

Board of Selectmen  
Grange Hall  
July 18, 2012  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Emmett Lyman and John Blaschik (arrived 7:30 p.m.)  
Also Present: C. Behilo, S. Mackinnon, P. Simmons, J. Stone

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of June 20, 2012 and Special Meeting of June 27, 2012.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 20, 2012 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 27, 2012 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter reported that he had received an e-mail from Margaret Smith-Hale, dated July 16, 2012, in which she advised that the Methodist Church has created a committee to “... *reach out to the community and help provide resources that are not currently available*”. He stated that the committee has asked the Town to “...*please send us your wish list*”.
5. First Selectmen’s Report: Mr. Walter reported that Council of Government has signed a lease, with an option to purchase, on a building in Essex. The building will be used for office and meeting space for the Council.

Mr. Walter also advised that he and Mr. Ventres will be meeting with representatives from the Town’s Fire, Emergency Management, and Health Departments to discuss an expansion of Company 1. He stated that he has hired a civil engineer to facilitate the meeting.

A. Agriculture Commission Grant – Scot Mackinnon & Jessica Stone: Mr. Walter invited Mr. Mackinnon and Ms. Stone to speak about the STEAP grant that the Agriculture Commission is pursuing. Mr. Mackinnon reported that EDC Coordinator Simmons has assisted the Agriculture Commission in drafting the grant application and that it is substantially complete. He and Ms. Stone stated that the Agriculture Commission is applying for \$466,400 in grant funds to construct and fit out a barn that will include a commercial kitchen as well as office and meeting space. The project also includes construction of one greenhouse and two high-tunnel greenhouses.

There was a general discussion regarding the numerous requests, both from within and outside of the Town, for access to a commercial kitchen. Ms. Stone stated that the project will serve many purposes, including educational, and that it will function as an incubator for agriculture-related small businesses.

Mr. Walter provided them with several questions that they should be prepared to respond to at their meeting with the Board of Finance and suggested that they provide the members of the Board of Finance with copies of the draft application to review prior to the meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to enthusiastically endorse the Agriculture Commission's proposal to submit a STEAP grant application and to move their request forward to the Board of Finance. Unanimous aye.

6. Citizen's Concerns: There were no citizen's concerns discussed.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Proposal to Exempt Class I Renewables from Building Permit Fees: There was no update on this agenda item.

B. Three Bridges Road Bridge Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item.

C. Tax Exempt Handicapped Vehicles: There was no update on this agenda item.

D. Internet Usage Policy Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item.

E. Clark Gate Road Boundary Dispute: Mr. Lyman stated that he had given a good deal of thought to Mr. Fortier's petition to the Board of Selectmen to deem his property line as uncertain. He noted that Mr. Fortier's request had come before the Board of Selectman previously and that the Selectmen sitting on the Board at that time had deemed the boundary certain and that it was within the Board of Selectmen's authority to make such a decision. He noted that Mr. Fortier could have appealed the decision at the time and did not do so. It was Mr. Lyman's opinion that the Board of Selectman has already ruled on this issue and that Mr. Fortier's only recourse, at this time, is to contest the decision through the courts. The Selectman agreed with Mr. Lyman's opinion and no further action will be taken on this issue.

8. New Business

A. Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement – State of Connecticut: Mr. Walter explained that the Town has requested that the State include the construction of a new concrete sidewalk as part of the project to replace bridge number 02501 on Route 82 over the Succor Brook. He noted that since there is no sidewalk there now, the State will require the Town to assume full responsibility for all liability, maintenance and repairs associated with the new sidewalk. Mr. Walter advised that the State requires a signed agreement with the Town and a resolution with the agreement authorizing him to sign the agreement.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Mark B. Walter, First Selectman, be, and hereby is, authorized to sign the agreement entitled:

Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement between The State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation and the Town of East Haddam for Construction of a Concrete Sidewalk on the Eastbound Approach to Bridge No. 02501 along the Southerly Side of Route 82 over Succor Brook.

Unanimous aye.

B. Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a memo from Deb Denette in their meeting packets, dated May 15, 2012, recommending Bryan Perry be named a Volunteer

of the Month. Ms. Denette noted, *“Bryan handles the paperwork for the little league which is a HUGE undertaking ...[and] works tirelessly as a member of the Board of Education”*.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to name Bryan Perry as volunteer of the month for July 2012. Unanimous aye.

C. Commission/Committee Status Change, Reappointments & Appointments (IWWC, CONS, GREEN, HDC):

### **Inland Wetlands and Watercourses**

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a letter in their meeting packets from Randy Dill, Chairman of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, dated June 29, 2012, recommending a status change and several reappointments.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to change the status of Jennifer Burton-Reeve from an alternate to a regular member on the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission to fill a vacant two-year term to expire June 30, 2014. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to reappoint Randolph Dill as a regular member and Susan Odell as an alternate member for two-year terms to expire June 30, 2014 on the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission. Unanimous aye.

### **Conservation Commission**

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of an email from Cynthia Matthew, dated July 11, 2012, advising that the Conservation Commission voted to recommend an appointment.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Charlotte Gelston as an alternate member on the Conservation Commission to fill a vacant two-year term to expire June 30, 2014. Unanimous aye.

### **Green Committee**

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to appoint Steven Baklik and Charlene Riling as regular members to fill vacancies on the Green Committee. Unanimous aye.

### **Historic District Commission**

Mr. Walter advised that the recommendation to appoint an alternate on the Historic District Commission would be tabled until the paperwork has been completed.

D. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to one tax refund.

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

- \$59.39 to Edmund Gubbins Jr.
- Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion: There was no discussion at this meeting.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary