

The Board of Selectmen held its regular meeting on May 3, 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; and Administrative Officer Joyce Stille.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Public Comment: Barbara Amodio, 50 Volpi Road, noted that with the recent spate of crime, some people involved with the neighborhood watch are concerned it will worsen with a new trail. The new bike group will research and expects to put most of these concerns to rest. Sylvia Ounpuu, 48 Stonehedge Lane, said that she and Jim Adams are taking classes to become certified bicycle safety instructors, after which they hope to partner with the Recreation Department to teach in Bolton. She also said that the Bike Walk Bolton group sent a letter to the DOT Commissioner James Redeker regarding road safety measures in town. M. Eremita requested that any letter being sent to the state be distributed to Town officials first.

3. Approval of Minutes:

A. March 29, 2016 Regular Meeting – Motion by M. Eremita. R. Neil seconded. With the amendment of “BCS” to “BSC” and “Still” to “Stille” in 6A, motion carried 5:0:0.

B. April 25, 2016 Special Meeting – Motion by M. Eremita. R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

4. Correspondence:

A. A letter was received from Elizabeth Cianci and Laura Buckner detailing concerns about the impact of tree-cutting and open site lines in the neighborhood of Tunxis Trail, Iroquois Trail, Mohegan Trail, and Dean Drive. R. Morra said that he and Administrator Stille sent a letter to the state seeking permission to begin addressing the issue. S. Pierog requested that the full BOS be given notice and be involved prior to sending such a letter from the BOS. G. Marrion agreed. R. Morra acknowledged the request and said the letter was preliminary to any action or commitment.

B. A letter was received from Sharon Preuss on the Memorial Day Parade. It will be Monday, May 30 at 10:00 am. Services at the Town Green are at 10:30 am. Family Fun Day will follow at BCS.

C. A letter of resignation from the Open Space Committee was received from Daniel Roback. S. Pierog moved to accept the resignation with regret and best wishes. R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

5. Unfinished Business: None.

6. New Business:

A. Charter Oak Greenway Shared Use Path and Path Extension: Research work in town hall records and outside surveying work continues. It will likely be finished sometime in the summer.

B. Lower Bolton Lakes Status Report: George Knoecklein gave a presentation on March 30 on the lake. They are looking at alternative treatments in addition to past practice to address its current

condition. A meeting was also held this past month with the fisheries and residents regarding catfish stocking. R. Morra said DEEP was receptive to concerns about restocking with the lake situation still developing. Following the meeting, there was an informal agreement not to stock this year but a decision is expected later this month.

Kim Welch, Lake Commissioner, reported that the lake is still green, at a high level, and clarity is low.

C. FY16 Budget Report: J. Stille reported the town is 69.46% expensed, compared to 72.43% last year.

D. FY17 Budget Report: The Budget Referendum is set for May 5, 2016. The BOS encouraged everyone to vote. The CT legislature will be voting on the state budget hopefully this week so more changes are expected. The BOS will set a special meeting for 8 pm after the referendum to schedule a second referendum if necessary.

E. Community Connectivity Program: Letter received on free road safety audit asking whether the BOS would like it to focus on 44 or the town center. G. Marrion noted that the Route 44 area has been studied extensively, while there is little information on making the center more walkable, so she supported choosing the center. Other members of the BOS agreed. B. Amodio also voiced support for focusing on the center.

G. Marrion moved to respond to the DOT that the BOS wants to conduct the free road safety audit on the area in the center of town. S. Pierog seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

F. Consider and Act on Establishment of Employment Separation Fund: R. Neil moved to adopt the Employment Separation Fund. M. Eremita seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

G. Consider and Act on Budget Transfer and/or Appropriation Requests: M. Eremita moved to authorize either the First Selectman Morra or Administrator Stille to sign budget transfer requests on behalf of the BOS for any amount up to \$5000 for the remainder of the fiscal year, reporting the BOS; and to hold an electronic BOS meeting for such approval of any amount above \$5,000. R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

7. Ongoing Business:

A. Subcommittee Reports: Regarding Human Resources Subcommittee 4/18/16 minutes, S. Pierog asked to note in #2 that the executive session included J. Stille. The BOS agreed.

B. Properties and Facilities: Heritage Farm – S. Pierog asked that visitors to the farm remain on the established trails as it is now farming season. Walking off-path will damage the hay and farmers' ability to process it. People should also stay off the stone walls. Next for the barn will be painting, work on the east side siding, and a new interior door separating the milk shed from the general barn in case it becomes of public use. Damage remains to be repaired on the west side of the barn, and a foundation repair at a doorway for a possible ramp. The BOS noted a lot of progress has been made in just under a

year. R. Morra thanked all involved for their work. The project is currently anticipated to come in under estimated cost.

BHS – J. Stille said the architect is hoping to resubmit to the state by the end of the next week, after which they will wait for review and hopefully acceptance. Once submitted, the review will take another 4-6 weeks.

C. Revenue Sources: Nothing new to report.

8. First Selectman's Report:

A. Board of Education Capital Projects: The paving and sidewalk project are over the approved amount. A contractor was brought in off a bid done by another town for the sidewalks. Originally only sidewalks in the front of the building were to be addressed, but the back was added into the estimate. If everything is done, it will be increased by about \$100,000. There is a meeting with members of the Board of Education and school staff tomorrow to discuss options for going forward. The original cost estimate for floor replacement did not use prevailing wage; with that wage, there is about a \$100,000 increase. They are now discussing a multi-stage implementation over a couple of years.

B. Economic Development: Simoniz has finished its building and is now outfitting the processing equipment and a possible propane farm. Work on costs estimates by the owner continues at the old drive-in site. Interest in the land on 44 continues but no movement forward. A new veterinarian specializing in canine dental has moved into the Notch plaza.

C. Natural Gas: J. Stille and R. Morra met with CNG representatives. Discussion is under way about extending a natural gas line from Hebron along Route 85 to the Town Hall area, as well as to the municipal buildings on Notch Road, along Route 44 to the commuter parking lot, and to the Manchester town line. It may be able to go through for next spring. Financial considerations for the Town would be the cost of tying in our buildings and contribution towards the infrastructure which are currently around \$215,000 over 5-7 years, interest-free. On the positive side it would: eliminate the town's oil tank issues and insurance on them; produce budget savings since natural gas is less than oil; and be taxable, meaning that most of the generated costs to the town would be replaced by tax revenue over the years. It would be positive for commercial entities and possible development on Route 44. R. Morra said they are working on holding an informational meeting that would include EDC, BOF and PZC. The Town Administrator's Report show on CVC will discuss it. Any houses along the line would be able to tie in. By consensus, the BOS agreed to consider and learn more about the opportunity.

R. Morra gave a reminder that there is a Town Meeting to be held Tuesday, May 17, 2016, and there are some expenditure items up for a vote.

9. Administrative Officer's Report:

A. Expressway Properties: J. Stille reported DOT hasn't moved forward with any easements yet. CRCOG will reach out to them if there is no update by next week.

B. Eastern Gateways Study: CRCOG is working on getting general info on the website.

10. Appointments: G. Marrion noted several openings on town boards and committee. R. Morra has been actively seeking members for vacancies and asked the board members to also actively recruit. He emphasized it would be a good opportunity for younger people to get involved without much time commitment. More information is available at the town hall.

11. Adjournment: G. Marrion moved to adjourn. R. Neil seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benitez, Recording Secretary

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