

# REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

## TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT

### RULES COMMITTEE

#### Minutes

Regular Meeting, April 20, 2009

8:15 p.m., Room 213

Called to Order 8:19pm

Attendance: K. Armour, S. Maguire, J. Davis, J. Grogan, G. Swenson, F. Smith, E. Coyle, J. Price, M. Adiletta, R. Young

Absent: H. Artinian, E. Bacon, P. Weyhe

Guests: Cheryl Russell, Parks & Rec Committee chair; J. VanderKieft, Planning, Zoning & Housing Committee chair; Linda Santarella and David Bayne, Board of Selectmen; dog owner representatives

Robert Young moved to change Dog Leash Ordinance to first order of business

Vote: approved unanimously

Discussion to remove item from agenda of 4/27 pending further consideration by Standing Committees

F. Smith-Motion to remove item

G. Swenson-Second

Cheryl Russell will explore dog park options. Karen Armour will set up meeting with Chairs of Standing Committees and Town Counsel, Police and Animal Control officer, Jane Branigan from the Parks and Rec Commission, as well as interested Dog Owners. Mrs. Armour recommended that the representatives of the dog owners try to create a project proposal for dog recreation that could coexist with a leash law.

Vote: unanimous to remove item from agenda

Minutes of February 23 Rules Meeting approved, pending question of Mr. Weyhe's whereabouts. Mr. Swenson moved; unanimously approved.

Review status of TGSA&A committee ordinance work. Matter of steps leading to the removal of fees from ordinances.

J. Davis-Motion: The Rules Committee respectfully requests that the BOS provide a listing of all fees and charges to be provided to the RTM. And the Rules Committee further requests the BOS to provide the RTM with a motion to approve said fees as part of the 2009/2010 fiscal year budget approval process.

F. Smith- Second

Vote: Unanimous with 2 abstentions R. Young and J. Grogan

District 1 members assignments to standing committees were made December 15. Confusion arose because committee chairs were not aware which new members were assigned to their committees. District Reps from the Rules committee should notify the Committee chairmen of new members.

Assign standing committees for anticipated future agenda. Open Space

Ordinance: Primary: PZ&H, Second: F&B, TGS&A

G. Swenson: Motion, F. Smith: Second

Vote: unanimous with one Nay: R. Young

Other business. Discussion regarding the start of meeting times and length of meetings.

Under Announcements: Consider an earlier start to meeting time- vote by ballot at Budget Meeting.

Mr. Fox, Town Counsel, informed Rules Committee of the Option to Lease regarding property at 35 Leroy Avenue. Developer, Mutual Housing, needs document in order to move forward, and the Option to Lease provides documentation without conveyance of land, this protects the town.

Inappropriate at this time to go forward with the 99-year lease as the project has not been fully developed yet, and we would not know what we were voting on. Also, if the project did not work out, Mutual Housing would still retain the 99-year lease.

The lease would have to be approved by the RTM.

Much discussion regarding this issue, Mr. Fox will be at the RTM meeting to explain the Option to Lease.

Acceptance of FEMA grant money to purchase property on Cherry Street for demolition and flood mitigation. Land would remain open space. Much discussion regarding this issue ensued.

Agenda for 4/27 Special Meeting approved as distributed

May Budget Meeting will follow typical Budget agenda, Mill rates and Fees.

Motion to adjourn; unanimous

Meeting adjourned, 10:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Susannah Maguire