

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
July 23, 2019
MINUTES**

Present: First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Eric Claman, Selectman Alesia Kennerson;
Members of the Public: Ann Hall, Caren Ross, Bill Michaud, Madeline McClave, Susan Coppinger, Clay Coppinger, David Boyajian, Brianna Boyajian, Heather Trotto, Caitlyn Trotto; Member of the Press Kathryn Boughton (in at 7:20); Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

First Selectman Jerram called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

Operations Updates:

First Selectman Jerram presented several updates to the Board.

Roadwork;

Cedar Lane is in the process of being resurfaced. The stretch of roadway between Marsh Road to Niles Road has been milled and graded and will be resurfaced in the next week or so. The portion of road from Marsh Road to the Torrington town line will receive an overlay. The budget did not allow for a full reclamation of this section of the road.

Chip Sealing has been completed on approximately 8 miles of roads. Dings, Harrison, Hayward, Hidden Hill, Kinsey, Maple Hollow, Schafer, Tanglewood, Turnbull and Winchester Roads have all been chip sealed. This process helps to preserve roads and is a preventive maintenance process to increase the life of the roadway. The cost for this maintenance is approximately \$198,000. A smaller sized stone was used this year and it seems to yield a better outcome. There have been no complaints received at Town Hall regarding the chip seal, unlike past years.

Route 44 is in the final stages of completion. Paving is being done by the State of Connecticut from the Canton town line to the intersection of Routes 219 and 44.

Triathlon:

The Litchfield Hills Triathlon was a success once again. The race was not sponsored by Hartford Marathon this year; rather, it was taken over by Wilson Sports out of New York. Mark and Tonia Wilson were the organizers and they did a nice job. First Selectman Jerram pointed out that the Economic Development Commission has supported this event for the past few years and did so again this year. EDC members Mary Ann Gunning, John Burdick and Shelley Lloyd were all present on race day. Jerram noted that Ms. Gunning worked very hard to get donations from area businesses to serve as door prizes for the event. He applauded her efforts and offered public thanks for her dedication to this event.

Multi use Trail:

The Multi Use Trail Committee has met and will proceed with issuing a request for proposals for engineering services to develop a proposed route for consideration. The next meeting will be to review the RFP and authorize its distribution. Mr. Jerram, Trail committee member Mr. Baxter and Administrative Assistant Hayward will work together to draft an RFP for the group to consider at their next scheduled meeting on July 29.

Bond Rating:

First Selectman Jerram informed the Board that the town's bond rating has been reviewed. The town had a negative outlook attached to its bond rating and following this review, that negative outlook has been removed. Jerram noted that he and Town Treasurer Gordon Ross, along with Financial Advisor Dennis Dix had participated in an oral interview with a bond rater from Moody's.

Resident Concern:

Mr. Jerram told the Board that a resident who lives up near West Hill Pond had come to town hall to report what he thought was a sewage spill in West Hill Pond. This resident stated that he allegedly saw human waste in several areas of the Pond. He could not substantiate this with any factual evidence; nevertheless, his complaint was taken seriously and investigation of the complaint did occur. Farmington Valley Health District was notified and they did not find any evidence of elevated bacteria levels. Several homeowners along the shore were contacted and questioned, as were lifeguards at Brodie Beach and no one had any concerns. Jerram asked that if anyone has any concerns at any time about this matter, they contact him.

Local Development:

Dunkin Donuts is moving along with their construction. All Star Storage is nearing completion of their addition. The Building Department has seen a number of new home permits being taken out. The average has been 5 – 6 new houses per year for the past several years and this year may see as many as 17 new homes being constructed.

Town Hall Maintenance:

The Generator Day Tank has been on the list of "maintenance that needs to be done." Jerram noted that this can be accomplished with excess funds from 2018-2019 in the interior exterior maintenance line item within the general administration department.

Carpenter Road Bridge:

First Selectman expressed his displeasure with the lack of progress once again. He has been in consultation with the attorney to get things moving. Correspondence with the contractor is through the attorney. A new timeline has been established. The contractor indicates that they will continue to work on cutting the sheet piling. Selectman Claman asked if the cracks in the box culvert will be repaired. Jerram replied that the contractor will grout them and then place a membrane over the culvert prior to paving. Claman questioned the funds that were approved for Antolini and Carpenter Road Bridge project. He asked if the savings from Antolini is being used to pay for expenses incurred for Carpenter Road Bridge. Jerram replied that the funds are not co-mingled. The savings from the Antolini project remains in the General Fund. Jerram noted that there has been no additional funds paid to the contractor. The project remains under budget at this point in time. It was noted that late fees continue to accrue on a daily basis. The project was not completed in accordance with the contractual end date. There will be a reconciliation at the end of the project.

Abutting property owner Clay Coppinger asked about the sheet piling and questioned its use. Jerram

replied that the construction company proposed the use of sheet piling as an alternate dewatering plan. The dewatering plan presented by the towns engineering consultant was rebuked by the contractor and they used their own plan. “They own it” he said.

Mr. Claman raised his concern regarding covering the bridge with a membrane and then paving it without having some time to see if the culvert will move again. “If the bridge is covered, how can we see if it has moved?” Jerram replied that there are means and methods in place to determine movement. There are warranty provisions within the contract. He stated that the concerns expressed are duly noted and if there are problems with the final product, the town will follow up on them. Mr. Jerram thanked Mr. Coppinger for attending the meeting and being involved in the discussion.

Review of Materials for Special Town Meeting and discussion of potential timeframe for a Special Town Meeting Date:

First Selectman Jerram noted that there are still several items that need to be brought before a Town Meeting for consideration. The Open Burning Ordinance (not yet completed), Acceptance of Beekley Views parcel of land (lease agreement in final stages of completion), Community Club Parking lot (survey completed, some preliminary engineering being completed to develop a site plan) Final Acceptance of the Hoag Deed (Old canal on Wickett Street –fencing will be installed as promised) and the Butler Conservation Easement.

The Conservation Easement for the Butler Property has not been accepted by the Selectmen in its current form. There are some concerns with some of the language. Mr. Jerram clarified that although the easement is for the entirety of the property, it is the trail portion that the Selectmen have been focused on. They want to insure that the easement that is agreed upon by this Board (and then goes to Town Meeting) will not have a negative impact on what may want to be done in the future with respect to trail expansion. Selectman Kennerson commented that it is important to her to reserve the right to use bicycles when the trail can accommodate them. Land Trust President and member of the Open Space Preservation Commission replied that there are many trails that have surfaces that change at different points of the trail. She stated that it is a fallacy to think that bikes need a paved surface. Land Trust Member Anne Hall added that permeable pavement is changing rapidly. She noted that the main goal is to protect the river that the trail abuts.

Other concerns expressed included the limit on the number of signs and the number of benches that can be placed along the trail. It was agreed that limiting benches should be allowed as this is preserved land, not a park.

A final request was to include the definition of permeable surface into the document. This could avoid any future questions as to what is allowed and not allowed. The easement will be returned back to the Land Trust attorney to review and make changes.

The Selectmen decided not to discuss possible dates for a special town meeting at this time.

Resident State Trooper Contract:

It is time to renew the contract with the State for the services of one Resident State Trooper.

MOTION: by Kennerson to authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for the services of one Resident State Trooper; contract period from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022; seconded by Claman.

Unanimous.

Appointment of Patrick Casey to Western Connecticut Convention and Visitors Bureau:

Mr. Jerram explained that the Western CT Convention and Visitors Bureau has been granted funding by the State once again, after a period of no funding. A request has been made to appoint a member to represent New Hartford. EDC member Pat Casey has volunteered to serve in this capacity.

MOTION: by Kennerson to appoint Patrick Casey to serve as the representative from New Hartford on the Western Connecticut Convention and Visitors Bureau, term to expire July 23, 2022, seconded by Claman.

Unanimous.

Correspondence:

Mr. Jerram stated that he had received correspondence from the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Commission expressing their concern regarding the mowing of the fields at Brodie South. They are concerned about the Bobolink nesting area and have asked that the fields be left in their natural state to allow for nesting of these birds. Mr. Jerram replied that there is an existing ordinance that outlines the duties and responsibilities of the Recreation Commission. They have been given the authority to maintain the parks. It is Mr. Jerram's understanding that this topic has been discussed by the Commission and that they have decided to mow it as it is presently being mowed.

The First Selectman informed the Selectmen that David Marchena, son of Ed Marchena and Jean Darlington had volunteered his time to repair signs at the Kearney Trail at Brodie. Jerram noted that it was David and a group of Scouts that had installed these signs many years ago. He thanked David publicly for this work.

Request for Refunds of Taxes:

MOTION: by Kennerson to approve the tax refunds as presented by the Tax Collector, seconded by Claman.

Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 01801-1057	223.71
Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 01801-1057	202.74
Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 01801-1057	508.97
Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 01801-1057	174
Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 01801-1057	125.01
Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 01801-1057	221.32

Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 01801-1057	22.69
Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 01801-1057	290.25
VW Credit Leasing	1401 Franklin Blvd, Libertyville, IL 60048-4460	134.62
Peter or Essie Humphrey	273 Niles Road, New Hartford, CT 06057	10.11
Nissan Infiniti LT	P.O. Box 650214, Dallas, TX 75265-0214	284.5
Margaret Vaughan	4 Caradon Lane, Katonah, NY 10536	53.46
Honda Lease Trust	P.O. Box 99751, Sacramento, CA 95899	61.83
Nissan Infiniti LT	P.O. Box 650214, Dallas, TX 75265-0214	67.04
JP Morgan Chase Bank NA	P.O. Box 901098, Fort Worth TX 76101-2098	376.04

Unanimous

MOTION: by Kennerson, second Claman to adjourn at 9:10 PM.

Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant