

**TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

**SENIORCENTER/TOWN HALL**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

A special town meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meeting of the Town of New Hartford, Connecticut, was held in the New Hartford Town Hall, 530 Main Street, in the Town of New Hartford, Connecticut on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

First Selectman Dan Jerram called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

First Selectman Jerram opened the floor to nominations for moderator. Motion Polly Pobuda, second Denton Butler to nominate Alesia Kennerson for moderator. First Selectman Jerram asked if there were any further nominations. Motion Denton Butler, second Daria Hart to close nominations. Motion to close nominations was unanimously approved by voice vote. Motion to elect Alesia Kennerson moderator carried unanimously by voice vote.

Moderator Kennerson read the call of the meeting:

**TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD  
NOTICE OF A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of New Hartford, CT hereby notifies all electors and citizens entitled to vote in Town Meetings in said Town of New Hartford, that a Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Senior Center/Meeting Room of the New Hartford Town Hall, 530 Main Street, in New Hartford, CT for the following purposes:

- 1.) To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the application and administration of a Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development Grant.

Dated at New Hartford, Connecticut this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016.

Board of Selectmen

Daniel V. Jerram

Alesia R. Kennerson

Laura DiFelice Garay

Moderator Kennerson read the Return of Posting and Publication:

**RETURN OF POSTING AND PUBLICATION  
OF NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

I, Daniel V. Jerram, First Selectman of the Town of New Hartford, Connecticut, hereby certify that I caused a copy of the foregoing Notice of the Special Town Meeting to be posted on the Town signpost on Thursday, February 18, 2016, and also published in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper published in Hartford, Connecticut and having a general circulation in the Town of New Hartford, on Thursday, February 18, 2016.

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2016.

Daniel V. Jerram, First Selectman

**ITEM NUMBER 1:**

Moderator Kennerson called for a motion to (i) authorize the submission of a Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development Grant Application for consideration of funding for a wildlife census and Feasibility Study for a recreational path between Pleasant Valley and New Hartford Centers; and (ii) authorize the First Selectman to sign the grant application and to sign any other documents associated with administering the grant, if awarded, including any amendments thereto.

Motion Daria Hart. Second Bill Baxter. Moderator Kennerson asked First Selectman Jerram to provide the body with background on this matter.

First Selectman Jerram explained this grant application is a regionalized application and he is working with Don Stein, First Selectman of Barkhamsted. The grant has already been submitted but requires the approval of the legislative body – our town meeting. This grant would provide for a wildlife census and biodiversity study on the MDC property from behind the Hurley manufacturing complex on Greenwood Road to just below the bridge in Pleasant Valley. This area runs along the east side of the federally designated wild and scenic West Branch of the Farmington River. There is currently a path on the MDC property of about 1.5 miles along the river. Starting at the Pleasant Valley Bridge, the first 1/3 is a gravel driveway to a gate, the next 1/3 is a single lane gravel path, and the last 1/3 is a walking path through natural vegetation, emerging at the Hurley manufacturing complex on Greenwood Road.

Moderator Kennerson then opened the floor for questions from the public to be answered by First Selectman Jerram.

Troy LaMere questioned the amount of the grant. The grant is for \$40,000.00 with no matching funds required by the towns.

Tom Buzzi asked if receiving this grant would preclude receiving other grants – to which First Selectman Jerram replied “no”.

Jim Jerram inquired if we would have to maintain the path on MDC property – the answer was “yes”.

John Burdick asked if this study will advise the location of the trail. First Selectman Jerram responded that at this point we don’t know what the result of the study will be.

Tom Buzzi asked why we are not going south. First Selectman Jerram explained that there is a committee working on a trail from the center of New Hartford to Canton. That study is not as far along and faces many more challenges because of the number of property owners and topography issues..

Troy LaMere expressed concern that there could be an impact on wetlands and increased pedestrian traffic could fragment wildlife. First Selectman Jerram responded that is exactly why we need the study.

Daria Hart commented that other towns have found that having these trails has a very positive economic influence, so she would really like to see this effort pursued.

Jack Casey went on record as endorsing the project for both communities.

Tim Goff asked what the cost of this study would be for the town? First Selectman Jerram reiterated that this is a regional application for both New Hartford and Barkhamsted, and New Hartford is the lead town. There will be no cost to the towns associated with this study. If funds are not granted, there will be no study.

Tom Buzzi asked about the location of the study. First Selectman Jerram explained the study area covers about 1.5 miles from the Hurley property to the state handicapped access fishing dock below the bridge in Pleasant Valley. Jerram then presented a short power point presentation of photos showing the existing trail/path and the handicapped access fishing dock plus a map of the entire trail from the bridge in Pleasant Valley to Callahan Park.

John Burdick questioned if all the study area was on MDC property? The response was “yes”.

Jay Bailey questioned if this trail would ultimately be large enough to get vehicles onto it and Selectman Jerram said yes – that there would have to be access for maintenance vehicles the length of the trail so members of the New Hartford and Barkhamsted Town Crews could perform necessary maintenance and there needs to be access for emergency vehicles also. However there would be no routine vehicular access.

Daria Hart asked if the long term goal was to connect with other trails? Selectman Jerram responded “Yes”.

Hearing no further questions, Moderator Alesia Kennerson called for a voice vote on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion Paul Pubuda, second John Burdick to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

A True Copy

Attest: Donna N. LaPlante, Town Clerk