

Board of Selectmen  
Grange Hall  
June 7, 2017  
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: B. Auld; E. Blaschik; L. Branscombe; C. Brownell; K. Budnick; M. Callahan; R. Casner; J. Chapman; D. Denette; C. Dickinson; T. Dickinson; D. Dill; E. Dill; C. Gelston; T. Gelston; I. Haines; A. Lord; L. Lusignan; B. Perry; T. Quinn; C. Riling; C. Varricchio; 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: Mr. Lyman stated that he wanted to add the following items to the agenda:

7.D. - Goodspeed Airport Scenic Easement

8.G. - Rathbun Library – Approval Request for Wine Service

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the agenda as amended.  
Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of May 17, 2017.

Regular Meeting of May 17, 2017: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 17, 2017 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.
5. First Selectmen's Report:

Mr. Lyman reported on the following items:

- He spoke with Mr. Parker regarding his comment to Ms. Pappas at CRT apologizing that Ms. Dickinson had contacted her. He noted that Mr. Parker apologized for the way it appeared on the email but his reference to Ms. Dickinson's call was an apology to Ms. Pappas for not explaining the situation better to the citizens. He felt if he had explained the situation better the citizens would not have felt it necessary to contact CRT directly.
- The following schedule has been proposed for the revaluation project: (a) residential field work to take place from 4/1/17 through 12/1/17, (b) commercial field work to take place from 5/1/17 through 9/15/17, (c) notices to be mailed to citizens by 11/12/17. The project should be wrapped up by January 18, 2018.
- There is a section of the Plan of Conservation and Development that the Board of Selectmen is responsible for and Mr. Lyman has invited representatives of the Planning & Zoning Commission to attend the June 21<sup>st</sup> Selectmen's meeting to discuss their expectations.
- Relative to the failed budget referendum, Mr. Lyman reviewed the follow-up process and noted the following tentative dates:

- June 12<sup>th</sup> – Joint Board of Selectmen (BOS) & Board of Finance (BOF) Meeting
- June 19<sup>th</sup> – BOF deadline for approving the budget
- June 27<sup>th</sup> – Budget Public Hearing
- July 1<sup>st</sup> – BOS establish mill rate in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes
- July 11<sup>th</sup> – Budget Town Meeting
- July 25<sup>th</sup> – Budget Referendum

Ms. Link and Mr. Malavasi noted that they will be out-of-town on July 1<sup>st</sup> and Mr. Lyman stated that a conference call could be arranged.

6. Citizens' Concerns: The following citizen's concerns were raised:

- In response to a concern raised by Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Lyman stated that he agreed that it would have been a good idea to send out a blast notice to citizens advising them when the Town's phones and computer lines were down recently.
- In response to a concern raised by Mr. Brownell, Mr. Lyman stated that he would ask Public Works install "No Thru Traffic" signs at Hungerford Road and Petticoat Lane to discourage traffic detours from the state bridge work on Route 82.
- In response to a concern raised by Ms. Riling, Mr. Lyman stated he would look into having the grass mowed by the intersection of Maple Avenue and Town Street.
- In response to a question from Mr. Gelston, Mr. Lyman stated that the location of the June 12<sup>th</sup> joint BOS/BOF meeting has not yet been finalized.
- In response to a concern raised by Mr. Gelston, Mr. Lyman confirmed that no Town funds have been used for the construction of the Mt. Parnassus tower and stated that the consequence of the Siting Council's requirement that the tower be 60' shorter than proposed is that the Town coverage originally anticipated will take a little longer to achieve. In response to Mr. Gelston's suggestion that an article about the status of the Mt. Parnassus tower relative to the Town's communication project should be published in the East Haddam newspaper, Ms. Budnick stated that she was a writer for the East Haddam News and she had written such an article which had been published in the newspaper previously.
- In response to a comment made by Mr. Lord, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the Connecticut Siting Council has jurisdiction over the Mt. Parnassus tower.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Shagbark Solar Project Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that Shagbark has paid a building permit fee of \$16,000.00. He also advised that, due to Eversource's decision not to conduct their work in parallel with Shagbark's, the project will be delayed slightly.
- B. Solid Waste Facility Ordinance Amendment Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item.
- C. Senior Center Usage Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that the Commission on Aging (COA) has been instructed to revisit their changes to the rules governing usage of the Senior Center by

outside organizations. Mr. Malavasi noted that since the COA does not have the authority to change the rules, the changes they made are not valid and he expects that any organization currently applying to use the Center should be governed by the original rules. There was a general discussion regarding this agenda item.

- D. Goodspeed Airport Scenic Easement: Mr. Lyman reviewed an email from Torrence Downes, dated June 6, 2017, which indicated that Mr. Gelston had requested clarification from Attorney Campbell regarding information he said he had received from the Chair of the Economic Development Commission that the airport was shutting down in three months. The email noted that Atty. Campbell advised that there are no plans to shut the airport down.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Lyman, Economic Development Commission Chairman Casner stated that he was not aware of any plans to close the airport.

## 8. New Business

- A. Ordinance Codification Discussion: Ms. Denette stated that the updates to the Town's ordinance book had begun in 2004 and she provided several examples of the updates. She stated that the Selectmen need to review the final draft and move the project forward to a public hearing. The Selectmen tentatively agreed to meet at 4:30 p.m. on July 18, 2017 to conduct their review of the updated draft ordinance book.
- B. Grant Acceptance – FY 2016 Emergency Management Performance Grant: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter from Deputy Commission William Shea of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection advising that the Town had been awarded an Emergency Management Performance Grant. Finance Director Varricchio provided clarification on several aspects of the grant.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to accept a grant in the amount of \$4,573.50 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, entitled "FY 2016 Emergency Management Performance Grant", and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

- C. Grant Acceptance – Consumer Reports: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Consumer Reports, Inc. advising the town of a monetary gift totaling \$25,000.00 that they wish to provide to the Town of East Haddam. Consumer Reports has prioritized their preference of projects pending budget funding from the Town in the 2017-2018 budget passage.

Consumer Reports has made a monetary gift totaling \$25,000.00 on behalf of the Town of East Haddam to be used as follows:

1. Heritage Park Lighting: First choice for funding should the town budget not allow for it. The project funding should include the \$8,000 provided for this project from last year's contribution in addition to any or all of the \$25,000 from this year required to complete the project.
2. LED Sign for New Municipal Complex: Assuming #1 is funded, \$17,000 of this year's distribution should be used to fund this project.
3. Senior Meals and Meals-on-Wheels Programs: Assuming #1 and #2 are fully funded, the remaining \$8,000 for this year's gift should be used in support of this program.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to accept a gift from Consumer Reports, Inc. for the Town of East Haddam in the amount of \$25,000 for completion of the following projects in priority order pending potential budget funding in the 2017-2018 budget: Heritage Park Lighting Project, LED Sign for New Municipal Complex and Senior Meals and Meals-on-Wheels Programs. Acceptance of said donation to be sent to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Lyman advised that he would send a letter of thanks to Consumer Reports for the gifts on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

- D. Volunteer of the Month Recommendation: Mr. Lyman noted that April is generally reserved for the nominations of student volunteers and called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Laura Corbett and Mary Little-Finnegan, School Counselors at Nathan Hale-Ray High School, recommending Sarah Gieseler and Kara Izzo as Volunteers of the Month. The letter states, in part,

*“While many of our Class of 2017 seniors donate their time to assisting the school and community, Sarah and Kara deviate from their peers. Their commitments to service, good character, and academia are admirable. They raise the bar for their peers with their consistent and generous donation of time to volunteer service.”*

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to name Sarah Gieseler and Kara Izzo as volunteers of the month for April 2017. Unanimous aye.

The public and Selectmen applauded the two nominees.

- E. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (COA, ESRBH, EHVRC, EDC): The following Board/Commission/Committee changes were discussed:

**Commission on Aging**

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a notice from the Commission on Aging, noting the recommendation made for reappointments to the COA.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to reappoint Jovita Cozean, Rosalie Hoffman and Alice Sabo as regular members for three-year terms to expire June 30, 2020 and Suzanne Bostelman and Mary Ellen Klinck as alternate members for one-year terms to expire June 30, 2018 on the Commission on Aging. Unanimous aye.

**Elementary School Renovation Building Committee**

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Jason Guernon, noting his resignation from the Elementary School Renovation Building Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Jason Guernon from the Elementary School Renovation Building Committee. Unanimous aye.

**East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee**

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to two resignations from the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee. The committee also made the recommendation to appoint James Curtin as a regular member to the committee at the May 30 meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to accept, with regret, the resignations of Phil Barlow and Eric Sabetta from the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to appoint James Curtin to fill a vacancy as a regular member on the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee with a term to expire at the completion of the project. Unanimous aye.

**Economic Development Commission**

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to an email dated June 1, 2017, noting a resignation from the Economic Development Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Myron Snow as an alternate member of the Economic Development Commission. Unanimous aye.

- F. Tax Refunds: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to one tax refund.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to award a tax refund in the amount as presented.

- \$298.49 to Vault Trust.

Unanimous aye.

- G. Rathbun Library – Approval Request for Wine Service: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Michael Gilroy, dated June 7, 2017, in their meeting packets. He advised that the Rathbun Library is hosting three events during the summer and would like to serve beer and wine.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve beer and wine service at the Rathbun Library for three events during the summer on June 16, 2017, July 19, 2017 and August 11, 2017. Unanimous aye.

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

- In response to a question from Ms. Gelston, Mr. Lyman stated he would email her a copy of the Town's Tax and Business Incentive Program Ordinance.
- In response to a question raised by Ms. Riling, Ms. Denette advised that the Town has received a proposal from its website developer. Ms. Zemienieski noted that the proposal is currently being reviewed by our IT staff and the project will move forward as time allows in the responsible staff members schedules.
- Ms. Dickinson stated that she believed some summer jobs have been filled by non-residents and asked if the positions had been advertised. Mr. Lyman stated that it is his preference that as many positions as possible be filled by Town residents and stated that he would look into the matter.
- In response to a question from Mr. Lusignan regarding potential revenue from renting the Senior Center, Ms. Zemienieski reported to the board that there is a \$100 fee to rent the Grange Hall and a refundable \$100 cleaning fee is also charged. Mr. Lusignan noted that the Town of Bethlehem

raises a substantial amount annually from building rental and suggested that the Town of East Haddam could do the same.

- In response to a question raised by Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Lyman advised that the Municipal Office Building Committee is a full charge committee.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

- A. DARE Graduation (June 13, 2017 @10 a.m.): Mr. Lyman stated that he has a scheduling conflict with the DARE graduation ceremony and asked if one of the other Selectmen could attend. Mr. Malavasi stated he believed he would be able to attend.
- B. Neighborhood Assistance Act Public Hearing (June 14, 2017 @7 p.m.): Mr. Lyman reminded the Selectmen and public of this public hearing.
- C. Boating Infrastructure Grant Project Event (June 19, 2017 @ 2 p.m.): Mr. Lyman reviewed the program for this event and invited the Selectmen and those in attendance to attend.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Link, Secretary