

Minutes of Town of Darien Representative Town Meeting Rules Committee

Monday January 9, 2023 7:30 p.m. Auditorium Darien Town Hall

Present: Seth Morton (Moderator), Lois Schneider (I), Patti Bumgardner (I), Mike Wheeler (II), Michael Casolo (II), Jack Davis (III), Adele Conniff (III), Frank Kemp (IV), Ann Reed (V), Peter Orphanos (VI), Theresa Vogt (VI)

Absent: Joe Miceli (IV), Mark Adiletta (V)

Guest: Carolyn Bayne – Advisory Committee on Sustainability

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Seth Morton, at 7:32 PM.

There was a motion by Ms. Reed and seconded by Mr. Kemp to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2022 Special Meeting. These were approved unanimously.

The Moderator requested that two items be added to the agenda: Committee assignments of recently added members from district caucuses and addition to the January meeting agenda of YTD Town Financial status by Jack Davis. These were unanimously approved.

The Moderator offered remarks about the involvement of RTM Committees in issues before all Town Boards and a specific discussion ensued about the addition of FTEs by the Board of Ed that were off-cycle and did not come to the RTM for a vote as expected due to the Board of Finance recommending that the Board of Ed fund the positions from the surplus in this year's budget. The committee discussed the issues involved.

The Darien Advisory Committee on Sustainability requested 5 to 10 minutes at a future RTM meeting to discuss single-stream recycling. The suggestion was made to consider this happening for the February RTM meeting.

The Following RTM Committee assignments were made in a motion by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Vogt which was unanimously approved:

District 1: Deirdre McGovern to TGS&A

District 2: Millyn Gaaserud to F&B

District 5: Tony Larino to P&R, Rohit Parwal to PW, Erika Procaccini to PZ&H

Next ,the RTM Committees were assigned to upcoming items:

Police Contract: PH&S primary, F&B secondary in a motion by Ms. Reed and seconded by Ms. Vogt which was unanimously approved.

Teachers' Contract: Education primary, F&B secondary in a motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Ms. Reed which was unanimously approved.

In addition, an item was brought up to follow - Clock Hill lease – with consideration for PZ&H and F&B. No motion was made at this time.

The next item was a discussion about the FOIA presentation by Tom Hennick, State of Connecticut, Freedom of Information Commission, Public Education Officer. Mr. Wheeler has identified several videos on the internet of similar discussions Mr. Hennick has held with other towns. It was agreed that the Rules committee members would review a video to understand the material as the time allocation is about an hour. The Rules Committee will then discuss at the next meeting how best to have this presentation/discussion for the Darien RTM members – in person/virtual – and when.

The agenda for the January 23rd RTM Meeting was approved unanimously with a motion by Ms. Bumgardner and seconded by Mr. Orphanos:

- 1). Presentation on single-stream recycling by Darien Advisory Committee on Sustainability
- 2). Update on Town Financial Position and Budget - F&B Jack Davis
- 3). Discuss and Take Action on Request to Approve a Successor Contract with the Darien Police Association
- 4). Discussion and Action on Contract Agreement between the Darien Board of Education and the Darien Education Association

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM with an unanimously approved motion by Mr. Casolo and seconded by Ms. Conniff.

Lois Schneider, Acting Clerk

cc: Standing Committee Chairs
District Chairs
First Selectman
Rules Committee
Town Administrator
Town Counsel