

**MINUTES
TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING**

June 29, 2015

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Monday, June 29, 2015. In attendance were First Selectman Stevenson, Selectmen Hall, Marks, Nielsen and Tierney.

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

ADJOURN to Executive Session for Interviews

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. with attendance limited to the Board.

ADJOURN to Open Session

The Board of Selectmen returned to open session at 7:15 p.m.

INTRODUCTION of Pamela Gery, Parks & Recreation Director

First Selectman Stevenson offered an official welcome to new Parks & Recreation Director Pam Gery. Ms. Gery was happy to be in Darien and has been on the job for three weeks. She has been meeting with staff and getting an appreciation for the Park & Recreation Commission's goals. The staff has been warm and welcoming. Ms. Gery expressed an interest in understanding the Board of Selectmen's goals.

PRESENTATION on Conclusions of Consolidated Services Working Group

Frank Huck, Chairman of the Consolidated Services Working Group (CSWG) distributed a report on the CSWG's study and conclusions. He described the background and charge given to the group to explore cost savings opportunities between the Board of Education and the Town. The Group focused on healthcare and facility maintenance.

Mr. Huck noted that healthcare might be a topic to be revisited in the future when the "Cadillac Tax" is implemented as part of the Affordable Care Act. He noted that both the Board of Education and the Town have deliberate and careful approaches to healthcare and the management of benefits.

He emphasized the need for the parties to meet and keep the lines of communication open. Quarterly meetings were suggested for leadership to meet and discuss where the parties can work together.

Mr. Nielsen felt the effort broke the ice and progress was made at the staff level. The effort was a process both sides should go through continuously. Mr. Nielsen expressed an interest in revisiting evolving healthcare issues. Mr. Huck made note of the other areas where the parties are cooperating.

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Mr. Tierney questioned the different approaches used by the Board of Education and Town in buying healthcare. Mr. Huck noted that both sides watch the steps taken by each other but have different approaches with different advisors. He offered that the Town was perhaps more analytical and the Board more aggressive in going to different carriers. The Board is a bigger pool of employees and there are different employee demographics on the two sides. The discussion continued regarding joint bidding of healthcare coverage.

First Selectman Stevenson characterized the process as one of breaking down barriers to communication. She added that the staff was committed to working together.

Ms. Marks felt that Mr. Huck should brief the RTM on the process and its results.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment was offered.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

1. It's with very mixed emotions that I accepted Karl Kilduff's resignation this - morning. Karl has been afforded a very unique opportunity to become the Executive Director for the Connecticut Housing and Finance Authority, a quasi-state agency created by the State legislature in 1969, to help alleviate the shortage of affordable housing in our state. As Chairman and former First Selectman for Darien, CHFA Chairman, Evonne Klein knows very well Karl's skill and management expertise. She's made an excellent choice in hiring Karl for the job and we wish him all the best. Perhaps Karl's first-hand knowledge of the challenges of state mandates will ultimately help the Town of Darien and other towns like us see some mandate relief over time.
2. I'm pleased to announce the hiring of W. Lee Palmer as our new Director of Human Resources. He joins us with over 40 years' experience in Human Resource, Government and School Administration. 28 years of his career was spent working for the State of Connecticut in a variety of Human Resources, Labor Relations and administrative capacities. We welcome Mr. Palmer here on Monday, July 6th.
3. Health Director, David Knauf has been seeking funding for the past 3 years for DNA bacteria source tracking to determine bacteria sources in the Goodwives River. This is a cooperative project with the Westport/Weston and East Shore Health Districts. There will be 2 additional tributaries in those areas tested. Testing begins this July and the final report will be available within 18 months.
4. Congratulations to the Darien Police Department for completing training in "Fair and Impartial Policing". Every officer completed the training.
5. On behalf of the Town of Darien, I want to thank Chris Filmer, the architect and guardian of Selleck's Woods for his extraordinary time and talent spent over the past 30 years planning and implementing a restoration of this beautiful nature sanctuary. On June 14th, the Darien Land Trust honored Chris by placing a bench on the shore

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of Dunlop Lake. Please take some time this summer to discover Selleck's Woods if you haven't already and think of Chris and all he's done to make this an incredible treasure for our town.

6. Eversource is completing enhanced tree trimming along Old Kings Highway North, Brookside Road and near the Darien Train Station. These areas are on the "backbone" of the electricity grid here in Darien and have proven to be highly problematic in past storms. Extra due diligence has been given by Eversource, their contractor Lewis Tree, our town Tree Warden and a representative from the Tree Conservancy.
7. Update on the purge of the commuter parking permit wait lists: Our parking administrator, Anne DiCeglie has removed 801 people from the Leroy West wait list. The list stands at 713. This was a 55.7% reduction. She is working through the Noroton Heights list and has already removed 362 of the total 1400.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kilduff thanked the Board for their support and described the transition process. He also provided the Board with an overview of the union contract with the Town Hall Union which was approved by the RTM and Board of Finance, but was not acted upon by the Board of Selectmen due to the lack of a quorum.

Mr. Tierney questioned Mr. Kilduff on re-issuing the scope of work for an EMS Consultant. Mr. Kilduff made note of correspondence from Post 53, which was scheduled for a discussion, and the letter would shape a revision to the scope of work. First Selectman Stevenson offered that the matter be deferred to a future Board meeting when the letter from Post 53 could be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Discuss and Take Action on Granting Permission to Hold the 36th Annual Darien Road Race on September 13, 2015**

Mr. Nielsen moved, seconded by Mr. Hall, to grant permission to the Community Fund of Darien to hold the 36th Annual Darien Road Race to take place on Sunday, September 13, 2015 starting at Pear Tree Point Beach, subject to the requirements of the Darien Parks & Recreation Department and the Darien Police Department. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

APPOINTMENT/RE-APPOINTMENT

Consider and take action on the following appointment:

- a) **Appointment of Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee**

Mr. Frank Adelman was acknowledged to report on the appointees to the Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee. He described the work of his committee in recommending a slate of volunteers to serve and the search process to recruit residents. The committee found 12 individuals which were further reduced to seven

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possible appointees or nine appointees if the Board of Selectmen wished to expand the membership of the Advisory Committee.

Seven appointees included, Ted Hawkins, Terry Duffy, Holly Schulz-Amatruda, Bert von Stuelpnagel, Beth Harmon, Suzanne Handler and Jennifer Morgan. The Committee recommended expanding the size of the Advisory Committee to nine members which would add the names of Pat Morrissey and Joanna Garrett.

First Selectman Stevenson thanked Mr. Adelman for his report and the Committee's work. She asked the Board of Selectmen to support expanding the Public Infrastructure Advisory Committee to nine members.

Mr. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Reilly, to appoint nine members to the Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee which included Ted Hawkins, Terry Duffy, Holly Schulz-Amatruda, Bert von Stuelpnagel, Beth Harmon, Suzanne Handler, Jennifer Morgan, Pat Morrissey and Joanna Garrett. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Consider and take action on the following re-appointments:

- a) **Keith Kearney to the Environmental Protection Commission for a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2015 and expiring on June 30, 2018**
- b) **Eric Joosten to the Environmental Protection Commission for a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2015 and expiring on June 30, 2018**

Ms. Marks moved, seconded by Mr. Nielsen, to appoint Keith Kearney to the Environmental Protection Commission for a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2015 and expiring on June 30, 2018 and Eric Joosten to the Environmental Protection Commission for a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2015 and expiring on June 30, 2018. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

AGENDA REVIEW

It was noted that future meeting would include discussion of Post 53 as well as purchasing streetlights from Eversource. Mr. Campbell was confirmed as attending the July 20 meeting to report on the Board of Education Central Office and Mather Center building projects.

Ms. Marks reported on the July 4th fireworks making note of the rain date, availability of \$25 parking passes in the Town Hall and a thanks to all of the sponsors of the event. The Town of Darien was also thanked as the budget included funding to defer the cost of Police overtime to cover the event.

First Selectman Stevenson also noted the Push-n-Pull Parade on July 4

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr. Nielsen moved, seconded by Mr. Hall, to approve the Special Meeting minutes of June 1, 2015. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

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Ms. Marks moved, seconded by Mr. Hall, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of June 1, 2015. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Karl F. Kilduff

Town Administrator