

# Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen

Meeting July 28, 2016

10:00 A.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

## APPROVED MINUTES

### 1. The meeting opened at 10:23 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, not a public hearing, and that he reserves the right to call on people to propose questions and make comments.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Amended minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held on July 14, 2016 were moved for approval by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen meeting held on July 21, 2016 were moved for approval by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tesei asked for a motion to take up the nomination and appointment of Michael Pittocco as a Constable, out of the order scheduled on the agenda. Mr. Toner made the motion, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tesei noted that the Town was saddened by the June 25 passing of long-time Constable Phil Pittocco, who was active in many community organizations. He said that the Democratic Town Committee sent notice to the Selectmen on July 20, that Mr. Pittocco's son, Mike, was endorsed to complete the unexpired Constable's term.

Mr. Marzullo made the motion to nominate Philip Michael 'Mike' Pittocco to complete the Constable's term that expires at the end of 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Toner. Mr. Marzullo said that Michael's appointment would carry on Phil Pittocco's legacy of public service to the community. Mr. Pittocco is a 2012 University of Connecticut graduate, recently received his teaching degree from Manhattanville College and is a paraprofessional employed at Hamilton Avenue School. His appointment was approved by a 3-0-0 vote. Mr. Pittocco was then administered the oath of office by Town Clerk Carmella Budkins.

### 3. First Selectman's Updates

- a. In a meeting with representatives of the Connecticut Cultural Alliance on July 18, Mr. Tesei decided the Town will participate in Alliance membership. For \$100 a year, the Town will be able to publicize various programs and events on the Alliance's website, FCBuzz.com, a resource that will be helpful because of the state cuts in financing local tourism councils.

- b. Members of the Harbor Management Commission, Parks & Recreation marine operations staff, the Harbormaster and the Greenwich Police Marine section met July 18 with Scott Bates, the chairman of a new state agency, the Connecticut Port Authority. The authority is looking to assess all ports of Connecticut. The group toured a portion of the Greenwich coastline, primarily Cos Cob Harbor where the number of waterfront businesses is growing, as evidenced by the increase in rowing clubs and where the dredging of the harbor will begin in October.
- c. The annual Founder's Day celebration took place on two days, beginning with the presentation of the Found's Day proclamation at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich on July 17, a tradition that was begun on the town's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary by then First Selectman Wilbur Peck. The unveiling of the Founders' plaque took place July 18 in a ceremony on the bluff at Greenwich Point that was organized by the Greenwich 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Chair Davide Strackbein.
- d. Mr. Tesei and members of the First Selectman's Economic Advisory Committee met with hedge fund managers from Shanghai China on July 14. The visiting group was hosted by the Connecticut Hedge Fund Association and extended Mr. Tesei to visit China in October. The group is seeking new investment opportunities in the New York and Greenwich regions.
- e. Mr. Tesei was among the panelists who discussed the changing roles of women in the workplace during the July 26 Leadership Institute program in Town Hall. He, along with DPW Commissioner Amy Siebert, The Nathaniel Witherell Executive Director Allen Brown, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency Director Pat Sesto, Town Planner Katie DeLuca, Tax Assessor Lauren Elliott and Human Resources Director Mary Pepe discussed the evolution of hiring practices by the Town.
- f. A reminder to the public that an informational meeting to update the community on the replacement of the Sound Beach Avenue and Tomac Avenue railroad bridges and construction at the Old Greenwich railroad station was scheduled by state Rep. Mike Bocchino for July 28 at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center.
- g. With the challenge of summer vacation schedules, the first meeting of the Selectmen's Board of Education Charter Revision Committee has been set for 2 p.m. Aug. 31 in the Cone Room. There will be a dedicated page for the Committee established on the Town's website where the meeting schedule and agendas will be posted.

#### **4. Old Business**

- a. The Bruce Museum Inc. – Application for Municipal Improvement status for proposed expansion.

Mr. Tesei explained that in keeping with Board procedures, the application is presented at one meeting and then voted upon at the Board's next meeting. The Bruce application was filed and heard at the July 14, 2016 Selectmen's meeting. He also said he discussed the plan with the First Selectman's Economic Advisory Committee at its July 25 meeting and described the museum at one of the town's best calling cards. He added that personally he is very enthusiastic and supportive of the project.

Mr. Toner said that he believes the project is moving too fast and that he would

like to receive more information on the project cost and funding documentation, as well as the impact upon the management agreement between the Town and the Museum. He said he planned to abstain from voting on the MI approval. Mr. Marzullo asked if there was any way to receive the information requested by Mr. Toner and to schedule a special meeting to conduct the vote. Mr. Tesei said that the Board should proceed as scheduled, especially since Museum representatives were in attendance.

The Museum's Attorney, Bruce Cohen, stated that the Municipal Improvement application is the first step in a very long process that will end with the Representative Town Meeting, a process that cannot go forward without approval from the Board of Selectmen. He said that funding is a top priority for the first renovation of the Museum since 1992. There isn't a budget because the expansion plans are not completed; however, Museum Executive Director Peter Sutton has begun fund-raising, Mr. Cohen explained. He also said the Museum must deal with the state Department of Transportation to obtain land that was taken during construction of I-95 but never used. That land would be used for parking. He also said that the Museum will be returning to the Selectmen with parking plans along Museum Drive.

Mr. Marzullo asked if a Town Attorney would be summoned to the meeting to explain the MI process and whether the Selectmen should be considering finances at this level and the potential impact on parking. Mr. Tesei said the question is whether the Board should act today and whether a member can abstain from voting if there isn't any financial information provided. He also questioned the long-term financial impact of the project on the town which he said has provided minimal subsidy to the Museum that has provides value through its programs to private and public school students. Mr. Tesei also said the question is whether the Selectmen support the concept of what has been presented.

Assistant Town Attorney Eugene McLaughlin arrived and explained that the first amendment to the Museum's management agreement with the Town, as approved by the Representative Town Meeting concerns the \$810,000 renovation of the science wing that will be paid in part with a \$750,000 grant from the state Department of Economic Development. Mr. McLaughlin also explained that the planned expansion of 39,000 square feet will require another amendment to the management agreement. That amendment will need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen and then the Representative Town Meeting. He said the Board's vote on approval of the Municipal Improvement application is the first step in the process and will allow for the application to pass on to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Once it is approved by Planning and Zoning, the plan will come back to the Selectmen. He said there will be environmental concerns, concerns about a lease between the Town and Connecticut on the sublease of land for Museum parking. Mr. Marzullo asked what the board should consider in deciding on the MI referral. Mr. McLaughlin said that when the Planning and Zoning Commission reviews a plan, the overall review considers whether a plan is compatible with the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development. After that, a site plan will be reviewed and conditions could be placed upon the plan. He also said that it was a little early for financial

information. Mr. McLaughlin also said that the Selectmen's recent experience for MI referral involved a school (New Lebanon School) and that by the time the Museum plan comes before the Selectmen again, considerable work on the plan will have been completed.

Mr. Marzullo asked whether Mr. Toner's questions on financials are enough to not vote on the MI referral application. Mr. McLaughlin responded that his department will be working with the Bruce Museum on financials before moving forward.

Mr. Tesei said there will be a review of the requisite documents that will give context to what is being proposed. He said it was valid to compare this MI application to the school project and that it is similar to other MI applications for the Wilbur Peck Court health clinic and various Housing Authority projects. He also said that he did not think that what is being proposed is comparable to what is happening in New York City museums including the Guggenheim and the Met that are experiencing dwindling patronage. He said The Bruce is the only museum in town and has a tremendous quality of life impact on the Greenwich community and deserves support.

Mr. Sutton explained that the project will almost entirely be funded with money donated by private citizens and foundations, with very little corporate support. He said the Museum has raised about 40 percent of the money that will be needed. He said the Museum provides 1,500 educational programs each year with five (5) full-time educators. He described the Museum as an economic engine for the Town by bringing people to visit the Museum, then shop and dine in Town. Given its location, Mr. Sutton said the Museum is the 'gateway to Greenwich' and could look a bit better than it does now.

On a motion by Mr. Marzullo, seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board of Selectmen voted 2-0-1 to approve MI status for the Bruce Museum Municipal Improvement application for the proposed expansion. Mr. Toner abstained.

## **5. New Business**

**a.** 2017 Community Development Block Grant Funding Recommendations were presented by CDBG Administrator Princess Erfe and Alexis Bulgaris, chairman of the CDBG Advisory Committee. Ms. Erfe thanked Ms. Bulgaris for chairing the committee as well as Committee members Judith Goss of District 1 and Cathy Sidor of District 7, who were in attendance. A public hearing on the recommended projects is scheduled for 7 p.m. Aug. 8 in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Following the hearing the First Selectman will finalize funding allocation recommendations for approval by the Board of Estimate and Taxation and the Representative Town Meeting, before submitting them to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Ms. Bulgaris said although there have been changes made in Washington to funding levels, Greenwich's funding for 2017 looks to be stable. She said the 27-member committee spent the summer visiting each applicant and provided a summary of each project. She said that the committee was able to fund almost

every capital project request by eliminating one Housing Authority project.

b. Parking Services Director Rita Azrelyant presented the amended fees for the Soundview and Byram municipal parking lots. The amendments were needed because two commuter lot fees were placed under the incorrect fee schedule following approval at the Dec. 16, 2015 Board of Selectmen meeting. The Byram Parking Lot fee was amended to \$12, from \$415 and the Soundview Parking lot permit to \$655 from \$415.

Mr. Toner made the motion to approve the amended permit fees, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion was approved by a 3-0-0 vote.

## 6. Appointments and Nominations

Mr. Tesei said that he made several appointments to the Conservation Commission, one of the few entities appointed by the First Selectman. C. Jefferson 'Skip' Parker was appointed a member for a term expiring March 31, 2017; Eric Brower was reappointed a member for a term expiring March 31, 2020; Nancy Dickinson was reappointed a member for a term expiring March 31, 2020; Lisette Henrey was reappointed for a term expiring March 31, 2020; and Ted Walworth was reappointed an alternate member for a term expiring March 31, 2020. There is one pending vacancy on the Commission. Mr. Tesei also said there is one vacancy on the Historic District Commission.

## 7. Executive Session

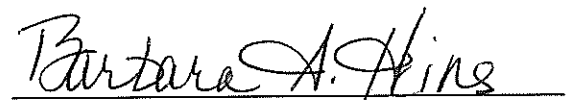
There was none.

## 8. Adjournment

Mr. Toner motioned to adjourn at 11:23 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Next Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 11, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

  
Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman

  
Prepared by Barbara A. Heins,  
Recording Secretary