

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOVEMBER 7, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: First Selectman Jayme Stevenson; Robert Richards; Susan Marks; Marc Thorne;
Charles Koons

STAFF: Kate Clarke Buch, Town Administrator; David Knauf, Director of Health;
Pamela Gery, Parks and Recreation Director

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:16 p. m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jack Davis came forward to state that the resolution for the Ox Ridge Hunt Club is not a competing project with the various projects that are currently being considered by the Board of Education.

Ms. Jenny Schwartz came forward to speak in favor of the resolution to purchase of 16.296 +/- acres of land from the Ox Ridge Hunt Club. She stated that the property has a lot of value and is a crown jewel of Darien.

Ms. LeeLee Klein came forward to speak in favor of the resolution. She stated that she has been in communication with over thirty neighbors and they are all in favor of the purchase. This is the right move for everyone in the town.

Chris Noe came forward in opposition to the resolution. He stated that he thinks Ox Ridge is making a mistake. He stated that he would like to see the club stay in one piece. The town should work out a plan for them to keep the land by not requiring the club to pay taxes on the land.

FRIST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

First Selectman's Report
November 7, 2016

On Thursday, November 10th, town staff, representatives from WestCOG, ConnDOT, Federal Highway, our business community and community at large will be undertaking a Road Safety Audit. The audit will help inform the need for improved pedestrian amenities in 3 areas of our downtown. Post Road between West Ave and Sedgewick, Post Road at Corbin Drive and Post Road and Hecker Ave.

Friday, November 11th is Veterans' Day. Town Hall will be closed but there will be a remembrance ceremony hosted by VFW Post 6933 and our Monuments and Ceremonies Commission in the Veterans' Memorial Circle in front of Town Hall at 11:00 a. m. We welcome all to attend.

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You might notice each year, the very moving site of holiday wreaths adorning the veteran grave sites in Spring Grove Cemetery. This is an initiative of the Wreaths Across America organization, whose goal it is to adorn each Veteran grave site across the country to honor our veterans. If you would like more information about the organization you can contact Phil Craft, call my office or log onto www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

On Saturday, November 12, the Father's Forum will hold their second gathering at 8:00 a. m. at the Darien YMCA. This month's speaker is Dr. Dan Brenner, Superintendent of Schools, who will be talking on the topic of Sports Parenting and specifically how fathers can support their children's athletic pursuits in a healthy way. I highly recommend Dads of all ages attend the Father's Forum and thank Greg Bauer and Dr. Tim Kenefick for reconstituting the organization here in Darien.

Please vote tomorrow. You can find election day and polling information on the town website under Departments & Services/Registrar of Voters. Thank you to John Visi, Kathy Hammell and their wonderful staff for doing a great job prepping for this election. Kathy is not running for re-election so I want to extend the town's gratitude for a job very, very well done. It's been a pleasure working with her and we wish her well.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Buch stated that the paramedics have moved into 701 Post Road. She stated that budget approval is coming up and asked that the selectmen start thinking about guidelines to impose on the budget. We will be sending out directives for department heads. She stated that we will be going online with parking permit renewals later this week.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss and Take Action on a Resolution for the purchase of 16.296+/- acres of land from Ox Ridge Hunt Club, Inc, at 512 Middlesex Road and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds, Notes or Other Obligations of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation

Ms. Stevenson introduced Mr. Richard Colligan, President of Ox Ridge Hunt Club, Ms. Alison Potter, and Ms. Flavia Callari, both Business Managers of Ox Ridge Hunt Club.

Ms. Stevenson stated that a map of Ox Ridge had been provided to those in attendance as well as a list of frequently asked questions. She stated that the 16 acres will not be designated as a park, but that it will be kept as open space. A 1,000 square foot structure will be built to serve as a restroom and storage area. No permanent structures like baseball backstops or football field goals will be installed.

Mr. Richards stated that this purchase presents a rare opportunity to increase the amount of open space in the Town of Darien, and it is good for the Ox Ridge Hunt Club. Mr. Richards stated that the property will not change for 30 years. It will remain an open space for the town. Mr. Thorne stated that he is delighted to support this proposal.

Ms. Stevenson asked for questions or comments from the public.

Mr. Noe came forward and stated that the open space deed restriction should not expire in 2042. It should be in perpetuity. He stated that it is possible that the town may be in a position to take advantage of the Ox Ridge Hunt Club.

Mr. Richards stated residents of the Town of Darien are a family and care about each other. For the club to be taken advantage of, it would take a complete change of psyche on the part of the town.

Ms. Stevenson read the resolution into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FROM OX RIDGE HUNT CLUB, INCORPORATED AND THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES FOR SAID PURCHASE

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien has an opportunity to purchase 16.296 +/- acres of land located on 512 Middlesex Road, Darien, Connecticut as more particularly described in the map attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, said property currently owned by the Ox Ridge Hunt Club Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, said property is subject to a Declaration of Restrictions which are filed on the Darien Land Records; and

WHEREAS, the parties have negotiated a sale price as well as an amendment to said Declaration; and

WHEREAS, the purchase price for said property is six million, two hundred fifty thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$6,250,000.00); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Darien hereby approves and authorizes the purchase of 16.296+/- acres of said property and the issuance of bonds and notes to meet such appropriation, all as more particularly described in the bond resolution attached hereto and made part hereof.

**** MR. KOONS MOVED TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FROM OX RIDGE HUNT CLUB, INCORPORATED AND THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES FOR SAID PURCHASE.**

**** MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- ** MS. MARKS MOVED TO ADD A RESOLUTION REQUESTING MANDATORY REFERRAL ON PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FROM OX RIDGE HUNT CLUB TO THE AGENDA.**
- ** MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Stevenson read the resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION REQUESTING MANDATORY REFERRAL ON PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FROM OX RIDGE HUNT CLUB

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien has indicated its intent to purchase 16.296 +/- acres of land located on 512 Middlesex Road, Darien, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, any such purchase requires the approval of the Board of Selectmen and the Representative Town Meeting; and

WHEREAS, any such purchase requires a mandatory referral to the Planning & Zoning Commission pursuant to 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Darien Board of Selectmen hereby refers said purchase to the Darien Planning & Zoning Commission for a report pursuant to 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes and;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Darien Board of Selectmen recommends approval of said purchase to the Representative Town Meeting.

- ** MR. KOONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION REQUESTING MANDATORY REFERRAL ON PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FROM OX RIDGE HUNT CLUB.**
- ** MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discuss and Take Action on Tax Appeal Settlement

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVING A SETTLEMENT OF A TAX APPEAL TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO 276 MANSFIELD AVENUE, DARIEN, CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, in the revaluation effective October 1, 2014, the property was valued at \$5,442,200.00;

WHEREAS, the property owners took their appeal of the property value to the Superior Court; and

WHEREAS, the Town, through the Tax Assessor and the property owner, Bradley Pattelli, have come to an agreement with respect to valuation assigned to the property.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Darien hereby approves the fair market value to 276 Mansfield Avenue to be reduced from \$5,442,200.00 to \$4,900,000.00. This will be for the Grand List of 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017. This settlement will be without cost to either party. The appropriate credit will be assigned by the Tax Assessor to the property in question. There will be no cash payment by the Town.

**** MR. THORNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVING A SETTLEMENT OF A TAX APPEAL TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO 276 MANSFIELD AVENUE, DARIEN, CONNECTICUT.**

**** MS. MARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discuss and Take Action on A Resolution Declaring A Public Water Supply Emergency and Imposing Restrictions Under Section 34-21 Et. Seq. of The Darien Code

Mr. David Knauf came forward to speak in favor of the resolution. He stated that the Town of Darien is in a drought emergency. He presented an overview of data prepared by Aquarion detailing Days of Usable Storage Remaining, Reservoir Withdrawals, and Precipitation. He stated that this resolution will enable enforcement capabilities in addition to encouraging businesses and residents to conserve water.

**** MS. MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION DECLARING A PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCY AND IMPOSING RESTRICTIONS UNDER SECTION 34-21 ET. SEQ. OF THE DARIEN CODE**

**** MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ONE ABSTENTION (MR. KOONS.)**

Update on Food Establishment Rating System from Director of Health David Knauf

Mr. Knauf came forward to give an update on the Food Establishment Rating System. He stated that the letter ratings are easier to understand than a Good, Fair, Poor rating system. Members of the public can go to the Darien Health Department website to view inspection reports, and find out why a restaurant got any given rating.

Transfers

i. Parks & Recreation \$70,000 Park Master Plan

Ms. Pam Gery, Director of Parks & Recreation and Ms. Mary Flynn, Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission came forward in favor of the transfer. Ms. Gery stated that an updated Park Master Plan has become a high priority, and that the basketball court improvements will not be made until after the plan is completed.

- ** MS. MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$70,000 TO THE PARKS & RECREATION PARK MASTER PLAN.**
- ** MR. KOONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ii. Information Technology \$18,463 MS Office License

Ms. Buch stated that the Town needs to move to cloud based e-mail and file storage. Cloud based services will allow for greater flexibility in that the files can be utilized from anywhere, not just from the Town Hall.

- ** MR. KOONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$ 18,463 FROM CONTINGENCY TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - MS OFFICE LICENSE.**
- ** MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

iii. Information Technology \$22,865 OpenGov Implementation

Ms. Buch stated that the transfer is requested for the purchase and implementation of the OpenGov system.

- ** MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$22,865 FROM CONTINGENCY TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - OPENGOV IMPLEMENTATION.**
- ** MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

Discuss and take action on the appointment of Peter Eder to the Commission on Aging for a three year term from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2019

- ** MS. MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF PETER EDER TO THE COMMISSION ON AGING FOR A THREE YEAR TERM FROM APRIL 1, 2016 TO MARCH 31, 2019**
- ** MR. KOONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

AGENDA REVIEW

No items were brought forward for discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Executive Session October 17, 2016

- ** MR. KOONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCOBER 17, 2016 EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
- ** MS. MARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Regular Meeting of October 17, 2016

Page 3 Correct to "Upper Gorhams Pond Project"

- ** MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2016 REGULAR MEETING**
- ** MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

November 9, 2016	Board of Education 7:30 pm
November 14, 2016	RTM 8:00 pm
November 15, 2016	Board of Finance 7:30 pm
November 21, 2016	Board of Selectmen 7:00 pm
November 22, 2016	Board of Education 7:30 pm
November 28, 2016	RTM 8:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. THORNE MOVE TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services