

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: 1st Selectman David Campbell; David Bayne;
Callie Sullivan; Jayme Stevenson

STAFF: Karl Kilduff, Administrative Officer

OTHERS: Sandra Filmer, Deepika Saksena – Darien Choose to Reuse;
Rhonda Sherwood, Board Member Mt. Sinai Children’s
Environmental Health Center;
Hannah Carmody, Katie Maccarone, Katie Steuber,
DHS APES (Advanced Placement Environmental Science);
Gene Sideman, Liz Mowe, Jeff Weiser, Westport RTM members;
Carol Wilder-Tamme, Darien Chamber of Commerce;
Connie Melvin, Darien Environmental Group;
Meighan Grady, Darien resident, Greens Farms Academy student;
Tory Holdt, Darien resident, Teacher;
Karen Hughan, landscape designer;
Lynn Hamlin, Darien Nature Center

CALL TO ORDER

1st Selectman Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

PRESENTATION FROM “CHOOSE TO REUSE”

Several members of Darien’s “Choose to Reuse” group gave a presentation on the benefits of reusing plastic bags. Sandy Filmer, Deepika Saksena, APES (Advanced Placement Environmental Science) Class, Westport RTM members, and various members of the community all spoke on this compelling issue.

- Ms. Filmer spoke from the powerpoint presentation. Plastic bags cannot be recycled through Darien’s recycling program; only paper bags can be. Plastic bags last forever, and less than 5% are recycled in the US. The rest end up in the ocean, waterways, and throughout the land. They do not biodegrade, they photodegrade. Research suggests that there is 40% more plastic bags than there is plankton. More than 1 trillion bags are used annually. 450 plastic bags per adult per year are used in Darien, which means there are approximately 6 million plastic bags disposed of each year. 100,000 marine animals and birds die each year from plastic related debris.

- Choose to Reuse has been working for 2 ½ years to educate family and friends. They have gained support from the EPC, key community leaders, leading environmental organizations, and as many as 300 Darien citizens. There would be a six-month grace period from the onset of the ordinance to the start of the program. This time frame would allow the merchants to use up their existing inventory of bags. She said enforcement would include citizens reporting violations, and it would include a citation and/or fine. Choose to Reuse is asking residents to support the ordinance that will encourage the use of reusable bags – and end the use of plastic retail bags. Members will organize and lead the campaign at no cost to the town of Darien.
- The plastic bag ban is currently in use in 13 US towns and 18 international cities/countries.
- Westport, CT passed the ordinance 2 ½ years ago with no major compliance issues at no cost to the town. Two separate surveys show more than 50% use of reusable bags after one year. The benefit to consumers/merchants includes Whole Foods offering a 10 cent rebate per bag and Stop & Shop offering a 5 cent rebate per bag.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

1st Selectman Campbell said that he was recently at a meeting in New Britain where they weren’t able to settle with the judges in the case of West Avenue and Leroy Avenue. This will go to court in October. He said he was in Hartford last week for the Connecticut Partnership of Housing Seminar with Mr. Ed Glaser. Attracting skilled labor and preserving the economy, particularly in small cities, were the topics discussed. 1st Selectman Campbell said he met with Mr. Joe Carbone, President of The Workplace, about unemployment in our area. Fairfield County is experiencing the highest unemployment rate that it has seen in years, but it doesn’t include people who are laid off in NY. There is no real way to know the true unemployment number in Darien, but he said that it is currently at 6.2% for Darien. He said he is going to Hartford tomorrow where all the Selectmen of the State will lobby the Legislature for funding.

Some discussion took place about the Hoy Street sidewalk project. The Board of Finance didn’t cut the project, but rather will fund the project out of Contingency when they get the estimate, instead of putting it in the budget. It was confirmed that there are two surveys to conduct, one being a train ridership of homeowners around the area, and one being an engineering survey. It was agreed there will be a layout of the proposed timeframe of this project at the next meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Mr. Kilduff provided an update of the major construction projects. Weed Beach is moving through contract phase. Professional service contracts are in the process of being executed which will allow the project to advance to the bidding phase and get to the construction

phase. The Senior Center/Board of Ed office project has some baseline information being collected by the architect design team and the structural engineers as they go through the two facilities. There could be an opportunity to increase town revenue by an adjustment to the cell tower. With the consolidation of carriers, they are moving the equipment around the pole, creating a way to possibly extract additional revenue income.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Discuss Possible Tree Commission Ordinance

Mr. Kilduff provided a November 2010 email from KRMA citing what Tom Gerard's legal review was. He said the Board of Selectmen created an Advisory Tree Commission, which created a Tree Ordinance. The ordinance went through insurance review, and now the Board of Selectmen have to decide to proceed with this, or effect other policy changes. 1st Selectmen Campbell said he has spoken to Mr. Wayne Fox who reviewed KRMA's comments, and he said Mr. Fox suggested that the Town not enact the ordinance.

b) Discuss and Take Action on Granting Permission to the Darien Road Race to Hold the 32nd Annual Darien Road Race on September 18, 2011

**** MS. SULLIVAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF DARIEN HEREBY GRANTS PERMISSION TO THE DARIEN ROAD RACE TO HOLD THE 32ND ANNUAL DARIEN ROAD RACE ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2011 STARTING AT PEAR TREE POINT BEACH, SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DARIEN POLICE AND PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENTS.**

**** MR. BAYNE SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

c) Discuss and Take Action on Granting Permission to Hold the 4th Annual JR Forever Memorial Walk on October 2, 2011

**** MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF DARIEN HEREBY GRANTS PERMISSION TO HOLD THE 4TH ANNUAL JR FOREVER MEMORIAL WALK ON OCTOBER 2, 2011 STARTING AT PEAR TREE POINT BEACH, SUBJECT TO THE REQUIRMENTS OF THE DARIEN POLICE AND PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT.**

**** MS. SULLIVAN SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- d) Discuss and Take Action on a Resolution Supporting the Re-Programming of STEAP Grant Funds to be Administered by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

**** MS. SULLIVAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RE-PROGRAMMING OF STEAP GRANT FUNDS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF DARIEN APPLIED FOR A SMALL TOWN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (STEAP) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$350,000 TO SUPPORT A DREDGING PROJECT IN GORHAM'S POND;

WHEREAS, IN SEPTEMBER OF 2010, THE TOWN OF DARIEN WAS AWARDED A STEAP GRANT TOTALING \$150,000 FOR DREDGING IN GORHAM'S POND;

WHEREAS, THE GRANT AWARD AMOUNT WAS INSUFFICIENT TO COMPLETE THE ORIGINALLY PLANNED GRANT SCOPE OF WORK WHICH, AS A RESULT, REQUIRES THAT THE AWARDED FUNDS BE RE-PROGRAMMED TO AN IMPLEMENTABLE PROJECT; AND

WHEREAS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STAFF OF THE DEP, THE TOWN HAS A GRANT ELIGIBLE SCOPE OF WORK WHICH WILL ACCOMPLISH MANY OF THE BROAD GOALS OF ITS ORIGINAL APPLICATION, BUT ON A SMALLER SCALE; AND

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN WISH TO RETAIN THE STATE APPROPRIATED GRANT FUNDS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF DARIEN HEREBY SUPPORT THE RE-PROGRAMMING OF \$150,000 OF STEAP GRANT FUNDS TO FUND THE PERMITTING PROCESS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REMEDIATION EFFORTS AT A TRIBUTARY OPENING INTO GORHAM'S POND WHICH WILL IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, SUPPORT WILDLIFE AND AID IN REDUCING LOCALIZED FLOODING IMPACTS.

**** MS. STEVENSON SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- e) Transfers

Tax Collector

RESOLVED:

That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance:

From:

<u>Acct. No</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10704000-86600	Contingency	\$2,048.20
	TOTAL	\$2,048.20

To:

<u>Acct. No</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
104081-81003	Seasonal/Temp.	\$2,048.20
	TOTAL	\$2,048.20

**** MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$2,048.20 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT (10704000-86600) TO THE SEASONAL/TEMP ACCOUNT (104081-81003).**

**** MS. SULLIVAN SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

AGENDA REVIEW

There were no items for agenda review.

RE-APPOINTMENTS

Consider and take action on the following appointments:

- a) Sandra Filmer to the Beautification Commission for a 3-year term beginning on December 1, 2010 and expiring on November 30, 2013.
- b) Ken Reiss to the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission for a 3-year term beginning on December 1, 2010 and expiring on November 30, 2013.
- c) Jo-Ann Sawitsky to the Youth Commission for a 3-year term beginning on April 1, 2011 and expiring on March 31, 2014.
- d) Charles England to the Commission on Aging for a 3-year term beginning on April 1, 2011 and expiring on March 31, 2014.

**** MS. STEVENSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS OF SANDRA FILMER TO THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION FOR A 3-YEAR TERM, KEN REISS TO THE MONUMENTS AND CEREMONIES COMMISSION FOR A 3-YEAR TERM, JO-ANN SAWITSKY TO THE YOUTH COMMISSION FOR A 3-YEAR TERM, AND CHARLES ENGLAND TO THE COMMISSION ON AGING FOR A 3-YEAR TERM.**

- ** MR. BAYNE SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Regular Meeting of March 28, 2011

The changes to the regular meeting of March 28, 2011 are as follows:

On page 1, under OTHERS, add Jim Cameron, Ch 79.

On page 2, under FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT, add the following to the end of the 1st sentence: "which will be redeveloped later this year."

On page 2, under FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT, 5th sentence, change "Darien" to "Fairfield County".

On page 2, under FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT, 6th sentence, change "He" to "1st Selectman Campbell".

On page 3, 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence, change "efficiency" to "inefficiency".

On page 3, 1st paragraph, the last sentence should read: "The lot can accommodate voucher and permit parkers, but is not yet fully utilized." Add the following as the new last sentence: "It could be used for overflow parking if too many daily voucher users were displaced by a conversion of part of their space to annual permit spots at the Depot side."

On page 3, 2nd paragraph, the 1st sentence should read: "From an administrative perspective, Mr. Kilduff suggested it would be better to offer new spaces to those on the existing list rather than create a new wait list for newly created parking."

On page 3, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence, change "piece" to "issue".

On page 3, 2nd paragraph, 4th sentence, add the following to the end: "in the current revenue projections."

On page 3, 2nd paragraph, eliminate the 8th sentence.

On page 3, 2nd paragraph, the 9th sentence should read: "Also, Mr. Kilduff said that assuming nothing is done with the vouchers, it may be feasible to oversell by as much as 40 or 50 spaces, possibly by 10 or 15 at a time."

On page 5, item f) Discuss and Take Action on Determining the Format for Board of Selectmen Minutes, the entire paragraph should read as follows:

"Mr. Bayne said he was in favor of going back to the previous format of the minutes, saying it is more efficient to review written minutes of a meeting than to review a video. Mr. Nielsen said there is still a brief synopsis provided in the new format. Mr. Bayne felt that this decision should not be made just for the Board of Selectmen's convenience, but should be made with an eye towards those reviewing the minutes in the future trying to discern the intent of the Board of Selectmen in reaching a decision. 1st Selectman Campbell said he felt the new format of minutes was good, and the previous format was too long. He had reviewed copies of minutes from Wilton, Westport, New Canaan, and Greenwich. He said that for a 2-hour meeting, there were three pages of minutes. He felt that Darien's minutes were sufficient, lengthy enough, and anything longer would be and

had been confusing. Ms. Sullivan said that the videotape cannot be viewed concurrently with other videos, and that the lengthy version of the minutes provided helpful insight into heated topics, discussions, etc. Ms. Stevenson echoed Mr. Nielsen's sentiments. She said that they either have to stay with the action-minute format, or go to full-verbatim transcript-style minutes. She felt that Channel 79 is doing a great job providing coverage of the meetings."

**** MS. SULLIVAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 28, 2011 AS AMENDED.**

**** MR. BAYNE SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

April 12, 2011	Board of Selectmen Joint Dept. Heads Meeting at 8:30 a.m.
April 12, 2011	Board of Finance Reg. Mtg & Final Budget Vote at 7:30 p.m.
April 12, 2011	Planning & Zoning Commission General Meeting at 8:00 p.m.
April 12, 2011	Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
April 13, 2011	Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
April 26, 2011	Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

(Any items added to the agenda require a two-thirds vote)

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. SULLIVAN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. STEVENSON SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr
Telesco Secretarial Services

