

Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen Meeting

August 25, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Town Hall Meeting Room and via Zoom webinar

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 a.m.

a. Attendance:

- a. First Selectman Fred Camillo - Present
- b. Selectwoman Lauren Rabin – Present
- c. Select-person Janet Stone McGuigan – Present

Following the pledge, Mr. Camillo asked for a moment of silence in memory of resident Ralph Roe who passed away August 19.

2. Approval of minutes

a. Amend Regular meeting of June 23, 2022

Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the minutes were approved unanimously.

b. Regular meeting August 11, 2022

Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the minutes were approved unanimously.

c. Special meeting August 11, 2022.

Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. First Selectman's Updates

Mr. Camillo updates included: the inaugural meeting of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Land Use Committee of which he is vice chair; the swearing in of 6 new firefighters and the promotions of 2 to the rank of lieutenant;

the 8.29.22 Abilis golf tournament fund-raiser; and the end of summer fireworks on 9.3 at Binney and Greenwich Point parks.

4. Selectwomen's Updates

Selectwoman Rabin said she would like to review the noise ordinance after receiving several calls from residents concerned about construction noise; she met with Greenwich Hospital officials for an update on the proposed cancer center; the Central Middle School Building Committee has issued an RFP for an owner's representative and an architect.

Ms. Stone McGuigan said her two sons are returning to college and used that as a reminder to encourage college-aged students to apply for absentee ballots for the 11.8 election; that with the start of school, she thanked school administrators, teachers and families for supporting students.

5. Old Business

There was none.

6. New Business

a. Alternative route for East Coast Greenway from Stamford through Old Greenwich and Riverside – Michael Kiselak, DPW engineer.

Mr. Kiselak explained this was part of the East Coast Greenway extending from Maine to Florida for non-motorized vehicles. For better alignment in the Riverside neighborhood with the connection the Stamford portion of the greenway, three alternate routes were considered by the Bicycle Task Force and Pedal Greenwich. Alternate 3 which would connect the Stamford portion Fairfield Avenue to Shore Road, then to Sound Beach Avenue to Riverside Avenue. A public survey indicated 67% of respondents favored Alternate Route 3.

Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, adding Alternate Route 3 to the Greenway route was approved unanimously.

b. Discussion on panhandling in Town – Office of the First Selectman.

Mr. Camillo opened the discussion stating that there have been many complaints from residents regarding the panhandling occurring at the Exit 5 approaches to I-95.

Executive Assistant to the First Selectman Barb Heins gave presented research of other communities around the state that have implemented ordinances prohibiting panhandling and allowing for issuance of infractions

with fines ranging from \$50 to \$199. Another option is to request Connecticut Department of Transportation permission for signs stating that panhandling is prohibited be installed at these locations. On previous occasions, the Selectmen's Office has enlisted the Department of Human Services which has sent caseworkers to meet with the panhandlers who in turn refuse offers of assistance.

Unless there is an obvious obstruction of traffic observed by police, police do not have authority for enforcement as panhandling is considered constitutionally legal.

Mr. Camillo stated that Greenwich Police is investigating whether there are possible scams occurring; that donating to the panhandlers encourages them to stay.

Ms. Stone McGuigan said this is a complex issue in which the answer is not to give money, rather provide support to social services agencies to help the panhandlers. She also expressed concern that the women involved may be victims of exploitation.

Ms. Rabin said that the use of children makes it difficult to resist giving money.

Mr. Camillo said his office will work with the Law Department to review the issue and expand the help that could be offered to the panhandlers.

Father Carl MacIntosh spoke about an incident at St. Roch Church in which panhandlers were outside the church until parishioners chased them away and threatened to call police.

7. Public Comment.

Mr. Kevin O'Connor spoke about the parking space on Arch Street by the ferry landing to avoid paying parking fees at the Island Beach lot. He said that with the non-existent parking enforcement, the Town is losing money.

8. Appointments/Nominations

Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the nomination of Robert Chaney to the Julian Curtiss School Building Committee was approved unanimously.

9. Adjournment

At 11:09 a.m., Ms. Rabin made a motion to adjourn. Upon a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the motion was approved unanimously.

The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. September 8 in the Town Hall Meeting Room and via Zoom.

Prepared by Barbara A. Heins,
Recording Secretary

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