Town of Greenwich
Board of Selectmen Meeting
July 14, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room and via Zoom webinar
APPROVED MINUTES

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

   a. Attendance:

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

2. Approval of minutes

   a. Regular meeting June 9, 2022

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

   b. Special meeting June 9, 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 spoke of the Department of Public Works road paving program and asked residents to pay attention to workers directing traffic and to be respectful. He also spoke of the annual Bastille Day flag-raising ceremony earlier in the morning; of the upcoming Armstrong Court Phase II ribbon cutting on July 16; the Greenwich Founder’s Day program on July 17; the continuing interview process for the school building committees.

4. Selectwomen’s Updates

   Selectwoman Rabin promoted the July 15 Free Music Friday sunset concert. She also spoke of her work as the Board’s representatives for the Central Middle School building committee and the Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees
where she is a member of the subcommittee looking at possible Town sites for affordable housing.

Ms. Stone McGuigan previewed the July 20 League of Women Voters legislative forum. She also said the annual Sand Blast at Greenwich Point was a fun event.

5. Old Business

a. Amendment to traffic ordinance: No parking zone Pema Lane. Deputy Police Chief Kraig Gray and Senior Civil Engineer Gabriella Cireasta-Cohee. Postponed until further notice while the Department of Public Works continues community outreach on a resolution.

b. Request for a Town declaration of a climate change emergency – second read. – Isabelle Harper.

Mr. Camillo said that while he supports the intent of the declaration, he is not ready to vote as there is a need to change some of the proposed wording, and there is concern over the word “emergency.” He said meetings will be scheduled with members of the Board of Estimate and Taxation and the Planning and Zoning Commission, both of which have voiced concerns over wording.

Ms. Stone McGuigan said she hoped the delay would not be indefinite.

Mr. Camillo said the declaration has to be something that everyone agrees with and that in its present form he will not vote to support it.

6. New Business

a. Amendment to Traffic Ordinance to update the term and late fee listed for the online renewal of annual parking permits (first read) – Deputy Police Chief Kraig Gray.

Parking Services Business Services Manager Lu Ann Bellantoni presented for Deputy Chief Gray. She explained the amendment would correct data contained in the ordinance. The renewal period will be October 15 through November 30 with the late renewal period held from December 1 to December 31. The late renewal fee will be $45.

This was the first read of the amendment – no vote was taken.
b. Amendment to Traffic Ordinance to update the term and fee for Residential Parking Permits (first read) – Deputy Police Chief Kraig Gray.

Parking Services Business Services Manager Lu Ann Bellantoni presented for Deputy Chief Gray. She explained the amendment would extend the residential permits from two (2) to three (3) years. The permit fee would increase from $24 to $35.

This was the first read of the amendment – no vote was taken.

c. Road closure request for annual St. Roch Feast – Jackie Budkins.

Ms. Budkins said the feast is a 90-year tradition for the Town.

Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the road closure for Aug. 10 - 13 was approved unanimously.

d. Request to participate in a virtual net metering program with Eversource – Energy Management Advisory Committee Chair Peter Schweinfurth.

Mr. Rob Liflander presented for Mr. Schweinfurth. Mr. Liflander explained the program is for non-residential energy solutions; that solar power would be developed and used via partnership with a developer. He said there would be no capital expended by the Town which would share in the profit/revenue from the program. He said the Energy Management Advisory Committee will seek approval to participate with Eversource in the program and then issue an RFP seeking 3 developers to develop the program.

In answer to Ms. Stone McGuigan’s question on whether the Town will pay more for utilities, Mr. Liflander aid the Town’s electric bills would not change; that a 20-year commitment would be needed to receive net revenue.

No action was taken.

e. Eversource easement for 1 Museum Drive - Suzanne Lio – Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director, Bruce Museum.

Ms. Lio explained approval of the easement is needed to complete the electrical work including transformer installation necessary for the Museum’s ongoing expansion project.
Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the easement was approved unanimously.

f. Blankenship Dry Goods request to use parking space at 16 Greenwich Ave.

Mr. Tory Lenzo of Blankenship said he was seeking use of a parking space in front of his shop for display of merchandise, as part of the space is taken up by a barricade for a neighboring restaurant's outdoor dining node. He said it was inequitable that restaurants have returned to full indoor dining in addition to the outdoor nodes.

Planning & Zoning Chair Ms. Margarita Alban and Town Planner Katie DeLuca both opined that the Town Charter prohibits outdoor sales of merchandise except during the annual sidewalk sales days. Ms. Alban also said 16% of parking spaces are being used for dining nodes and the parking supply would be further constrained if merchandise sales nodes are allowed.

No action was taken on the request.

7. Public Comment.

Resident Gail Lauridsen spoke in opposition to the proposed climate emergency declaration.

Resident Rob Liflander spoke in support of the proposed climate emergency declaration.

Resident Alex Popp identified locations of 2 tree stumps that have not been replaced with trees in Byram; noted need for signage for parking at Byram Shubert Library and New Lebanon School; the need to create a parking space on Byram Dock Street; place signage at Byram Cemetery and establish a permanent maintenance program for the Town-owned cemetery.

Resident Phil Dodson questioned the need for a climate emergency declaration and said the students are part of a local chapter of the global organization 350.org.

Resident Peter Alexander also spoke to the proposed climate emergency declaration.

8. Appointments/Nominations

There were none.
9. Adjournment

At 11:37 a.m., Ms. Rabin made a motion to adjourn. Upon a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the motion was approved unanimously.

Prepared by Barbara A. Heins,
Recording Secretary