

**Town of Seymour  
Board of Selectmen  
MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 7:00pm  
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall**

**Members Present:** Robert Findley, Annmarie Drugonis, Kurt Miller, Al Bruno, Stephan Behuniak

**Members Absent:** Trisha Danka, Rob VanEgghen

**Others Present:** Rory Burke, Richard Buturla, Paula Burton, Joe Lanier

**Item #1 – Call Meeting to order**

First Selectman Kurt Miller called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**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 April 16, 2019 Regular Meeting**

Motion to approve Minutes from April 16, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis                      Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 5 – Yes                      0 – No                      0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – N/A                      Robert Findley – Yes                      Annmarie Drugonis – Yes                      Kurt Miller – Yes  
Al Bruno – Yes                      Robert VanEgghen – N/A                      Stephan Behuniak – Yes

**Item #5 – Approve Minutes from April 25, 2019 Annual Town Meeting**

Motion to approve Minutes from April 25, 2019 Annual Town Meeting

Motion: Bob Findley                      Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 3 – Yes                      0 – No                      2 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – N/A                      Robert Findley – Yes                      Annmarie Drugonis – Abstain                      Kurt Miller – Yes  
Al Bruno – Yes                      Robert VanEgghen – N/A                      Stephan Behuniak – Abstain

**Item #6 – Approve Minutes from April 25, 2019 Special Meeting**

Motion to approve Minutes from April 25, 2019 Special Meeting

Motion: Bob Findley                      Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 3 – Yes                      0 – No                      2 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – N/A                      Robert Findley – Yes                      Annmarie Drugonis – Abstain                      Kurt Miller – Yes  
Al Bruno – Yes                      Robert VanEgghen – N/A                      Stephan Behuniak – Abstain

## Item #7 – First Selectman’s Report

### First Selectman’s Report

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

1. I, along with several members of the CCM Executive Board met with Governor Lamont and his staff to discuss several issues facing towns and cities being proposed in the current budgets. The meet was very good, and the Governor was open to listening to our concerns and issues. A week later, we had the chance to meet again with the Governor’s senior staff to discuss next steps and potential outcomes. Issues that we have include Teacher’s Pensions, Improvements to the MBR calculations, adding a new tier to the MERS and tolls to name a few. We are expecting updates from the Governor’s office by end of this week.
2. Participated in the Men Who Cook event for Team Inc. I’d like to thank the staff at Alberto’s Restaurant in Seymour for their assistance in helping me prepare the penne alla vodka I served. It was a big hit.
3. I was honored on behalf of the entire Town Hall staff to host the annual National Day of Prayer Service. The event was well attended as always, and I’d like to personally thank the clergy for holding this event each year.
4. Met with the Emergency Management Team regarding communications. Going forward, we will be meeting monthly to review and plan the overall communications needs of the Town of Seymour, including all emergency services, DPW and the Board of Education.
5. Our new Director of HR Chris Pelosi had his first day last week and is already making much needed updates and changes to our HR Department. I’d like to thank Rory Burke for his time and effort holding that department together over the last two years.
6. Met with the PD to continue contract negotiations. I expect to have an update to this Board at some point in the next month or so.
7. Sat in on the interviews for the new Business Manager for the BOE to replace Rick Belden. I’d like to thank Superintendent Mike Wilson for including me in the process.
8. Finally, I’d like to thank everyone who came out for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Taco Eating Contest. In all, we raised over \$7,000 for Meals on Wheels.
9. There will be a Town Budget Vote on this Thursday, May 9, 2019 from 6am to 8pm @ the Community Center, 20 Pine Street. The residents will be voting on the two questions regarding the Budget for the Town and the Board of Education. At the request of the Board of Selectmen I will be sending out a Code Red Announcement tomorrow to remind residents to come and vote.
10. The meeting schedule for the Board of Selectmen will be the following dates for the months of remainder of May, June, and July:  
May 21<sup>st</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup>, June 25<sup>th</sup>, and July 16<sup>th</sup>  
Please mark your calendars accordingly.

**Item #8 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Building Permit Fee Schedule**

The First Selectman read the following letter from Jim Baldwin, Director of Land Use & Code Compliance:

To: The Board of Selectmen

From: James Baldwin

Re: Permit Fee's

Date: 5/1/2019

Please find attached a proposed sample of the Town of Seymour's application for building permit and related construction and mechanical permits.

Also presented for your review is a new Fee Structure to cover Planning and Zoning related applications and administration permits.

Due to the Changes made in the CT State Building Codes adopted on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 by the General assembly a significant increase of inspections on many areas of permit requirements has now been added for the Building Department.

Motion to approve the Building Permit Fee Schedule as presented by Jim Baldwin, Director of Land Use and Code Compliance

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Bob Findley

Vote: 5 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – N/A

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

**Item #9 – Discussion & Take Possible Action Regarding Zoning Permit Fee Schedule**

Motion to approve the Zoning Permit Fee Schedule as presented by Jim Baldwin, Director of Land Use and Code Compliance

Motion: Bob Findley

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 5 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – N/A

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

**Item #10 – Discuss & Take Possible Action Regarding NEMBA Trail Application**

Paula Burton, President of the Housatonic Valley Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association – 31 Longview Terrace, Newtown, CT, formerly of Seymour

- Would like to develop multi-use trails in the Seymour/Oxford area.
- Oxford has been creating trails in the Rockhouse Hill Preserve area and recently received a \$10,000 grant to expand these trails.

- The Keith Mitchell property combined with the Town of Oxford and DEEP properties has the potential to become a mountain biking destination.
- We are seeking your permission, and a letter of support to build a trail, approximately 1.5 miles in length, that would connect the Rockhouse Hill Preserve to the Keith Mitchell Forest, and then to the Route 34 parking lot on the corner of Squantuck Road and Roosevelt Drive.
- We have obtained a letter of support from the Town of Oxford.
- We are also seeking a letter of support from the Town of Seymour to extend trails into the Great Hill Block of the Naugatuck State Forest (Holbrook Road & Cemetery Road). This will move the HVNEMBA trail application for that property forward. HVNEMBA is applying to build 5 miles of trails in that parcel.
- Maps were attached showing both existing and proposed trails.
- Letter of support was also read in part from Chris DelSole, Seymour resident, supporting these trails.

Joe Lanier – 257 Chestnut Tree Hill Road, Oxford, CT, member of Inland/Wetland & Conservation Commission in Oxford and Science Teacher @ Oxford High School

- Have been on Rockhouse Hill trails for 12 years. Have met with First Selectman Miller and First Selectman George Temple about two years ago to get our high schools to work together. Want to engage the students at Seymour High School in the future as well. Worked with Paula Burton to form this chapter of NEMBA which has a lot of benefits.
- We have about 1,000 to 1,100 acres of contiguous property only crossed by two streets. Can go from Route 34 to Peach Farm Road in Oxford (near Fox Road in Seymour) only crossing Route 188 and Moose Hill Road. Our vision is to create a center for recreation in the area. Oxford is pretty far along on that but see the value in the Keith Mitchell piece of property. Offers a lot of opportunities. Kayak launch is nearby, lots of hiking choices also. Would like to expand the trail here.
- With NEMBA we can bring on adult volunteers to help with the trails.
- Al Bruno asked how many people use the trails in Oxford? – Joe said it is hard to tell. It is a seasonal thing. Currently we have 12 miles of trail and hope to expand that to 21 miles with the grant we have received. At this point we are not advertising the trails until they are more complete, with parking, etc. We are going to install the infrared counters to assess usage.
- Bob Findley asked if there is a local town that shows an example of what you are trying to do? Joe said that Rockland (in Madison) is about 25 miles (us 5 years from now). Paula said that you need about 20-25 miles of trail to be an attraction where people come on a regular basis. Joe said we have an advantage over Madison in that we have many attractions in the Valley & Seymour. This could put this place on the map for recreation.
- Stephan Behuniak asked how long it would take to blaze the new trails? Joe said that with NEMBA we would use the adult volunteers. Depends on how many people can work on it. These are hand dug trails, they take the environment into consideration when building. Stephan also asked if there is a downside to building just part of the trail? Joe said no, if they only got half way, the trail would just revert back to forest. About a mile/year is a good estimate.
- These trails can be used by hikers, bikers, dog walkers, walkers.

The only thing that they need to proceed is written permission from the Town of Seymour and a contact person (Rory).

- Rich Buturla said that he would need to see the mapping. In Oxford the youth are covered under the Town's General Liability. Only one bridge so far.
- Paula said that on the Keith Mitchell property there might be need for a few boardwalks, no stream crossings.

- The Keith Mitchell property has two sections. One owned by the Seymour Land Trust, and the other is owned by the Town of Seymour.
- On the Seymour side will stay away from the dam. We would stay on Town of Seymour land, not on the Land Trust property. If we get approval from Seymour, we would contact the Land Trust for their approval as well.
- Rich Buturla will look at the mapping and get together the proper paperwork. We can then make a decision to approve.
- The Oxford Conservation & Inland/Wetlands Commissions will keep the First Selectman informed.
- Joe & Paula will give their contact information to Rory.
- At the June 4<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen, we will bring this proposal back to the Board.

**Item #11 – Discuss & Take Possible Action Regarding Revaluation**

The First Selectman read a memo from the Assessor, Joe Kuziak:

We are currently using and have used Vision for over the last 18 years. We have had good relations in the past and are able to resolve issues quickly. We are satisfied with their services.

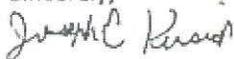
Even though the other revaluation companies are required to use Vision software, they may not utilize the software properly and could lead to additional costs and unwanted results.

Tyler Technologies and Municipal Valuations Services though qualified, in my opinion, would not meet the needs of Seymour as well as Vision. Also in consideration are the costs:

Municipal Valuation - \$170,000  
 Tyler Technologies - \$244,000  
 Vision - \$169,700

Therefore In my opinion as the Assessor for Seymour, it is my recommendation that Seymour’s Board of Selectmen approve Vision Government Solution to perform our 2020 Revaluation

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Kuziak, CCMA II

Motion that the Board of Selectmen accept the recommendation by the Town Assessor, Joe Kuziak, to award the bid for 2020 Revaluation to Vision Government Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$169,700.

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Stephan Behuniak

Vote: 5 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – N/A

Robert Findley – Yes

Anmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

**Item #12 – Discuss & Take Possible Action Regarding State Library Grant**

The First Selectman read a letter from Town Clerk Lianna McMurray:

Dear Kurt and Board members,

Every year our office applies for the State Library Grant through the Historic Documents Preservation Program. I am in the process of filling out the application and wanted to advise you what the \$5,500.00 grant will be used for once it is approved. The grant will be used to install new Vital Records Cabinets in our vault. This will create better storage and organization for our Vital Records dating back to the mid 1800's. We are looking forward to working with Dupont Storage Systems again for this project. They installed our new storage system in the back of our vault last year. I have attached the project proposal.

We are just approving the Town Clerk ability to apply for the grant.

Motion to approve the Town Clerk's ability to apply for the State Library Grant.

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Bob Findley

Discussion: Annmarie Drugonis said that the grant was for \$5,500 but the cost with DuPont Storage Systems is \$6,265.90. Where will the extra money come from? Kurt Miller said that it is in their budget. Stephan Behuniak asked if we need to send this contract out to bid? Rich Buturla said that this is under the bid amount. They should get quotes. DuPont may be on the State Bid List. We should check that there are no other requirements for the grant regarding bidding, quotes.

Vote: 5 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – N/A

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

**Item #13 – Discuss & Take Possible Action Regarding Ordinances**

**(a) Noise**

This will take a considerable amount of time to work through the details of the times and decibel levels. How would we monitor it? Would we need to get people trained? Special Equipment? Ordinance Committee is not asking for anything at this point. They need more time to discuss.

**(b) Surplus Equipment**

Will make some changes on the wording. Advertising section – defined bulletin board (next to Town Clerk's Office); CHANGE: for an amount less than \$200, would go on bulletin board; for an amount over \$200, change to social media or town website OR the Board of Selectmen can choose to advertise in newspaper ( this would be for higher priced items due to the cost of newspaper advertisements)

Other Town Departments offered the property via e-mail first before send out to newspaper. Any department may buy without going out to public bid or the Board of Selectmen (not the First Selectman) may transfer the equipment to any department at no cost. Will change to all departments have five working days to respond to e-mail. Will change the Bids shall be opened by the First Selectman or his designee and reported to the Board of Selectman at their next meeting. Highest bidder shall be notified by mail and the bulletin board. The highest bidder will have three working days to remit payment.

Rich Buturla will make these changes and come back with a corrected version. At our next meeting, the Board can then forward to Public Hearing, it will then come back to Ordinance Committee then back to Board of Selectmen for a vote.

**(c) Strategic Planning Committee**

Will change the "7 Members" to ""5 Members"; and "on a semi-annual basis the commission shall, at a minimum, meet with the First Selectman and the staff he or she deems necessary" will change that to "meet with the First Selectman and the staff the commission deems necessary".

Will give this one also to Rich Buturla to make necessary changes and will bring back to June 4<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen Meeting.

**Item #14 - Appointments**

Appointments May 7, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Name	Board	Type	Term	Expiration Date	Party
Joe Belletti	Tree Warden	Appointment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Steve Kulas	Motor Vehicle Hearing Officer	Reappointment	2 Years	<del>5/2/2012</del>	D

(typo) Should be 2021

Motion to approve the above appointments for 5/7/19 (with correction) as recommended by the First Selectman

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 5 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – N/A

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

**Item #15 – Tax Refunds/Abatements**

Motion to approve attached Tax Refunds Report dated 5/3/19 from Tax Collector as presented by Sue Boland

Motion: Stephan Behuniak

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 5 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – N/A

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

**Item #16 – Transfers**

None

**Item #17 – Correspondence**

- Letter from Town Attorney Richard Buturla to the Registrars of Voters specifying the two questions which will be voted at the Budget Referendum on May 9<sup>th</sup>
- Letter from CEA as follows:

The state legislature is considering a plan to shift state teacher pension costs to cities and towns as part of the final budget negotiations. The proposal will increase property taxes, cut school funding, undermine teaching and learning, and penalize school districts with more experienced teachers.

Based on estimates of municipal contributions for the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) and projected Education Cost Sharing (ECS) spending, this plan would result in a total reduction in state aid for Seymour.

These cuts will target public education and cause major hardships for our residents and our communities.

Below please find an estimate of the projected cut for Seymour:

Seymour

Cut in Total State Aid After TRS Cost-Shift (FY20): \$23,441

Cut in Total State Aid After TRS Cost-Shift (FY21): \$35,376

Total 2 Year Combined Cut of State Aid After TRS Cost-Shift (FY20+21): \$58,817

We urge you to contact your legislative delegation and tell them to reject this plan that hurts our communities and work for a budget that supports all of us.

First Selectman Kurt Miller said that if these cuts do happen, it would result in a tax increase in Seymour courtesy of the State.

- We have received the Seymour WPCA Budget. Annmarie Drugonis, Rich Buturla, Kurt Miller, and their attorney will meet next week to go over the budget and will update and report at the May 21, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting.

**Item #18 – Public Comment**

None

**Item #19– Selectmen’s Public Comment**

- Stephan Behuniak – strongly urged the WPCA to allow (set up) online bill paying. We will all miss Frank Conroy and thank him for his many decades of service to our Town and our Country.
- Al Bruno – many thanks to Kurt Miller for his help @ Warsaw Park for the “Men Who Cook” event for Valley United Way.
- Annmarie Drugonis – will bring up to the WPCA and its attorney about setting up online bill pay; learned a lot from Frank Conroy. He was a valuable asset to our town and will be sadly missed.
- Bob Findley – thanks to the Town Leaders who participated in the Taco Eating Contest for Meals on Wheels. We had good participation.
- Rory Burke – none
- Rich Buturla – Frank Conroy will be missed; he was a class act and a great public servant.

**Item #20 – Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 8:09pm

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 5 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Trisha Danka – N/A

Robert Findley – Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Kurt Miller - Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Robert VanEgghen – N/A

Stephan Behuniak - Yes

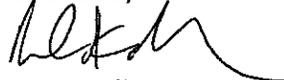
Submitted by:



Monica Dimon

Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:



W. Kurt Miller

First Selectman