

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
August 3, 2016
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: E. Lyman; S. Link; E. Malavasi

Also Present: D. Barlow; E. Blaschik; C. Dickinson; T. Dickinson; D. Dill; E. Dill; J. Dill; R. Dill; C. Gelston; T. Gelston; M. Gilroy; C. Nelan; C. Read; J. Rocznia; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Lyman called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of July 20, 2016.

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of their July 20, 2016 meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 20, 2016 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:
 - A. Letter from the East Haddam Public Library System Board of Trustees – Handicapped Access: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets, dated July 28, 2016, from the East Haddam Public Library System Board of Trustees requesting the Board of Selectmen's support for upgrading the Town's libraries with handicapped accessibility. Mr. Lyman advised that he met with Mr. Gilroy to discuss the request but noted that there is currently no money in the budget for the upgrades. He further noted that the Town does not currently own the East Haddam Free Library building and, consequently, cannot plan for upgrades to that facility. He stated that it would be up to the Library Board of Trustees to propose a plan and budget for the project and noted that Mr. Gilroy agreed to look into the potential for grant money for the upgrades.
 - B. Letter from the Board of Education to the Municipal Office Building Committee: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets addressed to the Municipal Building Committee, dated July 20, 2016 and signed by Board of Education Chairman Perry and Superintendent Reas. He noted that the Board of Education and Superintendent expressed concern about the amount of space allocated to the Board of Ed. He noted that the Municipal Office Building Committee will hold a public meeting on August 11th to present the proposed floorplan for the building and solicit feedback from the Town departments that will be moving to the new facility.

In response to a request from Mr. Lyman, Mr. Blaschik reviewed the process the Building Committee used to determine space allocations in the renovated building. He noted that the Committee has a finite amount of money for the project and, while they will do their best to accommodate space requests, not everyone will get 100% of what they ask for.

- C. CIRMA Members' Equity Distribution: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets from CIRMA, dated July 13, 2016, advising that the Town of East Haddam and the East Haddam Board of Education will receive a joint Members' Equity Distribution of \$15,371.00. Mr. Lyman noted that low insurance claims resulted in the distribution.

5. First Selectmen's Report

- A. Goodspeed Airport Scenic Easement: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packet related to this Agenda item, including a letter from the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. He noted that, until very recently, the Town had not been aware of Mr. Mellon's negotiations with the State to attach a scenic easement to the airport. He stated that if the easement were to be approved as requested, it would inhibit any future development of the area and, as a result, the Town has requested a portion of the property be removed from the proposed easement. Mr. Lyman stated that there is no action for the Selectmen to take at this time but he wanted them to be aware of the situation.

6. Citizen's Concerns: The following citizen's concerns were discussed:

- In response to a request made by Ms. Rocznik for a timeline for the Library's Board of Trustees' request to install handicapped access to the libraries, Mr. Lyman reiterated that nothing could be done to the East Haddam Free Library until the Town owns the building. He stated that it would be up to Mr. Gilroy and the Board of Trustees to investigate a solution and present a proposal and budget to the Town.
- Ms. Dickinson supported the Library Board of Trustees' request and noted the difficulty she has conducting business at the Town Office Building.
- In response to a question raised by Ms. Dickinson, Ms. Link confirmed that the Board of Finance would be looking at approving the grant payment to Middlesex Hospital at their next meeting.
- In response to a question raised by Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Lyman confirmed that Mr. Mellon's application to CT DEEP for a scenic easement included all of the airport property.
- Mr. R. Dill expressed concern that if DEEP approves Mr. Mellon's application, there can be no development of any kind on the site for perpetuity.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. School Drive/Road Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that it has been agreed that the legal name of the street under discussion should be School Road. He stated, however, that

since the school has been listing “School Drive” as their address, he has asked Public Works Director Lunt to create a sign that reads “School Road aka School Drive”.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to designate this road as School Road aka School Drive and send certified letters to all residents of the road explaining the designation. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business:

- A. Notice of Grant Recommendation – Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen’s attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding the State of Connecticut’s approval of a grant application from the East Haddam Senior Center. He stated that the CT DOT will award a grant for 80% of the cost of a wheelchair accessible vehicle. It was noted that the Board of Finance approved the grant application and that the matching 20% for the cost of the vehicle is in the Town’s budget.
- B. Wine Service Request for Approval – Rathbun Library: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen’s attention to an email from Michael Gilroy, dated July 26, 2015, in their meeting packets. He advised that the Friends of Rathbun Library are hosting an author event on August 19th and would like to serve wine.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve wine service at the Rathbun Library for a “Guest Author Event” on August 19, 2016. Unanimous aye.

- C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (Gateway, Library, Ethics): Mr. Lyman call the boards attention to several requests for changes to various boards and commissions.

Gateway Commission

Mr. Lyman noted that he does not wish reappointment as an alternate member on the Gateway Commission. He stated that he also spoke with Mr. Thomas who confirmed his desire to be reappointed as a regular member of the Commission.

Motion made by Ms. Link, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to accept Mr. Lyman’s decision to not seek reappointment as an alternate member to the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to reappoint Harvey Thomas as a regular member for a two-year term to expire June 30, 2018 on the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman advised that he had received two applications for the alternate position on the Gateway Commission. Ms. Link expressed concern that, in light of Mr. Thomas’ reappointment, the two applicants would not be considered for the regular member position. The motion passed by a majority of ayes.

Library Trustees

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Lucille Gardner noting her immediate resignation as a Library Trustee.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Lucille Gardner from the East Haddam Library System Board of Trustees. Unanimous aye.

Ethics Commission

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to the minutes of the Ethics Commission recommending the reappointment of Scott Jezek to the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to reappoint Scott Jezek for a three year term as a member of the Ethics Commission with a term to expire on June 30, 2019. Unanimous aye.

D. Tax Refunds: There were no tax funds considered at the meeting.

9. Public Comment: The following public comments were made at the meeting:

- In response to a question raised by Mr. R. Dill, Mr. Lyman and Ms. Zemienieski provided their recollection of Mr. Thomas' appointment to the Gateway Commission. There was a general discussion regarding how the issue of Mr. Mellon's application for a scenic easement for the airport had not been reported to the Town.

Mr. Read requested the Selectmen research where the lines of communication broke down regarding the Gateway Commission's involvement with Mr. Mellon's request for a scenic easement so that similar mis-steps could be avoided in the future.

Mr. Gelston noted that during his tenure on the Gateway Commission, the Commission kept in close touch with CT DEEP and noted that it appears there was a breakdown in the process this time.

Ms. Link agreed that reviewing the timeline for Mr. Mellon's application to CT DEEP, and Gateway's involvement, would provide insights into where the communication breakdown occurred. She stated that the Selectmen want to avoid problems like this in the future.

Mr. Blaschik provided some background on how membership on the Town's Boards and Commissions is originally established and how reappointments occur. He noted that regular reappointments are fairly standard practice and that was probably the case for Mr. Thomas' membership on the Gateway Commission.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. East Haddam Library System's Open House – Save the Date (September 24, 2016): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's and attendees' attention to the planned Library Open House.

Mr. Malavasi reported that he had spoken with a representative from the Freedom of Information Commission who had advised him that Selectmen can meet, informally, to "disseminate information" but could not make any decisions or take any action at those meetings. He also stated that he appreciated receiving the Board of Selectmen meeting packets earlier.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Lyman advised that the police had made a slight change to one of the forms they use for private duty work which caused confusion. He stated that he was revising the form for clarity and he informed the police that any changes must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Selectmen.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Unanimous aye

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Link, Secretary