

*Minutes for the*  
**Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting**  
June 19, 2023

**ATTENDANCE:** Monica McNally; Michael Burke, Marcy Minnick; Sarah Neumann

**STAFF:** Kathleen Buch, Town Administrator; Ed Gentile, Director of Public Works; Jeremy Ginsberg, Director of Land Use

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. McNally called the regular meeting to order at 7:45 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. McNally led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- 1. Flooding Presentation (Ed Gentile, Director of Public Works)

Mr. Gentile provided an update on flooding projects and studies. Mr. Ginsberg answered questions regarding update of the town's flooding manual.

**FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT**

Ms. McNally updated the board on a variety of topics including Juneteenth, Flag Day, eagle scouts, Post 53's anniversary and an update on Great Island (see attached).

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Buch reported on current activities in Town Hall.

**BOARD LIASION REPORTS**

Mr. Burke will update on the Blight Review Board at the next meeting.

Ms Neumann updated on the Hindley, Holmes and Royle Building Committee.

Ms Minnick will update on the Mental Health Task Force in July. She advised that there are mental health resources available on the Town's website. She also provided an update on the Ox Ridge Building Committee, it is on time and on budget

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS\***

The following individuals spoke regarding the raising of the pride flag: Goody Gray, 1 Brush Island Road; Jess Batson, Avalon Apartments; Maggie Ramsey 229 Long Neck Point Road; Sophie Howard 1 Duffy's Lane; Ryan Fleenor; 27 Rings End Road ;Richard Thomas; 16 Mayflower Road; Teddy Garcia, 255 Tokeneke Road; Jack Douglas 9 Beach Drive; Susie Walker, 2 Coves End Road; Shari Ramsey 229 Long Neck Road.

Rachel Taylor, West Avenue spoke regarding Flag Day and Memorial Day parade and actions of group of residents covering the Civil War Monument.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

2. Discuss and Take Action on a Request to Amend Revocable License Agreement for Grove St Open Space

Ms. Buch introduced the topic. Mr. Bob Maslan, attorney for the property owner presented the request. Mr. Shedd Glassmeyer, owner of the property and Mr. Chester Grabowski, owner of Harvest restaurant also spoke, as did Mr. David Genovese.

The board members asked questions of the presenters

**MOTION** to table this item to a date to be determined

Motion made by Selectman Minnick, Seconded by Selectman Neumann.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

**MOTION** to go into executive session for personnel and litigation

Motion made by Selectman Burke, Seconded by Selectman Neumann.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

3. Discuss and Take Action on Request for a Special Appropriation for the Town Aid Road Grant (\$679,394)

**MOTION** to Approve a Request for a Special Appropriation for the Town Aid Road Grant

Motion made by Selectman Neumann, Seconded by Selectman Burke.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

4. Discuss and Take Action to Approve the Settlement of Tax Appeals

**MOTION** to approve the settlement of the case of Eric and Jennifer Remole v. Town of Darien to amend the Fair Market Value of the property from \$3,639,800 to \$3,200,000 effective applicable to the Grand Lists of October 1, 2020 through the October 1, 2022 Grand List in accordance with a Stipulation for Judgment.

Motion made by Selectman Neumann, Seconded by Selectman Burke.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

**MOTION** to approve the settlement of the case of Sandra Drimal v. Town of Darien to amend the Fair Market Value of the property from \$9,040,100 to \$8,000,000 effective applicable to the Grand Lists of October 1, 2021 and the October 1, 2022 in accordance with a Stipulation for Judgment.

Motion made by Selectman Minnick, Seconded by Selectman Burke.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

**MOTION** to approve the settlement of the case of Anne and William Sullivan v. Town of Darien to amend the Fair Market Value of the property from \$4,829,800 to \$4,500,000 effective applicable to the Grand Lists of October 1, 2019 through the October 1, 2022 Grand List in accordance with a Stipulation for Judgment.

Motion made by Selectman Burke, Seconded by Selectman Neumann.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

5. Discuss and Take Action on Request for Approval of FY 23-24 Wage Plan

Ms. Buch introduced the topic, noting that the effective dates for increases are July 1, 2023 for non-represented employees. Changes in compensation of elected officials will be effective at the start of their respective terms, which is compliant with State of CT laws.

**MOTION** to approve the FY 23-24 Wage Plan as proposed.

Motion made by Selectman Neumann, Seconded by Selectman Burke.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

6. Discuss and Take Action on Request to Approve 2023 Push Pull Parade

**MOTION** to Approve Annual Push-n-Pull Parade to be held on July 4, 2023, contingent upon the approval of the Darien Police Commission and subject to the requirements of the Darien Police Department

Motion made by Selectman Neumann, Seconded by Selectman Burke.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

**TRANSFERS**

7. Discuss and Take Action on a Request for a Transfer of \$25,577 to Youth Services Program Expenses

Ms. Buch explained the request

**MOTION** to Approve a Request for a Transfer of \$25,577 to Youth Services Program Expenses

Motion made by Selectman Minnick, Seconded by Selectman Burke.

Voting Nay: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

8. Discuss and Take Action on a Request to Transfer \$50,000 for NHRR Drainage Improvements

Mr. Gentile explained the request

**MOTION** to Approve Request to Transfer \$50,000 for NHRR Drainage Improvements

Motion made by Selectman Neumann, Seconded by Selectman Burke.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

9. Discuss and Take Action on a Request to Transfer \$9,000 for a Parking Enforcement Vehicle

Mr. Gentile explained the request

**MOTION** to Approve a Request to Transfer \$9,000 for a Parking Enforcement Vehicle

Motion made by Selectman Neumann, Seconded by Selectman Burke.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

10. Discuss and Take Action on a Request to Transfer \$12,000 for the Town Hall Small Gym Roof Replacement

Mr. Gentile explained the request

**MOTION** to Approve a Request to Transfer \$12,000 for the Town Hall Small Gym Roof Replacement

Motion made by Selectman Minnick, Seconded by Selectman Burke.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

**APPOINTMENTS:**

11. Appoint Two Members to the Hindley/Holmes/Royle Building Committee

**MOTION** to Appoint Patrick Hayes and Tom Harris to the Hindley/Holmes/Royle Building Committee

Motion made by Selectman Neumann, Seconded by Selectman Burke.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

**MINUTES**

12. Review and Approve the Minutes of June 5, 2023 Regular Meeting

**MOTION** to Approve the Minutes of the June 5, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented/amended

Motion made by Selectman Minnick, Seconded by Selectman Burke.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

13. Review and Approve the Minutes of June 5, 2023 Special Meeting

**MOTION** to Approve the Minutes of the June 5, 2023 Special Meeting as presented/amended

Motion made by Selectman Minnick, Seconded by Selectman Neumann.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

**AGENDA REVIEW**

There was no discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION to adjourn at 10:50 pm.

Motion made by Selectman Burke, Seconded by Selectman Neumann.

Voting Yea: First Selectman McNally, Selectman Burke, Selectman Minnick, Selectman Neumann

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## First Selectman's Report, BOS Meeting 6-19-23

I appreciate the opportunity to update you on our work with the 60-acre property on Great Island. We are acting with a commitment to environmental stewardship, safety, and community engagement.

Firstly, I'm glad to report that we've finished the interview process for the four resident-at-large positions on our new advisory committee. This nine-member group will be essential in advising on the future of the property and addressing environmental concerns. We've been encouraged by the community spirit, with 45 residents stepping forward to participate. The Board of Selectmen will vote to appoint members at our next meeting on July 3rd.

To remind everyone, there is currently no public access to the property. We've taken steps to ensure safety and maintain the property, which include:

- The installation of 12 'No Public Access' signs and six 24-hour video surveillance warning signs, in addition to trail cameras across the property.
- Addressing safety concerns at the jetty by removing protruding pipes. We are also working with the Harbor Master and DEEP to secure safety marker moorings or buoys.
- Hiring a consultant to design two schematic driveway plans for the main entrance.
- Initiating routine property maintenance, including tree and stump removal and safety-related structural adjustments.
- Developing plans for the safe removal and indoor replacement of transformers and oil tanks on the property.

Among environmental concerns is the presence of elevated arsenic levels in the soil. Traditional remediation methods, such as soil blending or removal and replacement, though effective, are expensive and disruptive.

My own research led to an eco-friendly and cost-effective solution - phytoremediation. This process uses hyper accumulator plants - mustard, soybean, arugula, and sunflowers - to absorb the arsenic.

In an effort to make the most of this growing season, we're initiating a pilot phytoremediation program with GZA, our environmental consulting firm. This program involves soil testing, planting, regular assessments throughout the summer, safe plant disposal at season's end, followed by the sowing of rye grass for winter protection.

Thank you for your unwavering support of this initiative. We're dedicated to transforming Great Island into a cherished asset for all residents, respecting both its environmental integrity and community value.

