

Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen

Meeting

February 22, 2018

10:00 A.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

APPROVED MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 10:11 A.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Attendance:

- I. First Selectman Peter J. Tesei - Present
- II. Selectman John Toner - Present
- III. Selectman Sandy Litvack – Present

The First Selectman greeted and welcomed attendees commenting that it was a Public Meeting of the Board of Selectmen who reserve the right to call on people to propose questions and make comments.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held on 2.8.2018 were moved for approval, as amended, by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Litvack. The motion passed unanimously.

3. First Selectman's Update

- a. Mr. Tesei said he attended the Boys and Girls Club Greenwich 50th anniversary dinner honoring the Youth of the Year on Feb. 8. He said the nominees all overcame adversity to achieve success, especially Domenica Echeverria, the 2018 Youth of the Year.
- b. On Feb. 16, Mr. Tesei read a letter praising the efforts of the Town's arborists under the direction Jeff Scheck.
- c. Mr. Tesei announced that on Feb. 21 the Housing Authority of the Town of Greenwich received notification from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that the Authority will receive a \$246,000 grant to support various programs for residents.

4. Old Business

5.

- a. Approval of Municipal Improvement (MI) request for Sound Beach Avenue bridge and roundabout improvements – Deputy DPW Commissioner Jim Michel.

Mr. Tesei explained that this item is included in the recommended 2018-19 budget and that the funds will come through the state of Connecticut. If the Town does not accept the money, it will be awarded to another town in the region.

Mr. Litvack said the presentation by Mr. Michel and Senior Engineer Gabrielle Circosta-Cohee at the Feb. 8 meeting was excellent and he supports the project.

On a motion by Mr. Litvack, seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board unanimously approved the MI status.

b. Update to parking ordinances on Hillside Road.

Mr. Tesei said the proposed changes were processed through the Parking Services Department which has provided a history of the parking regulations for the street. He said the issue of traffic was raised by residents during the course of discussing the original request to codify the regulations. He also said there isn't any specific proposal to eliminate parking. Mr. Tesei also explained that when improvements were made at Greenwich High School, the Planning and Zoning Commission predicated its approval with parking being available on the street.

Town Attorney Wayne Fox said that the question remains as to whether in approving parking on the street, the Board of Selectmen conveyed authority to control Hillside to the Board of Education.

Mr. Litvack stated that if the authority was not conveyed then the basic Parking Authority powers lie with the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Tesei said that if the authority was conveyed, then the issue is moot. Mr. Tesei said he would move to approve the codification of the parking regulations because he thinks there are positive things occurring to address the issues including the stadium feasibility study, as well as creating an alternate access route so as not to rely upon Hillside Road. He said he thought the issues can be addressed.

Mr. Litvack said his issue is to address the concerns of residents and students and that his concern is to find the right balance. He said he would welcome solutions rather than waiting three years for another road to be built. He reiterated that he is concerned with addressing the Hillside Road residents' concerns.

Interim Parking Services Director Capt. Mark Kordick disagreed that the Board of Selectmen do not have the authority to establish parking regulations on Board of Education property. He cited Town Code section 14.2 that says in part, that at the request of the Housing Authority or Board of Education, this board can issue regulations on traffic and parking on those properties. Capt. Kordick said the Selectmen can exercise authority if invited by the Board of Education. He reminded the Board that the issue began at the request of his office to define visitors parking. He also said that Connecticut law allows for on-street parking.

Capt. Kordick further stated that there is an area of visitors parking but there isn't a definition of visitors parking. The Board of Education has said that high school visitors average about 90 minutes. He also said that his department discovered that parking on either side of the visitors parking section are not reflective of the 1991 approved parking regulations and that there is a need to eliminate reference to the "J" permit which no longer exists. These changes would not alter the real world treatment of the street use, Capt. Kordick added. He said there is still a need to decide what the use is and that online, there is nothing to define visitors parking

Mr. Litvack questioned whether this gap has existed since 1991 – 27 years. Traffic Operations Coordinator Melissa Evans said that changes had been made over the years but not included in Town ordinances. She said that at one point there was a hard copy of the ordinance in the book but then it wasn't included.

Mr. Litvack said that he would want the Town Attorney to give an opinion on whether the Selectmen have authority on the issue.

Mr. Toner said he agreed with Mr. Litvack.

Mr. Tesei acknowledged Tom Bobkowski, the school district's director of safety and security, and GHS Headmaster Chris Winters. He then asked what impact there would be if on-street student parking were eliminated.

Mr. Bobkowski explained there are 82-86 cars parked daily and that since 2006, school security guards are authorized to issue Town parking tickets. He said there is a daily average of 120 visitors to the school and there are 60 visitors parking space. Elimination of on-street parking would create a hardship, Mr. Bobkowski said.

A group of student government leaders, led by Greg Goldstein, said they sympathized with Hillside neighborhood but that student parking is not the source of the problem. He said it is 3,000 students leaving school at one time. Elimination of on-street student parking would create an extreme burden on students who run businesses, go to work and care for siblings after school. Mr. Goldstein also said students are willing to work with neighbors when there is a need for parking spaces.

Headmaster Winters said that in case the Selectmen were concerned, the student government leaders were attending the meeting during free class periods and not missing classes. He said that he did not want the issue to be about a group of spoiled kids who want to go out to lunch. He explained that programming at the campus has increased steadily over the years and runs until 10 p.m. most nights. He said that outside activities do create a mob scene especially with sports activities and religious groups using the building. He said it is unfair to single out the 72 students who use on-street parking. Mr. Tesei said the Board will move on since there is no action to be taken at this time.

Karen Hirsch said the issue is congestion and there is a need to alleviate the problem. She said PTAC welcomes the opportunity to work with parents to keep students safe.

6. New Business

a. Street Name Change: Hendrie Avenue Extension to Monty Point.

Michael Salerno, representing the owners, said that the properties on Hendrie Avenue Extension have common ownership. The layout of the street, which is a dead-end continues to create confusion for guests and deliveries that are actually seeking 23 and 24 Hendrie Drive in Old Greenwich, not Riverside.

Mr. Litvack made the motion to change the street name. Upon a second by Mr. Toner, the motion was unanimously approved.

Before moving on with the agenda, Mr. Litvack asked if the Board would give

consideration to have Board meetings conducted in the evening, from 6 to 8 p.m. Mr. Tesei said such consideration can be given.

Mr. Litvack said he had a conflict with the upcoming March 8 Board meeting. The board agreed to eliminate that meeting from its schedule.

Because of two pending requests to approve cell tower leases at The Griffith Harris Golf Course, the Board was asked to schedule a special meeting.

Mr. Litvack made a motion to hold a special meeting at 10:30 a.m. February 27 to consider the leases. Upon a second by Mr. Toner, the meeting date was unanimously approved.

7. Appointments and Nominations

Mr. Tesei said it needs to be determined when Lawrence Larson is resigning from the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals.

8. Executive Session

Mr. Litvack moved to enter into executive session at 11:03 A.M., seconded by Mr. Toner. The Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Present in Executive Session were: J. Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; John Wetmore, Assistant Town Attorney, Barbara Heins, recording secretary.

Mr. Toner moved to exit Executive Session at 11:49 A.M., seconded by Mr. Litvack, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Litvack moved to adjourn at 11:51 A.M.; seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Next Meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be a Special Meeting on Feb. 27.

Next Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.


Peter J. Tesei First Selectman


Prepared by Barbara A. Heins
Recording Secretary