

The Board of Selectmen held its regular meeting on February 2, 2016, at the Town Hall with the First Selectman Robert Morra presiding. In attendance were: Selectmen Michael Eremita, Robert Neil, Gwen Marrion, and Sandra Pierog; Administrative Officer Joyce Stille and approximately 15 members of the public.

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Public Comment:**

William Anderson, 77 French Road, Economic Development Committee Chair, updated the BOS on EDC activity, including website updates, revising yellow pages webpage, and supporting the repeal of cistern regulation and drive-through restrictions. He asked for info on what incentives the town can offer to businesses. The BOS said to refer interested parties to them for discussion.

A. Fiano, 6 Bayberry Road, asked if it was possible to explore the possibility of a place to shelter from weather within the current work on the old shed section of the Heritage Farm Barn. S. Pierog said that the current work was limited to repairing the barn to a state where they could then begin looking at potential uses.

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

**A. January 13, 2016 Special Meeting** – Motion by R. Neil. S. Pierog seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

**B. January 19, 2016 Meeting** – Motion by R. Neil. M. Eremita seconded. S. Pierog asked to note her arrival at 7:20 pm. R. Neil and M. Eremita agreed. Vote 4:0:1, G. Marrion abstaining due to absence.

**C. January 26, 2016 Special Meeting** – Motion by R. Neil. M. Eremita seconded. Vote 4:0:1, S. Pierog abstaining due to absence.

**4. Correspondence:** None.

**5. Unfinished Business:** None.

**6. New Business:**

**A. Charter Oak Greenway Shared Use Path and Path Extension:**

R. Morra noted receipt of petitions with signatures to discontinue progress on path plans. He reported that the Trails Committee met and will use study funds to survey the north side of Route 44 from Quarry Road to the Coventry Town line along with a portion of Tolland Road with attention to ROW lines. Data will be collected over a few months and made available to residents. R. Morra clarified the following:

The town is not applying for a grant nor any additional funds for the trail. It is only using the current grant funds for the study, which will eventually be shared with CROCOG who is doing the NextGenCT Pathways to UConn: Eastern Gateways Study of the Route 44 corridor. At that point,

realignment suggestions can be made to the DOT. Regardless of the outcome, the state will probably look at a multimodal path, since it is in line with its transportation goals. A path will not happen on Route 44 without addressing traffic issues first, which is why it can only happen as part of a highway redesign.

The “missing link” is between Notch Pond and Quarry Road. It was planned as part of the current trail construction but technical issues were so great it had to be designed separately.

All comments, whether sent to the Trails Committee, Patrice Carson, or the BOS, will come before the BOS. The Trails Committee asked for comments by February 1<sup>st</sup> for the study. P. Carson is receiving and compiling those comments to send to the BOS as one document.

G. Marrion gave background on the study grant. The \$71,899.36 grant was received in 2010 for the trail from Manchester, which the state took over. Since the town wanted to address connectivity and was aware of the state plans for the NextGen Project through Bolton, the funds were redirected to study path feasibility. G. Marrion applied for the grant as a volunteer on behalf of the town before she was a Selectman. It is a town grant. The town’s contribution is to match 20%, which has been met mostly through town employee and volunteer hours.

J. Stille taped an episode of the Town Administrator’s Report that focuses on the proposed trail expansion on Route 44. First Selectman R. Morra and P. Carson (Director of Community Development) will also be on the show. It will air on February 16, 10:30 am-11 am, on Community Voice Channel.

#### Comments from residents:

Lani Kerr, 27 Quarry Road/1212 Boston Turnpike, asked if DOT or BOS decides on a path. R. Morra said the Board’s only power is a vote to accept the study, after which the project will be in conjunction with the DOT. The town does not have final veto power on a path, but is trying to influence its development with the Town’s best interest in mind.

Alyssa Gendreau, 1276 Boston Turnpike, looked up all previous Charter Oak extensions since 2000 on the CT DEEP website and contacted each town. All feedback was positive, but a significant factor was that no extensions were on a major road or less than 30 feet from one. She said the accidents on Route 44, such as a tire landing in her front yard today, would make for an unsafe path. She asked how Quarryville rock will be removed, as blasting or jack hammering will impact nearby residents’ foundations and wells. G. Marrion will ask that the BSC answer that question.

Sarah Zilewski, 1020 Boston Tpke., asked if there was data on how often accidents involve a car leaving the road that could cross into a path. Accident data is in the BSC report’s appendices, which the Town will make sure is available.

Sylvia Ounpuu, 48 Stonehedge Road, said Route 44 is dangerous but people already walk, run, push strollers, bike, and skateboard along it. A path would make them safer.

Catherine Peacock, 23 Quarry Road, said people currently risk Route 44 by choice, but a path would invite further use. She objected to a committee being able to get to this point without input from residents on direction.

Jim Adams, 48 Stonehedge Road, said while commuting on Route 44 is his choice, it is also his right, since CT roads are by law supposed to be safe for both cars and bicycles to travel.

Barbara Amodio, 50 Volpi Road, said the BOS had been charged with increasing community connectivity by the Vibrant Communities Study.

Mark Renner, 1276 Boston Turnpike, cited accidents as a hazard. He said it seemed that someone forgot to ask the area residents for input. He could deal with losing frontage, but didn't want to see someone killed.

The Tales from the Trails forum will be at 7:00 pm, Monday, February 29, at BHS. Craig Della Penna, Executive Director of Northeast Greenway Solutions and a real estate agent, will speak and discuss questions and concerns. The next steps will be the Route 44 land survey, conclusion of the study, and the BOS receiving a proposal from the Trails Committee.

#### **B. Lower Bolton Lake Status Report:**

Lake Commissioner Kim Welch reported the water level is rising rapidly due to melt-off and rain. The lake is greenish, but has only frozen about 60%.

#### **C. FY16 Budget Report:**

J. Stille reported the budget is currently 50.49% expensed, compared to 50.14% at this point last year. She distributed information from the assessor on the grand list, which saw a .13% net increase.

#### **D. FY17 Budget:**

The Governor's budget comes out tomorrow. Municipal aid cuts are expected.

#### **E. Consider and Act on Budget Referendum Date:**

M. Eremita moved to set the budget referendum for May 10<sup>th</sup>, from 6 am to 8 pm, Town Hall. G. Marrion seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

#### **F. Consider and Act on Code of Ethics Implementation Plan:**

M. Eremita moved that it be the policy of the BOS that Ethics Committee members shall not be members past or present of any other town board, commission, or committee. R. Neil seconded.

S. Pierog was opposed, saying the town has a lot of valuable experience in people serving on its boards and commissions. She thought that it would have come up in the three public hearings if it was important to the town. G. Marrion agreed that board experience may be valuable.

M. Eremita held that the EC should have no ties to any other board. He expected no difficulty in filling the positions. R. Neil agreed, adding that there should be no possibility of blame before the public or of anyone being reluctant to approach the Committee due to ties. R. Morra agreed that impartiality was of utmost importance and saw no difficulty in filling the EC.

Vote: 3:2:0, G. Marrion and S. Pierog against.

M. Eremita moved to adopt the Code of Ethics Implementation Plan as presented. R. Neil seconded. S. Pierog requested time to review the plan and moved to table the item. M. Eremita withdrew his motion and S. Pierog withdrew her motion as well. The BOS agreed by consensus to postpone action until the next meeting.

**G. Consider and Act on Budget Transfer and / or Appropriation Requests:**

None.

**7. Ongoing Business:**

**A. Subcommittee Reports:** No action taken.

**B. Properties and Facilities:**

Bolton is applying for the Community Connectivity Program road safety audit. The BOS discussed possible changes to the stop sign placement at Hebron Road and Bolton Center Road. R. Morra and J. Stille will look into it.

S. Pierog said that structural issues were discovered as siding was taken down for the Heritage Farm Barn fire repair. The engineer reviewed it and the architect gave preliminary suggestions. They are now waiting for the state historical preservation office.

LEED certification info from the Green Building Certification Institute is expected this week back to the architect.

**C. Revenue Sources:** The town is looking at LED streetlights and purchase/maintenance options for the streetlights.

**8. First Selectman's Report:**

**A. CIRMA Risk Management Achievement:**

Bolton is a 2016 CIRMA Risk Management Achievement Award Recipient for reduction in claims.

**B. Economic Development:** EDC update in Public Comment.

**C. Emergency Notification System Expansion:** The town is working to expand notification contacts beyond landlines numbers in the phonebook. Residents are encouraged to sign up on

the town website, on the right hand side banner. After creating a username and password, they may follow the steps to set up their preferred method of notification.

## **9. Administrative Officer's Report:**

### **A. Expressway Properties:**

Attorney Barger is looking at any statute that may permit the BOS to go to town meeting to allow it to take action on the discontinuance of the road (property taken by the state for the expressway) prior to the state deeding it to the town. Concern is that if discontinuance is not approved, the town may have liability for land-locked properties if it holds the deeds.

### **B. Electronic Document Management Project:**

Bolton is one of seven towns selected to be in the project statewide. More info will be shared as the project progresses.

### **C. Legislative Update:**

CRCOG, CCM and COST are working to limit financial impact on towns, with a focus on the municipal spending cap.

R. Morra announced that Bolton's retiring historian, Hans DePold, will be honored at 12:00 pm, February 13, at Georgina's. Contact John Toomey for information and tickets.

**10. Appointments:** No action taken.

**11. Adjournment:** S. Pierog moved to adjourn. R. Neil seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sarah Benitez*

Sarah Benitez, Recording Secretary

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.