

Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen

Meeting July 14, 2016

10:00 A.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

APPROVED MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 10:16 A.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

a. Attendance:

- I. First Selectman Peter J. Tesei - 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 and that he reserves the right to call on people to ask questions and to make comments. Mr. Tesei also explained that the Town Charter requires the Selectmen to meet once a month and that the First Selectman provide an update to the Board about events and activities in Town.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held on 6-23-2016 were moved for approval as amended by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.

3. First Selectman's Updates

- a. Mr. Tesei discussed the annual Bastille Day celebration hosted by Alliance Francaise at Town Hall earlier in the morning of July 14. Among those in attendance were Deputy Consul to the French Consulate in New York, Yann Yochum and Mr. Jean LaChaud, president of the American Society of Le Souvenir Francaise.
- b. On July 9, Mr. Tesei attended the 12th annual Greenwich Point Conservancy Beach Ball where it was announced that an ecological research project to help improve the water quality of Long Island Sound will be undertaken in a partnership between the Bruce Museum and the University of Connecticut. Mr. Tesei said this project brings together what the Conservancy has been doing to restore the buildings at Greenwich Point where there are science and environmental programs held and now there will be a research project. He also acknowledged state Sen. Scott Frantz, who attended the Selectmen's meeting, for his work in helping to develop the UConn partnership.
- c. Mr. Tesei said that meetings among various town departments and officials continue regarding the development of the 2017-18 budget. He said there is considerable concern with labor contracts which drive budget costs and that there are several employee contracts that are in negotiations. He also said that fixed budget costs also are of concern.

4. Old Business

There was none.

5. New Business

- a. Department of Public Works – The Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers recognized the

work the Departments of Public Works, Parks and Recreation and the Conservation Commission at the Cos Cob Park with the 2016 Sustainability ACE Award and the 2016 Environmental ACE Award of Merit. The coastal brownfield remediation project was led by the DPW Engineering Division. Over the course of two decades the 9.4-acre parcel that was the site of the former coal-fire Cos Cob Power Plant for Metro-North Railroad, has been transformed into a passive and active recreational park. Deputy DPW Commissioner James Michel said that a year after the park was opened to the public, staff continue to receive compliments on the work completed at the site.

b. Park & Recreation Department: The naming of the Francis H. Keegan Jr. Conference Room in memory of the first director of the combined Parks and Recreation departments. Mr. Keegan passed away Jan. 20 and at the request of former colleague, Dave D'Andrea, the Selectmen were asked to name the room in his honor. Mr. Tesei said Mr. Keegan was instrumental in creating the Parks and Recreation Department as it is known today, and that his legacy is honored by naming the conference room after him. Mr. D'Andrea, Parks and Recreation Director Joseph Siciliano and Mr. Keegan's daughter, Kim Cassia shared recollections of Mr. Keegan. Mrs. Cassia thanked Mr. D'Andrea and Mr. Siciliano and the Selectmen for honoring her father's memory.

On a motion by Mr. Tesei, seconded by Mr. Toner, the board voted 3-0-0 to approve the naming of the Francis H. Keegan Jr. conference room in the Parks and Recreation Department.

c. Road Closure: St. Roch's Feast. Mr. Tesei said that this year's feast – scheduled for Aug. 10- 13 – is scaled back this year because of construction at the Hamilton Avenue School parking garage. Road closures will involve St. Roch's Avenue and Hamilton Avenue in the area of Stone Avenue.

On a motion by Mr. Tesei, seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board voted 3-0-0 to approve the road closure.

d. Road Closure: Aquarion Water Co. sought the closure of Anderson Road from Aug. 8 to Aug. 29 to facilitate the installation of new water pump station at 2 Anderson Rd. The new station will replace one that was built in the 1970s, according to Mark Richards and Wanda McGarry, of Kovacs Construction Corp. which is performing the work.

On a motion by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 to approve the road closure.

e. Road Closure: request from Lewis Tree Co. on Catrock and Cognewaugh roads was tabled until the next board meeting for lack of information on closure dates and there was not a company representative present at the meeting. Tree warden Bruce Spaman said the work is necessary to clear tree branches from utility lines.

Mr. Tesei additionally noted that moments before the start of today's meeting, the board unanimously voted to allow temporary closure of North Street in the area of the Rockwood Reservoir at the request of Aquarion Water Co. The company had a large crane and a diving crew on the scene to conduct emergency replacement of a submersible water pump in the reservoir. Mr. Tesei there was a communication issue between the utility and the Greenwich Police Department and that the Board

voted to allow the temporary road closure.

f. Anti-graffiti initiative was presented by Representative Town Meeting District 3 Representative Dawn Fortunato. Ms. Fortunato, who said she has been working with state Rep. Fred Camillo, explained her efforts to organize an anti-graffiti campaign to rid the Chickahominy neighborhood in Byram of unsightly graffiti that has plagued the area for years. Ms. Fortunato, who has obtained complimentary samples of graffiti-removal kits, and enlisted the assistance of Bobby Walker Jr., the CEO of the Boys & Girls Club Greenwich. Members of the BGCG's Torch and Keystone Clubs are willing to volunteer to conduct graffiti cleanups along the Ritch and Hamilton avenue corridors. She also said she is willing to contact the MA and Connecticut DOT about cleaning up graffiti on their properties that can be seen from local roads. She said that the youth volunteers would be supplied the proper gloves and goggles and perform their work under adult supervision. Ms. Fortunato also said she had access to a power washer and would request that the Town assist with a water supply.

Mr. Tesei expressed support of the effort and liked the fact that the effort is citizen driven. Mr. Marzullo asked whether there has been an increase of graffiti. Ms. Fortunato said some of the graffiti has been in place for years and that by not removing it, it is an invitation for vandals to return and 'tag' the area. Mr. Marzullo also questioned whether the graffiti actually is art. Ms. Fortunato said she believed most of it is graffiti.

g. Representatives of the Bruce Museum Inc. (BMI) presented their plans for an expansion of the Museum and the associated application for Municipal Improvement status for the project so that it can be referred to the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission. Representing the BMI was Attorney Bruce Cohen. BMI Executive Director Peter Sutton and Steve Dumez, director of design and principal of Eskew+Dumez+Ripple of New Orleans, LA. Messrs. Cohen, Sutton and Dumez outlined the need for and the plans to construct at 39,593 square foot addition that will provide a new lower level and entrance to the museum, expanded handicapped accessibility, increasing gallery space, expanding on-site educational workshop space, creating adequate storage space for the museum's permanent collections and exhibition preparation space, as well as amenities found at other high-caliber museums.

Mr. Sutton said that the museum currently draws 75,000 to 85,000 visitors annually and that the expansion would create a venue that could draw 150,000 to 200,000 visitors. The museum currently has 3,400 square feet of exhibition space and does not have room to house permanent art galleries to showcase the museum's permanent collection that includes about 16,000 objects.

Mr. Tesei commented that he thought museum officials developed an extremely thoughtful proposal that preserves the nature of the campus and will add value to the museum's educational programs and will have economic value to the Town. Mr. Tesei, who also said he was very supportive of the proposal, said it was important for the museum to share its funding and financial plans. Mr. Sutton said he was unsure how much the project will cost, however, the project will primarily be a privately-funded project. He also said he did not want to provide those numbers.

Mr. Marzullo asked whether the museum would be closed during construction. Mr. Sutton said that there were not continuous operations, the schedule would be close to that.

Mr. Tesei said that the Board of Selectmen will take formal action on the Municipal Improvement status request at its July 28, 2016 meeting.

h. The Board reviewed the proposed 2017 Board of Selectmen meeting schedule.

Mr. Marzullo made a motion to approve the proposed 2017 meeting schedule. After a second by Mr. Toner, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor.

6. Appointments and Nominations

Mr. Tesei opened discussion on the appointment of five (5) members of the Charter Revision Committee that will review the proposal to expand the Board of Education from eight (8) to 10 members and make a recommendation to the Representative Town Meeting.

Mr. Tesei made the motion to appoint Barry Rickert and it was seconded by Mr. Toner.

Mr. Marzullo said that all of the candidates seemed to be impressive and that if the Selectmen are to nominate the committee, he is concerned that members are able to complement one another and that it is balanced. Mr. Tesei said that the board is being a responsive government by appointing the committee and that Mr. Rickert, who was one of the residents to propose the school board membership change, has an idea that will be vetted. Mr. Marzullo responded that four of the members that Mr. Tesei plans to nominate are proponents of the proposal. Mr. Tesei said that it appears there is tyranny of the minority, not the majority. Mr. Marzullo responded that will the nominee has great credentials, but without knowing the composition of the rest of the committee, he cannot vote for Mr. Rickert.

Following the discussion to appoint Barry Rickert, the vote was 2-0-1 to approve, with Mr. Marzullo abstaining because, he said, he wanted to see the make-up of the board.

Mr. Marzullo made the motion to appoint William Finger and it was seconded by Mr. Toner. The motion was approved 2-0-1, with Mr. Tesei abstaining.

Mr. Toner made the motion to appoint Brian Peldunas and it was seconded by Mr. Tesei. The motion was approved 2-1-0, with Mr. Marzullo voting against.

Mr. Tesei made the motion to appoint Joan Caldwell and it was seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion was approved 3-0-0.

Mr. Marzullo made the motion to appoint Donna Curtis. The motion failed to receive a second.

Mr. Toner made the motion to appoint Peter von Braun and it was seconded by Mr. Tesei. The motion was approved 2-1-0, with Mr. Marzullo voting against.

At the conclusion of the vote, Mr. Marzullo stated that the committee is a complete sham. Board of Education Chair Laura Erickson asked for clarity on the time schedule with regards to the 2017 municipal elections. Mr. Tesei said that one of the first assignments to be tasked to the committee is to develop a meeting schedule.

7. Executive Session

a. Discussion of pending litigation and potential settlement of lawsuit.

Mr. Toner motioned to enter into executive session at 12:16 p.m., seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Also present in the Executive Session were Mary Pepe, Director, HR Department; J. Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Valerie Maze Keeney, Assistant Town Attorney, Police Chief James Heavey and Executive Assistant Barbara Heins.

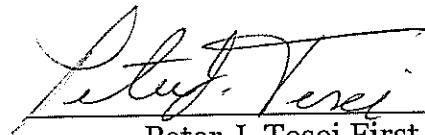
Mr. Toner motioned to leave the executive session at 1:56 p.m., seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The Board voted 3-0 in favor.

8. Adjournment

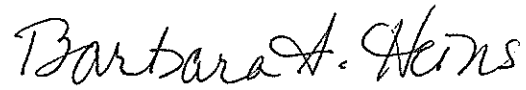
Mr. Toner motioned to adjourn at 1:56 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled on Thursday, July 28, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen is planned for Thursday, July 21, 2016 at a time to be announced.



Peter J. Tesei First Selectman



Prepared by Barbara A. Heins
Recording Secretary