

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
July 20, 2011
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Pete Govert, Emmett Lyman

Also Present: E. Blaschik, R. Dill (arrived 7:15 p.m.), T. Gelston (arrived 7:10 p.m.); S. Mackinnon, S. Wheeler

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Walter stated that he would like to add the following New Business item to the agenda: 8.F. Appointment of Vacancy – Library Trustees. Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of July 6, 2011: Mr. Lyman noted a typo on the first page and Mr. Govert requested the first sentence of the 3rd paragraph under Agenda item 10. Selectmen's Discussion, be changed to read: *"Mr. Govert advised the Selectmen that he would not seek re-election for another term due to self-imposed term limits"*.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 6, 2011 as amended. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: There was no correspondence for discussion.

5. First Selectman's Report: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets from Mr. Scot Mackinnon advising that he and Selectman Govert have organized a field trip to Hardwick, VT to learn more about how that town has encouraged and fostered the development of their agriculture economy. At Mr. Walter's invitation, Mr. Mackinnon provided additional background and advised that several East Haddam individuals will participate in a 6-hour tour of the region's agricultural operations and Hardwick's Center for an Agricultural Economy. He advised that, in addition to travel expenses, there is a \$50 fee per person to participate in the tour.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, that the Board of Selectmen sponsor the field trip to Hardwick, VT, and expense it through the Selectman's Account. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter recommended changing the location of the Board of Selectmen's meetings to the Grange Hall. He stated that the Grange Hall offers more room to accommodate the public as well as more parking space. The Selectmen agreed to move their meetings to the Grange Hall effective August 3, 2011.

6. Citizen's Concerns: There were no citizens' concerns discussed at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: In response to a question from Mr. Walter, Mr. Blaschik advised that the cinderblock building under construction will be the maintenance garage and that vertical boards will be installed over the cinderblock to give the building the appearance of a barn.

C. Old Middle School: There was no update on this agenda item.

D. Internet Usage Policy Discussion: The Selectmen agreed to table the discussion of the Internet Usage Policy for this meeting.

E. Nichols Property Logging Discussion: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets related to the Conservation Commission's proposal to contract for forestry services to oversee sustainable harvesting of timber on the Nichols Open Space parcel. He asked Mr. Gelston to provide more information on the proposal.

Mr. Gelston advised that the proposal was a follow-up to the Conservation Commission's February 10th presentation to the Selectmen. He stated that the purpose of harvesting timber from the Town's Open Space properties was two-fold: (1) to improve the woodlands and maintain a healthy growth of trees which will make the properties more appealing to hikers, and (2) to develop a source of revenue that can be used to continue to maintain the Open Space properties.

Mr. Gelston stated that logging was a complex operation which required the knowledge and skills of a professional forester to be done properly and safely. He advised that the Conservation Commission had solicited bids from foresters to act as the Town's agent in harvesting timber on the Nichols Open Space parcel. He stated that the Commissioners recommend awarding the contract to Connwood Foresters, Inc. who will draft a proposal, oversee the bidding process, prepare the stand, and monitor the work. He advised that the agent will get the Selectmen's approval before signing any agreement.

In response to questions from the Selectmen, Mr. Gelston advised that the fee for Connwood's services has been capped at \$6,500 and that it was anticipated that the gross revenues from the logging would be approximately \$10,000. He stated that the contract with the forester was written so that the worst case scenario was that the Town would breakeven on the project. He confirmed that, if this pilot project was successful, the Conservation Commission would like to expand and continue sustainable harvesting of timber on other Open Space parcels. He also confirmed that the contractors must be bonded and there were no future logging rights included in the contract.

Mr. Walter suggested the Conservation Commission include information about the project on their website and Mr. Govert recommended including an article with pictures of the project in the next Events Magazine. There was a general discussion regarding the vulnerability of local trees to various insects and diseases.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, that the Board of Selectmen support the concept of sustainable harvesting of timber on the Town's Open Space parcels and that the First Selectman move forward with a contract for Forestry Services to oversee the logging project on the Nichols Open Space property. Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen thanked the Conservation Commission and Mr. Gelston for their work on this project. Mr. Gelston thanked the Selectmen for their support and he and Mr. Dill left the meeting at this time.

F. Chester/Hadlyme Ferry Discussion: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to information in their meeting packets regarding the proposed closing of the Connecticut River ferries. He advised that the Town of Lyme has allocated \$2000 to impose a stay on the elimination of the ferry service. There was a general discussion about the increased traffic over the swing bridge as a result of the work on the Arrigoni bridge and need for the Chester/Hadlyme ferry as an alternative for getting across the river in the area. Mr. Blaschik recommended getting a traffic-counter to document the increase in traffic on the swing bridge and Mr. Walter stated he would follow-up on the suggestion.

Mr. Walter advised that the town of Lyme has asked three other towns, including East Haddam, to share the cost of putting the stay in place. The Commissioners discussed the advantages and potential down-side of participating in the action.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to support the town of Lyme in its efforts to legally impose a stay on the State of CT's proposal to eliminate the Chester/Hadlyme ferry service and to contribute a maximum of \$1000.00 toward that effort. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business:

A. Call for Town Meeting: The Selectmen discussed the call to send various items to Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the following call for Town Meeting:

The Electors and citizens of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut qualified to vote in Town Meeting are hereby warned and notified that a Special Town Meeting will be held in the Town Meeting Hall on Town Street in the said Town of East Haddam at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 for the following purposes, to wit:

Item 1: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen that the ordinance entitled "Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled in the Town of East Haddam", adopted February 3, 2009, is hereby amended to be effective for the Grand List years of 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 and that the requirement for applications for benefits be changed from "filed annually" to "filed biennially". Copies of said ordinance are on file in the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

Item 2: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Selectmen to accept the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Meeting authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept the following certain conveyances, to wit:

1. A certain Conservation Easement and Restriction granted by CLARK GATES, LLC acting herein by its sole Member, Robert Casner to the TOWN OF EAST HADDAM, affecting certain property described on a certain map entitled "Subdivision Plan 'Homestead' Subdivision Bogel Road East Haddam, Connecticut Scale 1" = 100' Date 01-03-2006 Revised through 08-11-2006" prepared by Richard F. Mihok, P.E. 18 Laurel Lane, Marlborough, CT 06447, said map #3994 being on file in the Land Records of Town of East Haddam, and that the First Selectman is hereby authorized to execute

into such Conservation Easement and Restriction on behalf of the Town.

2. A certain Drainage and Maintenance Easement granted by CLARK GATES, LLC acting herein by its sole Member, Robert Casner to the TOWN OF EAST HADDAM, as shown on the survey map referenced herein.

3. A certain Turning Easement granted by CLARK GATES, LLC acting herein by its sole Member, Robert Casner to the TOWN OF EAST HADDAM, as shown on the survey map referenced herein. Said map being on file with the Town Clerk of the Town of East Haddam.

Item 3: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Selectmen to accept the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Meeting authorize the First Selectman to accept a Quitclaim deed from the Rotary Club of East Haddam, Inc. of a certain parcel of land known as Edgar D. Williams Memorial Park containing approximately three and one-half (3 ½) acres as shown on the Town of East Haddam Assessor's Map 17-L079 and more particularly described in said Quitclaim deed subject to the condition that the property remain named in recognition of Edgar D. Williams, Sr. The proposed deed for this conveyance is available at the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of East Haddam for public inspection.

Item 4: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to accept a grant in the amount of \$3,830.00 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, entitled "Connecticut Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund", for the purpose of improving local air quality by replacement of lawn and grounds maintenance equipment; said grant requiring grantee match of 20% (revenue account 701-410155 and expense account 750-574202).

Item 5: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a grant in the amount of \$26,625 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation, entitled "FY 2011 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program".

Item 6: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that a grant in the amount of \$3,500 is hereby accepted from the State of Connecticut, State Library, for the purpose of historic document preservation and appropriated to Fund 14 - Historic Document Preservation Fund; and that Mark B. Walter, First Selectman, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality, a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Document Preservation Grant.

Item 7: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a gift in the amount of \$10,000 from Consumers Union of United States, Inc. for the lighting project in front of the Town Hall and Grange Hall properties (revenue account 79-431510-G1201 and expense account 79-541750-G1201).

Unanimous aye.

B. Swing Bridge Opening Discussion: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter he planned to send to Coast Guard Commander Gary Kassof, dated July 20, 2011, regarding instituting a once an hour schedule for bridge openings. The Selectmen supported the proposal and Mr. Walter agreed to keep them updated on Commander Kassof's response.

C. Energy Star Benchmarking for East Haddam/Town Wide Energy Audit: Mr. Govert advised that he has been working with Mr. Carpenter and members of the Board of Education regarding a town wide energy audit. He stated that he had also spoken with Mr. Leahy of Eastern CT State University's Institute for Sustainable Energy about the possibility of his students conducting a benchmarking study of East Haddam's energy usage. He confirmed that this was the same project that Mr. Walter has been working on with Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Walter agreed to continue to move the project forward. Mr. Govert noted that several significant changes have been made to the state's solar legislation and recommended that Mr. Walter review the changes.

D. Commission Reappointments: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email from Deb Mathiasen dated July 7, 2011 recommending various reappointments on the Economic Development Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to reappoint Patricia Stricker, Michael Gionta, Robert Casner and Gerry Rucker as regular members on the Economic Development Commission for five-year terms to expire June 30, 2016. Unanimous aye.

E. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds for consideration at this meeting.

F. Appointment of Vacancy – Library Trustees: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter from Joanne Maynard dated July 20, 2011 recommending the appointment of Earle Blanchard to fill the balance of the term created by the death of Judith Bos on the Board of Library Trustees.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Earle Blanchard to the Board of Library Trustees to fill the balance of a vacant term to expire at the next municipal election. Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: There was no public comment at this meeting.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: Mr. Govert reported that he had spoken with Mr. Keith Frame of the CT Clean Energy Fund regarding micro hydro-power plants. He stated that Mr. Frame had told him it was hard to get federal approval for hydro-power plants, however, old mill sites have generally been grandfathered in. Mr. Govert recommended the Town partner with the Clean Energy Fund on this project. Mr. Walter agreed to e-mail Mr. Govert pictures of the site so he can forward them on to Mr. Frame.

Mr. Walter noted that he had gathered some information about flow-metering devises that could be used to accelerate water flow. Ms. Wheeler stated that Dr. Al Gates, Chairperson of Central CT State University's Engineering Department, had informed her that his students had done an analysis of water flow at the site and he offered to share the information with the Town. She agreed to ask Dr. Gates to get in touch with Mr. Walter.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Tape 648A
648B

Emmett Lyman, Secretary