Town of Greenwich  
Board of Selectmen  
Meeting May 30, 2017  
10:00 A.M.  
Town Hall Meeting Room  

APPROVED MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 10:10 A.M. with an announcement from First Selectman Peter J. Tesi that the meeting start would be delayed until 11:40 a.m. in order to comply with the Freedom of Information Act requirement that there be 24 business hours from the posting of the meeting with the Town Clerk until the meeting start.

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Attendance:  
   I. First Selectman Peter J. Tesi - Present  
   II. Selectman John Toner - Present  
   III. Selectman Drew Marzullo - 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 5-11-2017 were moved for approval as amended by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.

3. First Selectman’s Updates  
a. Mr. Tesi explained that the First Selectman’s updates provide an opportunity to spotlight many organizations that enrich the Greenwich community and highlight the breadth of services offered.

b. On May 12, the YMCA of Greenwich held its Oyster & Pearl gala at the Greenwich Polo Club at Conyers Farms. The honorees were Randy and Cathy Weisenburger and Michael Chambers.

c. On May 16, the First Selectman’s Diversity Advisory Committee held its annual meeting and announced the winners of its 8th annual Diversity Writing Contest. The students’ entries reflected a deep recognition of and commitment to combat the adversity faced by many of our students on all levels.

d. On May 17, The Greenwich Girl Scouts held its annual recognition dinner for the Gold, Silver & Bronze Award recipients and graduating seniors at the St. Lawrence Society.

e. Also on May 17, the Rotary Club of Greenwich held its 2017 Citizens of the Year Award celebration. Mary Hull was recognized for her work as the founder and executive director of Greenwich Clean & Green and Charles Hilton was honored for his design work of the 9-11 Memorial at Cos Cob Park and the Rotary Pavilion at Byram Park.

f. On May 20, the First Baptist Church of Greenwich celebrated its 120th anniversary with a luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich. It was followed by a special service on Sunday, May 21.

g. On May 21, Mr. Tesi attended the Mezuzah Installation at the Greenwich Reform Synagogue. It a symbolic end to the construction of the congregation’s new home on
Orchard Street.

h. Also on May 21, the Greenwich Tree Conservancy and the Greenwich Parks & Recreation Department celebrated the opening of the expansion of the Arboretum at Bruce Park.

i. Last Tuesday – May 23, Mr. Tesi explained that he had the honor of signing a sister city agreement with the District Chief of Shangcheng District, Hangzhou, China. Dr. Chengtao Jin was a guest here in Greenwich as part of a delegation led by Tao Guo, who is the secretary general of the Zhejiang International Hedge Fund Talent Association in Hangzhou. He also said the Sister City agreement should lead to business, educational and cultural exchanges between the two municipalities. Mr. Tesi also thanked the Bruce Museum for providing an abbreviated tour to the Hangzhou delegation, as well as Museum Board of Directors member Fred Brooks for his invitation to host the group to tour his collection of Chinese artworks.

j. Also on May 23, the culmination of many years of work, the new Greenwich Fire Department headquarters was officially dedicated with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Several former Fire Selectmen were attendance including Lolly Prince, Dick Bergstresser, John Margenot and Roger Pearson, as well as members of the Board of Estimate and Taxation and the Representative Town Meeting who supported the project.

k. The Silver Shield Association honored several of its members on the evening of May 24. Officer Andrew Greco was the 2016 Silver Shield Association Officer of the Year. Also honored for their work were Sgt. Shockley, Det. Libasci, Det. Perusse, Officer Tar, Officer Swift, Officer Wallace.

l. Also On May 24, Mr. Tesi attended the 20th anniversary and benefit for the Friends of Autistic People. Long-time Greenwich resident and fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger and his wife Dee were honored at the event.

m. This past weekend, there were several Memorial Day events attended by Mr. Tesi and Mr. Toner, including the Cos Cob VFW Post 10112 ceremony at the Strickland Road Memorial; the Byram Veterans Association parade, the Ninth District Veterans Association and Glenville Volunteer Fire Co. annual parade, the American Legion Post 29 dockside service at the Indian Harbor Yacht Club, the Byram Veterans memorial at the monument at McKinney Terrace; the Sound Beach Volunteer Fire Department parade in Old Greenwich and the Chickahominy memorial ceremony at Hamilton Avenue School.

n. Mr. Tesi noted that he drove to New Britain on May 25 to attend the Siting Council’s hearing on EverSource’s revised plan to build a new substation and power system from Cos Cob to central Greenwich. It is because of that hearing, that the Board of Selectmen’s meeting was rescheduled to today (May 30), Mr. Tesi explained. The Siting Council took 10 minutes to render its decision allowing EverSource to submit a revised plan. The Council has scheduled a field review of the proposed route for 2 p.m. July 13; a public hearing to be held at 6:30 p.m. July 13 with an evidentiary hearing to be held in New Britain on July 25.

o. Mr. Tesi said that he would be attending an informational meeting at the Rye Brook Village Hall on Wednesday night (May 31) about the privatization of Westchester County Airport.

p. Mr. Toner reported that he attended a Commission on Aging seminar about Greenwich becoming more Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly.

4. Old Business

a. Establishment of a committee to review a proposal to add the Board of Education to Section 66 and 67 of the Town Charter. In particular, the establishment of a committee to consider a requirement that any change to the mode of selection, composition, rights, powers, privileges or duties of the Board of Education require a referendum.

Mr. Tesi said that there was a solicitation of opinion from the Board of Education in reference to the changing Section 38 of the Charter as requested by Selectman Marzullo
and that it was received May 26. Mr. Tesei read the letter from Board of Ed Chair Mr. Peter Sherr (which is attached at the end of these minutes).

Mr. Tesei also said that at the last Selectmen’s meeting, the board voted to appoint committee members who agreed to serve – Bill Finger, Barry Rickett, Brian Feldunas and Peter von Braun – as well as to find someone to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Joan Caldwell. Mr. Tesei said that Alexis Voulgaris, RTM District 6 member who is an unaffiliated voter, agreed to serve on the committee. Her appointment would reflect a diverse and broad perspective of the community, Mr. Tesei said. He noted that as of April 30, 2017, the Town’s voters were 36% unaffiliated; 35% Republican; 27% Democrat and 2% other. He said that the Committee membership of 2 Republicans, 2 unaffiliated voters and 1 Democrat comes closest to reflecting the Town’s electorate. He also said that the Committee is to review a proposal to review Sections 66 and 67 of the Charter.

Mr. Tesei made a motion to appoint the committee and it was seconded by Mr. Toner.

Mr. Marzullo said he wanted to make two motions. Mr. Tesei said that his item was on the agenda and that there would be a vote on the motion. Mr. Marzullo responded that his motions would affect Mr. Tesei’s motion. Mr. Marzullo explained that he was going to suggest the Selectmen table the action because the Board of Education voted not to change the composition of its Board. Mr. Marzullo said cited opposition to the changes by Democrat Laura Erickson, Republican Barbara O’Neill and PTAC President Mike Trogni and describe it as a bipartisan vote of the Board of Education. Mr. Marzullo also said he will question the composition of the Charter Revision Committee if Msrs. von Braun and Feldunas are running for the Board of Education. He also said he prefers that the Board of Selectmen not form the Committee and bring the issue before the RTM.

Mr. Tesei said that the Board of Education voted on an opinion on Section 38 of the Charter but that Section 38 is not before the Board of Selectmen. The question is whether the electorate should be involved in the decision to change the Charter and the composition of the Board of Education, Mr. Tesei said. He said the question that needs to be answered is whether 116 of the 230 members of the RTM versus 33,000 registered voters decide on whether to make any changes. He described it as a very tedious, deliberative process. He said there was a motion to appoint five (5) members to the Committee.

Mr. Marzullo asked if the Selectmen were voting on the Committee members who could be candidates. Mr. Tesei said that Committee members would be participating in discussion on should the decision by the RTM go to the electorate. He said information regarding whether Committee members would be running for the Board of Education is hearsay including information about Mr. von Braun’s possible intentions that was passed along during a conversation.

BoE member Ms. O’Neill was recognized by the Chair and said that any reference by Mr. Tesei to her comments made about Mr. von Braun should also reference comments made by Mrs. Erickson about BoE Chair Mr. Sherr running for reelection.

Mr. Marzullo asked that if two (2) of the five (5) Committee members are running for BoE, should the Selectmen wait and call the members to ask if they are running. Mr.
Tesei called the question and requested a vote on his motion.

The motion passed 2-1-0, with Mr. Marzullo casting the dissenting vote. Mr. Marzullo said that he wanted the record to reflect that he would have liked to check whether Mssrs. Von Braun and Peldunas would be running for the Board of Education.

5. New Business

   a. Request to Approve second amendment to the Bruce Museum Management Agreement - Bruce Cohen.
   b. Request to modify Section 14-5, Schedule II of the Greenwich Municipal Ordinances – Bruce Cohen.
   c. Request to modify section 14-7.6, Schedule VIIA of the Greenwich Municipal Ordinances – Bruce Cohen.

Mr. Cohen explained that the Bruce Museum previously received approvals for Municipal Improvement (MI) status regarding the expansion and renovation of the facility. The plan is now near the end of the land use portion of approvals including reviews by the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Architectural Review Committee as well as Town Administrator Ben Branyan and Town departments including Parking Services, Parks & Recreation, the Town Attorney and Tree Warden. The plans now reflect the changes requested by these various agencies and departments, Mr. Cohen explained. One of the changes now eliminates the need to lease land from the state of Connecticut for parking and the Museum is withdrawing that portion of the MI.

Mr. Cohen also provided a history of the Museum’s operations that included a separate board overseeing operation from 1909 until 1992. An expansion of the Museum in 1991 was the genesis for the current operating agreement which is handled by a 501-c3 known as the Bruce Museum Inc. Last year, the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) extended that operating agreement by 20 years.

Mr. Cohen also provided an overview of the construction plan - including handicapped accessibility as well as connecting downtown activities with both the Museum and Bruce Park – which must be approved by the RTM. He also explained that the Selectmen need to approve the management agreement and modifications to parking regulations.

Mr. Tesei said that a motion was needed to add to the agenda, a modification of Section 14-1, Schedule 1 of the Greenwich Municipal Ordinances, for a total of four (4) requests by the Museum.

   Mr. Toner made the motion to add the Section 14-1, Schedule I modification to the agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Marzullo and unanimously approved.
Mr. Tesei commented that the Museum worked collaboratively with the Town administration to determine the best use of a finite resource – parking.

Mr. Toner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Marzullo to approve the second amendment to the Bruce Museum Management Agreement. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Toner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Marzullo to approve the modification of Section 14-1, Schedule I of the Greenwich Municipal Ordinances. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Toner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Marzullo to approve the modification of Section 14-5, Schedule II of the Greenwich Municipal Ordinances. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Toner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Marzullo to approve the modification of Section 14-7.6, Schedule VIIA of the Greenwich Municipal Ordinances. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Appointments and Nominations

7. Executive Session

Mr. Toner motioned to enter into executive session at 12:53 P.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Attending the Executive Session were J. Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Eugene McLaughlin, Assistant Town Attorney, and Barbara Heins, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman.

Mr. Toner moved to exit Executive Session at 1:15 P.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

a. Full and Final Settlement of tax appeal to settle Docket No. HHB CV 16-6034442S – Parcel No. 01-2515/S for a tax credit of $5,647.

Upon a motion by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor of the settlement.

b. Full and Final Settlement of tax appeal to settle Docket No. HHB CV 16-6034461S – Parcel No. 12-1010/S for a tax credit of $3,309.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tesei, seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor of the settlement.

c. Full and Final Settlement of tax appeal to settle Docket No. HHB CV 16-6034460S – Parcel No. 06-3903/S for a tax credit of $20,515.
Upon a motion by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor of the settlement.

d. Full and Final Settlement of tax appeal to settle Docket No. HHB CV 16-6034312S - Parcel No. 01-2522/S for a tax credit of $8,282.

   Upon a motion by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor of the settlement.

e. Full and Final Settlement of tax appeal to settle Docket No. HHB CV 16-6034316S - Parcel No. 03-1413/S for a tax credit of $2,356.

   Upon a motion by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor of the settlement.

f. Full and Final Settlement of tax appeal to settle Docket No. HHB CV 16-6034313S - Parcel No. 12-1020/S for a tax credit of $988.

   Upon a motion by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor of the settlement.

g. Full and Final Settlement of tax appeal to settle Docket No. FST CV 16-5015743S - Parcel No. 06-1807/S for a tax credit of $2,700.

   Upon a motion by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor of the settlement.

h. Full and Final Settlement of tax appeal to settle Docket No. HHB CV 16-6034461S - Parcel No. 12-1010/S for a tax credit of $3,309.

   Upon a motion by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor of the settlement.

8. Adjournment

   Mr. Toner motioned to adjourn at 1:20 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Next Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be at 11 a.m. Friday, June 9 in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

[Signatures]

Peter J. Tesei First Selectman

Prepared by Barbara A. Heins
Recording Secretary