

**MINUTES
TOWN OF DARIEN
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 5, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting of the Representative Town Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Christa McNamara, Town Clerk, who said there was a quorum of 72 of 100 members present. Regarding the November election, she said if they were caucused into their seat, their seat expires in November. If they were on the ballot last November, they are not up for election this year. If they would like to run, they must notify her in writing ten weeks before the election (by August 29). After that date, they must collect 25 signatures on a petition by September 12. Everyone on the ballot needs to fill out a campaign finance form. The number of open seats will be determined 60 days before the election. Anyone with questions should contact her.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were present:

From District I, there were 10 members present, 6 absent.
From District II, there were 13 members present, 3 absent.
From District III, there were 13 members present, 4 absent.
From District IV, there were 15 members present, 1 absent.
From District V, there were 12 members present, 6 absent.
From District VI, there were 11 members present, 6 absent.

The absentees from District I were: Keane, Kelly, Lublin, Mecsery, Schwartz, Wong.
The absentees from District II were: Gaaserud, Hudson, Sartori.
The absentees from District III were: Crouse, Dunne, Golus, King.
The absentee from District IV was: Raymond.
The absentees from District V were: Fiveson, Laird, Larino, Mahoney, Pesce-Gray, Smith.
The absentees from District VI were: Constanzo, Conway, Johnson, Silsby, Vogt, York.

The Moderator, Seth W. Morton, Assumed the Chair. He noted that Item 23-23 had been removed from the agenda at the request of the First Selectman.

The Moderator introduced Mark Adiletta, District V, RTM representative to the Great Island Committee, who provided an update. He said that the Board of Selectmen is conducting 45 interviews for the 4 open residents positions on the Great Island Advisory Committee. The intention is to announce the final committee on July 3rd at the Board of Selectmen meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

**** THE AGENDA, AS MODIFIED, WAS ACCEPTED BY UNIVERSAL CONSENT.**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 2023 MEETING

Peter Orphanos, District VI, said that the following correction should be made to page 11, 5th paragraph, 2nd line: “during the budget process” should be deleted, and the following inserted in its place: “subject to the normal budget process. He asked everyone to support this amendment. It is a method to reduce funds.”

**** THE MINUTES, AS AMENDED, WERE APPROVED BY UNIVERSAL CONSENT.**

23-16

AMEND THE DARIEN ZONING REGULATIONS APPENDIX B – LAND USE

**** AMY ZABETAKIS, DISTRICT V, CHAIRMAN OF PZ&H, MOVED:**

WHEREAS, the Darien Land Use Boards, in particular, the Planning & Zoning Commission, the Architectural Review Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Environmental Protection Commission, have requested increases in Land Use Board application fees and the Department has requested an increase in Zoning Permit fees; and

WHEREAS, the Darien Land Use Boards have prepared a proposal to modify such Land Use Board application and Zoning Permit fees, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut General Statutes provide that any such increase be approved by the ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien hereby authorizes and approves the increases in Land Use Board application fees and Zoning Permit fees as set forth in the schedules attached hereto, to become effective on Sunday, June 11, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Amy Zabetakis, District V, read the PZ&H report (attached).

Jack Davis, District III, Chairman of Finance & Budget, read the Committee report (attached).

**** ITEM 23-16 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 73 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 1 ABSTENTION.**

23-17

ACCEPT A GIFT OF STATUES APPRISED AT \$425,000 FROM THE STEINKRAUS FAMILY

**** JACK DAVIS, DISTRICT III, CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE & BUDGET, MOVED:**

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 Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500.00); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-33 of the Code of the Town of Darien, said gifts in excess of Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500.00) may be accepted with action by the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien; and

WHEREAS, the Steinkraus family wishes to donate to the Town of Darien two (2) sculptures located on Great Island appraised at Four Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$425,000.00); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen at its meeting of May 15, 2023, wishes to accept this gift from the Steinkraus family.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien hereby authorizes with thanks the acceptance of this gift of two (2) sculptures from the Steinkraus family appraised in the amount of Four Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$425,000.00).

**** MARK ADILETTA, DISTRICT V, SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Jack Davis, District III, read the Finance & Budget report (attached).

**** ITEM 23-17 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 73 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 1 ABSTENTION.**

23-18

APPROVE LEASE FOR 40 GREAT ISLAND

The Moderator said that each committee would read one report for all of the lease items, but the RTM would vote separately for each item.

Amy Zabetakis, District V, Chairman of PZ&H, read the Committee report (attached).

Mark Adiletta, District V, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, read the Committee report (attached).

Jack Davis, District III, Chairman of Finance & Budget, read the Committee report (attached).

**** AMY ZABETAKIS, DISTRICT V, CHAIRMAN OF PZ&H, MOVED:**

WHEREAS, Section 48, paragraph (f) of the Charter lists one of the authorized powers of the Representative Town Meeting is to approve leasing of real property by the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien purchased property known as Great Island on May 5, 2023; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Town to lease certain structures on that property for a limited period of time including the authority to terminate said lease within ninety (90) days advanced notice; and

WHEREAS, the Planning & Zoning Commission under Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes has issued a report concluding that the lease of 40 Great Island Road is consistent with the 2016 Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien hereby approves the lease of 40 Great Island Road, Great Island, as more particularly set forth in the lease document attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Deirdre McGovern, District I, asked how they would make sure that the public will not trespass on these properties. Amy Zabetakis said the grounds are common areas. The leases are only for the residences.

**** ITEM 23-18 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 73 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 1 ABSTENTION.**

23-19

APPROVE LEASE FOR 24 GREAT ISLAND

**** AMY ZABETAKIS, DISTRICT V, CHAIRMAN OF PZ&H, MOVED:**

WHEREAS, Section 48, paragraph (f) of the Charter lists one of the authorized powers of the Representative Town Meeting is to approve leasing of real property by the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien purchased property known as Great Island on May 5, 2023; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Town to lease certain structures on that property for a limited period of time including the authority to terminate said lease within ninety (90) days advanced notice; and

WHEREAS, the Planning & Zoning Commission under Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes has issued a report concluding that the lease of 24 Great Island Road is consistent with the 2016 Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien hereby approves the lease of 24 Great Island Road, Great Island, as more particularly set forth in the lease document attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Jim Cameron, District IV, asked how the amount was set for the rent, and if the rent was similar to comparable properties. Amy Zabetakis responded that they were informed by the First Selectman and Town Counsel that the rents were comparable to what was already being paid.

**** 23-19 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 73 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 1 ABSTENTION.**

23-20

APPROVE LEASE FOR STABLE APARTMENT 46A

**** AMY ZABETAKIS, DISTRICT V, CHAIRMAN OF PZ&H, MOVED:**

WHEREAS, Section 48, paragraph (f) of the Charter lists one of the authorized powers of the Representative Town Meeting is to approve leasing of real property by the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien purchased property known as Great Island on May 5, 2023; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Town to lease certain structures on that property for a limited period of time including the authority to terminate said lease within ninety (90) days advanced notice; and

WHEREAS, the Planning & Zoning Commission under Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes has issued a report concluding that the lease of 46A Great Island Road is consistent with the 2016 Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien hereby approves the lease of 46A Great Island Road, Great Island, as more particularly set forth in the lease document attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.
** ITEM 23-20 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 73 IN FAVOR, 0
OPPOSED, 1 ABSTENTION.**

23-21

APPROVE LEASE FOR STABLE APARTMENT 46B

**** AMY ZABETAKIS, DISTRICT V, CHAIRMAN OF PZ&H, MOVED:**

WHEREAS, Section 48, paragraph (f) of the Charter lists one of the authorized powers of the Representative Town Meeting is to approve leasing of real property by the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien purchased property known as Great Island on May 5, 2023; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Town to lease certain structures on that property for a limited period of time including the authority to terminate said lease within ninety (90) days advanced notice; and

WHEREAS, the Planning & Zoning Commission under Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes has issued a report concluding that the lease of 46B Great Island Road is consistent with the 2016 Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien hereby approves the lease of 46B Great Island Road, Great Island, as more particularly set forth in the lease document attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.
** ITEM 23-21 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 73 IN FAVOR, 0
OPPOSED, 1 ABSTENTION.**

23-22

APPROVE LEASE FOR 49 GREAT ISLAND ROAD

**** AMY ZABETAKIS, DISTRICT V, CHAIRMAN OF PZ&H, MOVED:**

WHEREAS, Section 48, paragraph (f) of the Charter lists one of the authorized powers of the Representative Town Meeting is to approve leasing of real property by the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien purchased property known as Great Island on May 5, 2023;
and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Town to lease certain structures on that property for a limited period of time including the authority to terminate said lease within ninety (90) days advanced notice; and

WHEREAS, the Planning & Zoning Commission under Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes has issued a report concluding that the lease of 49 Great Island Road is consistent with the 2016 Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien hereby approves the lease of 49 Great Island Road, Great Island, as more particularly set forth in the lease document attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

**** ITEM 23-22 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 73 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 1 ABSTENTION.**

**** UPON MOTION MADE AND SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN AT 8:40 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Telesco Blois
Telesco Secretarial Services