

COPY RECEIVED
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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, February 20, 2018 – 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: W. Kurt Miller, Stephan Behuniak, Karen Stanek, Trisha Danka, Al Bruno, Annmarie Drugonis (7:08 PM) and Len Greene, Jr.

Others Present: Town Counsel, Richard Buturla; Mary McNellis and Rory Burke.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, at 7:04 P.M.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment.

None.

ITEM #4: Approve minutes from February 6, 2018 regular meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from February 6, 2018 regular meeting.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 6-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

ITEM #5: First Selectman's Report.

1. Our Town Clerk, Sue Debarber will be officially retiring at the end of February. I want to take this time to personally thank Sue for her hard work and very dedicated service to the Town of Seymour. Sue has done a fantastic job moving the Clerk's office forward over the last few years. We are all going to miss her and I wish her many years of health and a happy retirement. I have appointed Lianna McMurray as the Acting Town Clerk, effective March 1 through July 1, 2018. In the coming weeks we will start the process of permanently filling the vacancy but I feel very confident that Lianna will be up to the task and will continue the high standard of service that office is known for.
2. Update on the FY 2018 budget...Spending freeze is still in place. Hiring will be on an as needed basis. We have some retirements coming up in the next few months and those positions will be replaced strategically. We are currently still looking at a projected budget shortfall of just under \$200,000 due to state cuts. The plan we put in place in mid-December is working as anticipated and that number is slowly going down. The finance team feels strongly that we will finish the year with a balanced budget. With this in mind, I expect to be coming to this board with the capital plan for fiscal year 2018 at some point in the spring. While we may not spend the entire \$300,000, I expect we will spend a large portion of it. At that same time, I will be presenting the capital plan for fiscal year 2019 for approval as they will work in conjunction with each other.
3. Budget deliberations are ongoing. Budgets are coming in for the most part as expected to the board of finance. I will be presenting my budget as well as an update on our current financials at next Tuesday, February 27th at 7:00 pm. The budget that I will be presenting is expected to keep the mill rate level at 36 mills for a third year in a row even with a loss of roughly \$1.9 million in municipal funding from the state of Connecticut.

Annamarie Drugonis arrived at 7:08 P.M.

ITEM #6: Discussion with Community Services Director.

Mary McNellis discussed the comparison of 2016 and 2017 regarding total registrations for the Senior Center and Recreation Department. There were over 5,000 registrations for all programs and activities last year. She attributes the increase in registrations to the flyer that went out to 6,000 households. They were able to mail out the flyers for free due to sponsorships on the back of the flyers. The sponsors get an ad on the back of the flyer, a banner in the gym, their name on the back of a basketball team, email blast recognition, as well as, Facebook and Twitter posts. The flyer will go out twice a year.

She stated the majority of the registrations come from the senior population and younger population. Registrations have increased significantly. They will be looking to increase the adult (10-55 Year Olds) market. They offered numerous activities for that age group last year and plan on improving. The Adults Sports and Fitness group at the Community Center grew by 56%. They also started offering activities and programs at the schools and it has been working out really well.

There were 25 day and overnight trips offered last year. The biggest challenge with the day and overnight trips is they are now experiencing waitlists for the trips. The bus is getting older and will need to be replaced down the road. They have an 18 passenger bus now and will need to look into getting a bigger bus in the future.

The Senior Center offers an in house luncheon once a month and is averaging 55 people per luncheon. They also have been offering lunch bus trip every month where they transport seniors to a local restaurant. They average 14-15 people per trip.

The Summer Camps stayed even. They slightly raised the cost of the summer camp to \$200 for 8 weeks. They are offering many more activities and it is a week longer. They turned no one away. They lost about 30 people.

Health and Wellness educational seminars have increased. Swim lessons and aquatic fitness went slightly up. They didn't offer swim lessons last fall for various reasons. They have gone down in pool memberships for various reasons. They are looking to improve that.

The senior membership has grown by 53%. With the senior programs, you now need to have a senior membership to participate. As of last year, there are 176 people registered for the Fitness center and they have added another 25 people since January. The Fitness Center is only open during administrative hours for now. In the future they would like to have it open different hours but that would depend on staffing.

She discussed the transportation chart. The Senior Shopping trips stayed steady. Recreation trips and Senior Center increased. She stated they started utilizing the Community Center Bus for the Summer Camps. She discussed the various ways they utilize the Community Center bus for the seniors.

Mary discussed continued challenges regarding facility upkeep with traffic increasing in the building. She discussed the challenges with communication to residents. She also discussed the ongoing challenge of staffing as they get grow.

In 2018, they are now offering 4 days of free exercise classes for seniors. The Bocce court is in the process of being refurbished. They are also in conversations with United Way with regard to creating a Community Garden. They are also kicking off a Counselor in Training (CIT) program.

Al thinks it is great that registrations doubled from 2016-2017. He is impressed with what has been done and the programs that have been brought in. He thinks the CIT program is a great idea.

Len is impressed with the Senior Center numbers.

Mary stated people have definitely come back to the Senior Center. The word is getting around that they are doing more. There is a good mixture of old members and new members.

Len suggested looking into having programs for kids going on at the same time as programs for adults. This way it will give adults something to do as the kids are taken care of.

Mary thinks that is a great idea and they have talked about doing something like that.

Al thinks the idea of charging a nominal fee for the fitness center to allow staffing is a good idea. Mary stated there isn't that much equipment in there yet which is why they haven't done it in the past.

Annamarie is happy to see the Community Center growing.

Karen is impressed with the report. She thinks it is great to start a Community Garden and asked about a location.

ITEM #11: Tax Refunds/Abatements.

Motion to accept the Tax Collectors report dated February 6, 2018 as presented.

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

ITEM #12: Transfers.

None.

ITEM #13: Correspondence.

- Check registers.
- Correspondence from Joseph Luciano regarding enforcement police of parking regulations which will be attached to minutes of the meeting.
- Email from Bonnie Wilkes resigning from the Livable Communities Committee.
- Letter of resignation from Kim Osgood resigning from the Culture & Arts Commission.
- Official form for the State of Connecticut appointing Lianna McMurray as Acting Town Clerk March 1, 2018 through July 1, 2018.

ITEM #14: Public Comment.

None.

ITEM #15: Selectmen’s Public Comments.

Len Greene, Jr. commended Public Works for doing a great job with the most recent snow storm. Kurt stated the town has starting working with the Board of Education for operations. Public Works has been doing a great job cleaning up the Middle School.

Al Bruno thanked Mary McNellis for coming in and presenting. She is doing a great job. He commended Public Works on a job well done with the recent snow storm.

Annamarie Drugonis commended Public Works on a job well done with the recent snow storm. She also reminded everyone that Rise Up at the Middle School is happening soon.

Motion to go back to Item #9: Executive Session (Contract – Administrator’s Union)

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

ITEM #9: Executive Session (Contract – Administrator’s Union)

Motion enter into executive session at 7:51 P.M. with Town Counsel Richard Buturla

Motion: Len Greene, Jr.

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Annamarie Drugonis – Yes

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:07 P.M. with no motions or actions taken.

ITEM #16: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 8:08 P.M.

Motion: Karen Stanek

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Stephan Behuniak – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Second: Al Bruno

0-Abstain

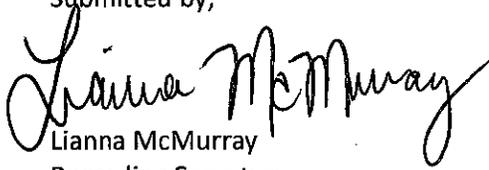
Al Bruno – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Karen Stanek – Yes

Len Greene, Jr. – Yes

Submitted by,



Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman

PUBLIC COMMENT & PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

February 17, 2018

Previous docs on subject: November 21, 2017, July 31, 2017

TO: •Town of Seymour, Office of the First Selectman, •Board of Selectmen**CC:** •Town Clerk; •ADA Compliance Officer; •Seymour PD;
•Advisory Committee for Livable Communities**From:** Joseph A. Luciano *Disability Rights Action Group of Connecticut*
DRAGconnecticut@yahoo.com .33 DeForest street, Seymour CT 06483-2894 203/463-8323~~This is Public COMMENT & Public CORRESPONDENCE for the next BOS meeting.~~**SUBJECT: Enforcement Policy of parking regulations and §§14-6, 1-9 is Discriminatory
(Enables Only Able-Bodied)**

This document is "MULTI-PURPOSE"—serving as PUBLIC COMMENT and CORRESPONDENCE, as well as an "Advisory." This is submitted to a BOS meeting. It is expected to be entered in meeting minutes or embedded. Copy has been sent to the Town Clerk to be recorded as an official record of communication from the public to ensure notification to the Town of Seymour.

On behalf of persons of all ages with disabilities and living or visiting Seymour downtown businesses or attractions, I am urging that

1. All and any vehicles **parked** in such a way that a part of the vehicle obstructs or encroaches² upon a sidewalk, crosswalk, or curbcut be ticketed and towed away.
2. All and any **curbcuts** whose slope has NO *LEVEL TOP LANDING* and runs across the established path of travel of a sidewalk be demolished immediately and replaced according to ADA specifications—i.e., having a level top landing. (Photo, page 3, shows ADA specs.); and
3. "**Snow Ordinances §§14-6, 1-9**³ be strictly enforced.

First, let us become familiar with **MOBILITY FACTS 101:**

1. "Wheeled" MOBILITY DEVICES include manual/powerd wheelchairs, scooters, walkers.
2. Riding MOBILITY DEVICES across slopes of 6 degrees⁴ or greater is a tip over hazard.
3. MOBILITY DEVICES can tip over when straddling hard pavement and soft earth: the wheel(s) on soft earth is/are likely to sink—resulting in tip-over.
4. Expecting a person using a MOBILITY DEVICE to "detour" around unreasonable obstructions whether vehicle or snow is discriminatory.
5. Permitting vehicles to obstruct or encroach on sidewalks is unreasonable.

¹ Feb. 20 (according to town website events calendar)

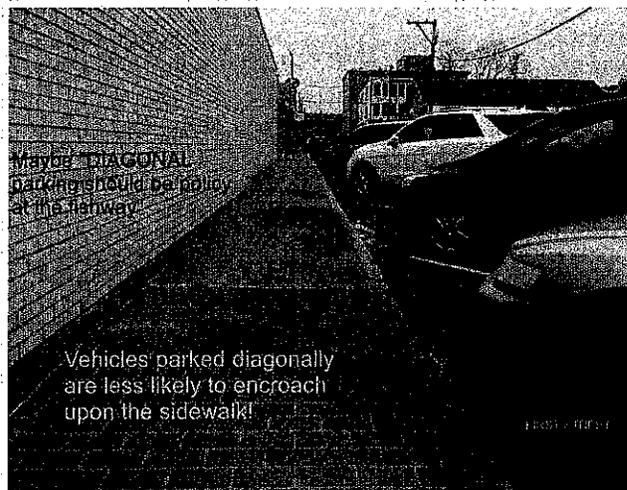
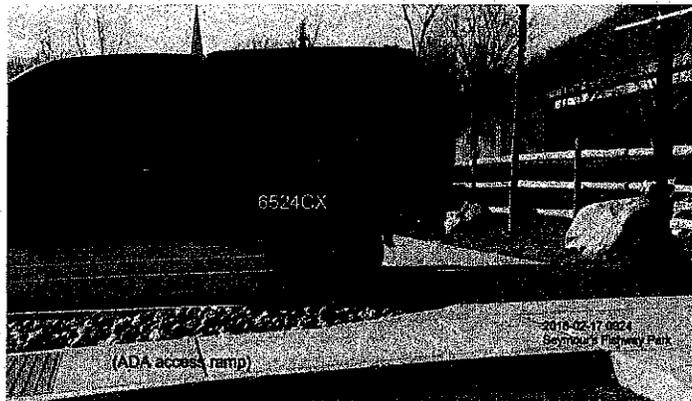
² intrude on a person's territory or a thing considered to be a right; trespass on, impinge on, obtrude on, impose oneself on, invade

³ §1-9 is the "enforcement" ordinance of §14-6.

⁴ 6 degrees = 10.5% slope = 1:10 slope.

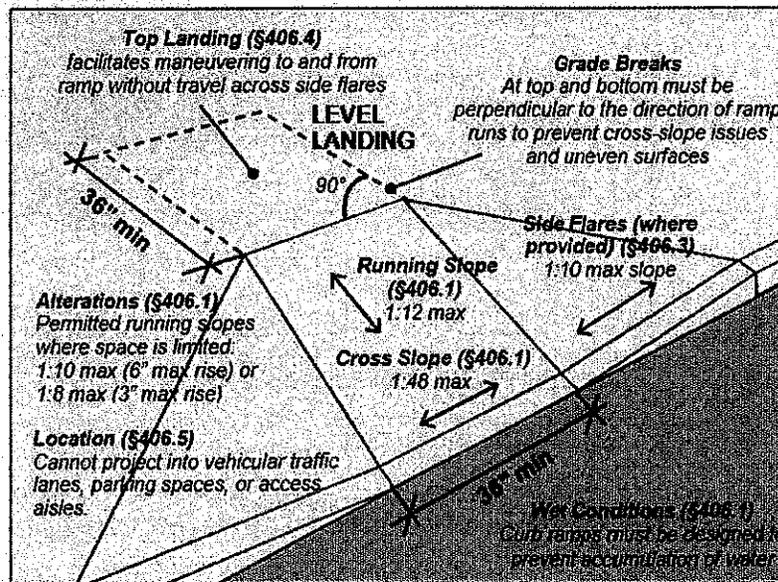
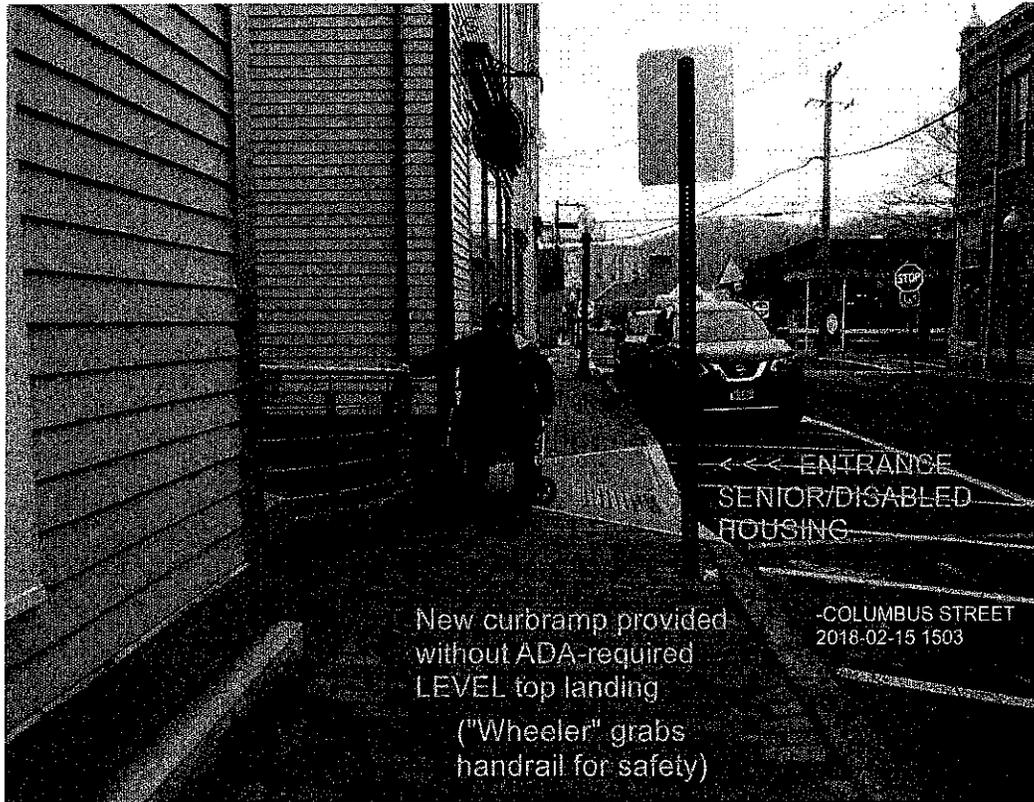
PUBLIC COMMENT & PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**Photos⁵ in this document show**

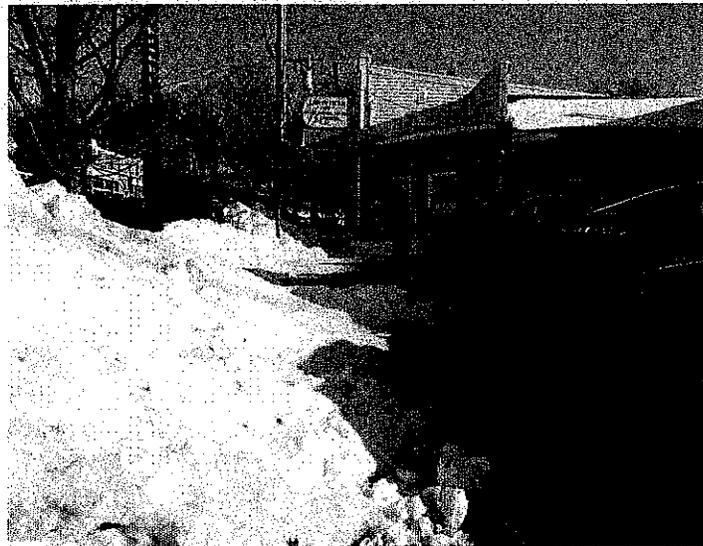
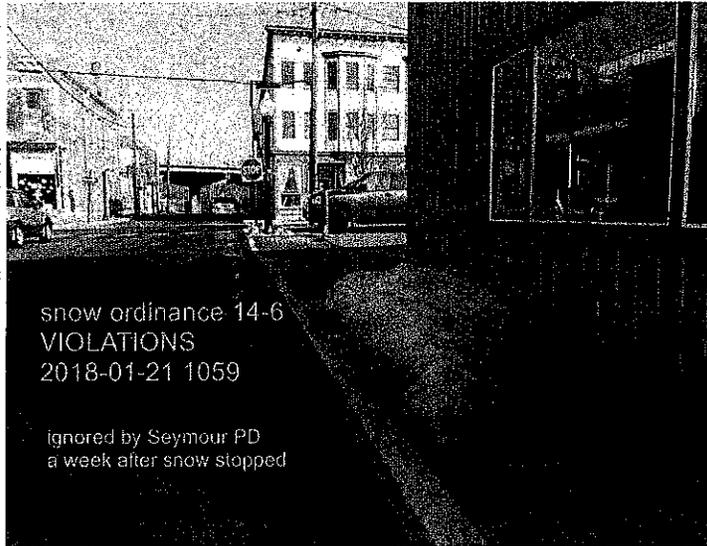
1. A **vehicle parked** so as to obstruct or encroach on the sidewalk. It is unreasonable to expect persons using MOBILITY DEVICES to detour around such obstacles because (as explained above in "Mobility Facts 101") these can *tip over* when straddling hard pavement and soft earth. Absent police enforcement has emboldened this vehicle operator to nullify or defeat the intended purpose of the sidewalk. If implemented, **Diagonal, or angle, parking** at Seymour's Fishway Park can prevent vehicles from obstructing or encroaching the sidewalk.
2. A **curbcut** recently constructed *without a level top landing* at the Columbus Street entrance to 16 Bank Street senior/disabled housing. Persons using mobility devices are forced to travel across a slope, which is a serious risk of tipping over.
3. Recently, badly **tilted and broken sidewalk** along First Street was replaced by faux brickwalk that is as hazardous because the work crew inexplicably *duplicated* the hazardous tilt of the original. Demolition and replacement without hazardous tilt⁶ is necessary. [SEE video https://www.facebook.com/5FingersPianomanJoe/videos/vb.100001047636306/1653530274691878/?type=2&theater¬if_t=video_processed¬if_id=1501497719263804](https://www.facebook.com/5FingersPianomanJoe/videos/vb.100001047636306/1653530274691878/?type=2&theater¬if_t=video_processed¬if_id=1501497719263804)
4. Barriers comprised of **snow** that should have been removed according to §§14-6, 1-9. Absent enforcement has emboldened the flouters.



⁵ Several hundred additional photos are available on request.

⁶ Slope exceeding 6 degrees is hazardous.





Joe Luciano

Joseph A. Luciano, 33 DeForest Street A24, Seymour CT 06483-2894
Home 203/463-8323

*Tenacious Advocate for Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Universal Design,
& Livable Communities through Full ADA compliance & Enforcement*

FOUNDER: Disability Rights Action Group of Connecticut DRAGconnecticut@yahoo.com

<http://www.nhregister.com/opinion/20170729/james-walker-barriers-lets-get-behind-joe>

<http://www.nhregister.com/opinion/20140928/editorial-still-a-tough-road-for-americans-with-disabilities>

<http://www.rep-am.com/news/local/931134.txt>

<http://www.nhregister.com/opinion/20170218/editorial-city-officials-must-enforce-its-snow-removal-ordinance>

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PUBLIC COMMENT & PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**SUGGESTED summary for BOS minutes (138 words):**

Seymour resident Joe Luciano submitted public correspondence and public comment. He states that curbscuts without level top landings are hazardous and in violation of ADA specs. He states also that hazardously tilted sidewalks must be replaced. Further, he states that vehicles obstructing or encroaching access routes (sidewalks, curbscuts, crosswalks) must be ticketed and towed; and offenders of the "snow" ordinance must be fined. He believes Seymour PD's disregard of enforcement regarding these issues emboldens flouters and denies persons with disabilities of their access & mobility rights. Allowing vehicles to obstruct/encroach sidewalks and allowing the "snow ordinance" to be flouted benefits only the able-bodied: Persons with disabilities are discriminated against in such circumstances, for only the able-bodied have free access & mobility. Furthermore, Seymour PD discretion not to comply with the "fine" mandate of §1-9 is dereliction of duty.