanical issue on one of the trucks resulted in a \$7,500 repair.

Road work:

West Road is being reconstructed; drainage is being improved and a portion of the roadway is being widened. A utility pole needs to be relocated; contact has been made with Eversource who will coordinate the work. Line Striping of roadways and parking lots has been contracted out.

Sewers – miscellaneous:

Mr. Jerram stated that Bud Butler, Roy Litchfield, and Joe Toro of the Water Pollution Control Authority are continuing to create a plan of action items for the WPCA. A resident who owns “the old canal” along Wickett Street has come to the town and stated that he would consider deeded the area to the Town. Jerram indicated that this old canal might prove beneficial to the WPCA for sewer lines.

Economic Development Update:

First Selectman Jerram announced that the Parrot Delaney Tavern held a “soft opening” on the weekend and noted that he, Alesia and Jack had all attended the event to welcome the new business to town. This new restaurant/bar is located in the “Hurley Building” on Greenwoods Road. The official opening will be within the next few weeks. Jerram stated that the challenge will be to further market this new business. He encouraged all to support this new restaurant.

Rails to Trails:

The First Selectman stated that he had accompanied Don Stein, Deb Brydon, Liz Lacey, Dave Krimmel and some others on a hike along the proposed New Hartford to Pleasant Valley trail. GPS was used to map the trail. Jerram noted that some areas of the proposed trail are already well established; however, there are also additional areas where there may be some challenges with elevation.

Police Special Duty:

Mr. Jerram asked the Selectmen to consider increasing the Police Special Duty rate from \$65.00 to \$75.00 per hour. Jerram noted that there are times when New Hartford Constables are asked to provide private duty coverage for various assignments (such as traffic control when a utility company is installing a new pole). The rate charged for this service has been \$65.00 per hour for close to ten years. Neighboring towns are charging more than this so it would be reasonable to seek an increase.

MOTION: by Kennerson to increase the hourly rate for special duty police from \$65.00 to \$75.00 per hour, effective July 1, 2015; seconded by Casey.

Unanimous

Fiscal Year Priorities:

First Selectman Jerram reviewed the proposed larger projects for fiscal year 2015-2016. Antolini roof replacement, Carpenter Road Bridge replacement and a pavilion to be constructed in the downtown area. He noted that road work is always a priority as well. Jerram noted that some comments have been made that the pavilion should be located closer to the river, rather than up on the bank near the parking lot area. He noted that this would fall within the flood plain and would require additional permissions. Jerram noted that it was his opinion that the structure should be seen from the roadway so as to entice people towards the river. He noted that providing electricity to the structure would be easier if the pavilion is closer to the power pole rather than down in the floodplain area.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

Mr. Jerram noted that Laura Garay has submitted her resignation as an alternate from the Commission on Aging so that she could be considered as a replacement to fill the full seat vacated by Ellen Durstin. All Selectmen were in favor of this

MOTION: by Casey to appoint Laura Garay as a member of the Commission on Aging, (filling the vacancy created by Ellen Durstin) effective July 1, 2015 with a term to expire December 31, 2016; seconded by Kennerson.

Dan commented that Laura has been a valuable addition to the Commission and is pleased to make this change.

Unanimous

Executive Session:

MOTION: by Kennerson to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion related to real estate (farmland preservation) at 8:12 PM; seconded by Casey.

Unanimous

Selectman Jerram invited Open Space Commission Chairman Jean Cronauer to attend the Executive Session.

(Jerram, Kennerson, Casey, Cronauer and Hayward were present in Executive Session)

No action taken regarding Executive Session.

MOTION: by Kennerson to adjourn at 8:45 PM; seconded by Casey.

Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant