

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 25, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: First Selectman Jayme Stevenson; Charles Koons, Susan Marks, Robert Richards, Marc Thorne.
STAFF: Kate Clarke Buch, Town Administrator; Jeremy Ginsberg, Susan Cameron.
OTHER: Darien Land Trust: Shirley Nichols, Charles Goodyear, Darien Housing Authority: Jan Raymond; Glen Chalder, Planimetrics, Members of the Public, as noted.

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion of Acquisition of Land at 41 Hecker Avenue

First Selectman Stevenson gave an overview of the location of the property that is adjacent to the Darien Library and Darien Police Department, and explained the benefits of the acquisition as a public/private partnership for open space. She outlined that the property is currently owned by the Spring Grove Cemetery and the Town presently has a vested interest in the property with a fiber optic cable and sewer easement.

Members of the Darien Land Trust, Shirley Nichols and Charles Goodyear came forward and representative from the Spring Grove Cemetery Board Jeb Lawrence was acknowledged as in attendance.

Shirley Nichols presented maps and photographs and outlined the property location and provided the rationale in support of the property acquisition by the Town. Mr. Goodyear provided the stages of the purchase and the process of obtaining a conservation easement and fielded questions and comments from the audience.

Public Comment

Several members of the public spoke on the proposed acquisition. Topics discussed included flood mitigation, potential use of the land, the proposed conservation easement, possible increased parking issues in the area, next steps after acquisition. First Selectman Stevenson replied that plans will be developed with options on flood mitigation. She noted that the next steps are to go to the Board of Finance for their approval of the appropriation of this gift and then on to the RTM.

Mr. Goodyear then asked the head of the Darien Land Trust to speak. Mr. Flip Huffard stated that he and the Land Trust are in strong support of this acquisition to have a key open space in the heart of Town.

First Selectman Stevenson thanked the members of the Darien Land Trust for the presentation and thanked the residents who came out for this information session.

Update on Town Plan of Development from Jeremy Ginsberg & Susan Cameron

Mr. Ginsberg gave an overview of the plan that has been in development in the stages of a multi-year approach to the comprehensive process. He introduced Mr. Glen Chalder of Planimetrics who delivered a power point presentation of the plan and outlined strategies and the Town, facilities, infrastructure, transportation, and community development. (It is noted that the full plan is posted on the Town website).

First Selectman Stevenson asked what the due date was for final comments from the Board. Mr. Chalder noted that approximately February 25-- two weeks prior to the date of March 9.

Update on Housing Authority Project at Old Town Hall Homes from Jan Raymond

Ms. Jan Raymond introduced other members of the Authority in attendance, Jane Matthews and Lorraine Golino. Ms. Raymond provided an oral report of conditions that currently exist that limit the integration of community integration and engagement. She outlined that it is difficult to make an old building meet today's standards along with space constraints to meet the need for more affordable and diverse senior housing. She spoke on the goal of creating greater community vibrancy with much healthier life styles that can be affected with a location that is walkable to Town and shopping center.

Summary highlights of the report are as follows:

- Currently working with the contractors-- McKutcheon, and Imagineers Consulting Group.
- Two houses redeveloped are now occupied in the Heights Development.
- Scheduled to present to P&Z on February 23 to look a municipal zones and an overlay of zones for municipal use.
- The construction schedule is projected for late summer for residents to return in a one year period with staggered move in stages.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

First Selectman Stevenson read her report which is attached.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Buch reported that her office and staff is working on the FY 2016-17 budget and preparing for the upcoming presentations.

New Business

Discuss and Take Action to Accept and appropriate a gift of \$137,500 from the Darien Land Trust for the purchase of land at 41 Hecker Avenue and Refer Same to the Board of Finance and Representative Town Meeting

First Selectman Stevenson read the resolution as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION
OF A GIFT TO THE TOWN OF DARIEN OF \$137,500
FROM THE DARIEN LAND TRUST**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-33 of the Codified Ordinances of the Town of Darien. the Board of Selectmen is empowered on behalf of the Town of Darien to accept gifts provided that the gifts do not have a value in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-33 of the Code of the Town of Darien, said gifts in excess of Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00) may be accepted with action by the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien; and

WHEREAS, the Darien Land Trust wishes to donate funds towards the purchase of property at 41 Hecker Avenue; and

WHEREAS, this project will help preserve open space in an area of Darien which has little open space; and

WHEREAS, the Town currently has sewer and fiber optic easements on this property and

WHEREAS, the gift is for \$137,500; and

WHEREAS, the gift is in exchange for a conservation easement on the property in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen wishes to accept this gift to assist in this project:
And

WHEREAS, gifts of money must be appropriated by the Board of Finance and Representative Town Meeting

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Darien hereby authorizes the acceptance and appropriation of this gift to the Land Acquisition Fund and directs that this resolution be forwarded to the Board of Finance and the Representative Town Meeting for their respective consideration and approval.

- ** MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO ADOPT THE ABOVE RESOLUTION FOR THE ACQUISITION OF LAND AT 41 HECKER AVENUE.**
- ** MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Agenda Review – Upcoming budget meetings as noted.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Regular Meeting of January 12, 2016:

It was noted that the attachment referred to on page one was not attached.

- ** MR. KOONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2016 AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Adjournment

- ** MS. MARKS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- ** MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Knox,
Telesco Secretarial Services