Town of Greenwich
Board of Selectmen Meeting
July 30, 2015
10:00 a.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 10:13 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.
   a. Attendance:
      i. First Selectman Peter J. Tesei – Present
      ii. Selectman John F. Toner – Present
      iii. Selectman Drew Marzullo – Present

2. Approval of Minutes
   a. Minutes of Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held on 7-17-2015 were reviewed and approved as presented without objection.

3. First Selectman’s Update
   a. The First Selectman expressed his condolences to Joan Sullivan on the passing of her mother on July 28 at the age of 89. The Board observed a moment of silence at 10:14 a.m. in her memory.
   b. On July 22, the First Selectman held a meeting with former Town Planner Diane Fox, who is heading up an organization under the auspices of the Greenwich Historical Society called the Greenwich Preservation Network. This group is working on the standardization of signage for various historic districts in Town, including national and local historic districts. She is working with a local architect named Chuck Hilton to design the signs.
   c. A meeting of the ADP Steering Committee convened on July 24, to discuss the Town’s ongoing implementation of a new HRIS initiative. The Steering Committee consists of members of the Board of Education, Public Schools administration, and Town administration.
   d. On Monday, August 3 at 11:00 a.m., there will be a press conference in the Town Hall Meeting Room, showcasing the launch and demonstration of Access Greenwich. This program is the web portal that individuals may use to convey concerns and comments to the Town. Initially, the program will be piloted by the Department of Parks and Recreation.
   e. The US Army Corps of Engineers sent a letter to the Selectmen’s Office dated July 24 regarding the maintenance dredging of Mianus River. Mr. Tesei thanked the Governor, the Coastal Resources Advisory Committee, the Harbor Management Advisory Committee, the Harbor Management Commission, and all those involved in moving this initiative forward.

4. Old Business

There were no items of Old Business before the Board of Selectmen.

5. New Business
   a. Conservation Commission – Resolution Encouraging Property Owners to Shred and/or Compost Leaves on Private Properties
i. Denise Savageau, Conservation Director, is working with the Department of Public Works on a program regarding the shredding and composting of leaves. She presented the Board of Selectmen with a resolution adopted by the Conservation Commission. This is a volunteer program aimed at reducing the number of leaves the Town would have to pick up by composting and mulching them instead.

ii. Senior Environmental Analyst, Aleksandra Moch, added that leaves are great resources that are normally wasted. The Town should take advantage and recycle them.

iii. There will be a steering committee overseeing the program. Ms. Moch is also hopeful that the Town will receive a $20,000 grant to help pay for this program through waste reduction initiatives.

iv. John Toner motioned to adopt the resolution encouraging property owners to shred and/or compost leaves on private properties, as presented. Drew Marzullo seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 10:36 a.m.

b. DPW – Request for Temporary Intersection Closure and Detour Route for Mason Street at Lexington Avenue

i. Jim Michel, Chief Engineer, and Gabriella Circosta-Cohee, Senior Civil Engineer, were present for this topic.

ii. Ms. Circosta-Cohee discussed the one-week partial intersection closure for Phase 1 of construction at Mason Street at Lexington Avenue to improve drainage.

iii. The exact date of the road closure is yet to be determined, but will be dependent upon Connecticut Natural Gas’ completion of a gas line relocation. CNG is finalizing an easement with the YMCA, after which work can begin.

iv. The second phase of construction will go out to bid in Fall or Winter.

v. John Toner motioned to approve the request for temporary intersection closure and detour route for Mason Street at Lexington Avenue, as presented. Drew Marzullo seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 10:43 a.m.

c. Fashion on the Avenue – Request for Temporary Road Closure

i. Geri Corrigan, Founder and Producer of Greenwich Fashion on the Avenue, was present. This will be the fifth year of this event. It will take place on September 10, 2015 on Greenwich Avenue.

ii. The event supports local businesses and attracts people to the Town. It emphasizes the “Greenwich brand.”

iii. The proposed road closure is moving south from Elm Street to Havemeyer Place, in coordination with the Greenwich Arts Council, who is supportive of this event.

iv. John Toner motioned to approve the request for temporary road closure, as presented. Drew Marzullo seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 10:44 a.m.

d. Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) Funding Recommendations for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Program Year 2016

i. Princess Erfe, Community Development Administrator, and Alma Rutgers, Chairman of the Community Development Advisory Committee, presented the findings of the Committee for PY 2016.
ii. A public hearing on this matter will take place on August 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

iii. Ms. Erfe introduced the Committee members and Agency representatives in attendance:
   1. Alma Rutgers – Chair of CDAC
   2. Christopher von Keyserling – Vice-Chair of CDAC
   4. Cathy Landy – Housing Authority Commission (CDAC)
   5. Theresa Stanton – District 5 (CDAC)
   6. Raquel Virgo – Inspirica
   7. Monica Bourgie – YWCA of Greenwich
   8. Kate Lombardo – Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County
   9. Nancy Coughlin – Neighbor-to-Neighbor
   10. Terry Mardula and John Yankowich – Housing Authority of the Town of Greenwich
   11. Dennis Perry and Rich Graham – Abilis
   12. Peg Drenckhahn – GADC
   13. Debra Mecky – Greenwich Historical Society
   14. Jim Vivier – Family Centers
   15. Sandy Kornberg – Glenville Volunteer Fire Company

iv. CDAC provides maximum citizen participation and input to advise the First Selectman of the best funding recommendations, and the best use of CDBG funds.

v. There were a total of 32 proposed activities for PY 2016. After the public hearing, the First Selectman can modify the recommendations if he so wishes.

vi. Alma Rutgers, CDAC Chair, thanked Princess Erfe. What we have before us is the summary of the CDAC recommendations. The goal was to identify programs that serve the immediate needs of the most vulnerable constituents, and provide services for 51% of low-income population. Ms. Rutgers commended her committee, because this is not easy work. Their job is to rank priorities and cut where possible.

vii. The Program Year start date is January 1. CDBG money has to be used for the proposed project only, in that program year only.

viii. Glenville Volunteer Fire Company President. Sandy Kornberg, asked that the First Selectman reconsider the $6,000 project denied by CDAC for GVFC, as their project is absolutely essential to the needs of the people of Glenville. The First Selectman requested that the Fire Chief take a look at the 2 items presented as part of next year’s capital budget.

a. Zoubek Mooring Issue

ix. Aamina Ahmad, Assistant Town Attorney, gave an introduction to the issue. The authority granted to the Board of Selectmen under Special Acts 93 and 288 deal with rules and regulations pertaining to moorings, anchoring vessels in harbors, speed of vessels, and related issues. Therefore, the BOS regulates the anchoring and mooring of vessels and crafts in our Town’s harbors.

x. A June 23 letter from Charles Zoubek to the Connecticut Commissioner of Transportation details how Mr. Zoubek was initially told by Harbormaster Ian Macmillan that he may deploy a mooring in the location he had requested. The appropriate paperwork was
filled out, and the fee was paid. A day later, the Harbormaster told Mr. Zoubek he would no longer be able to deploy his mooring there. Several reasons were cited, including proximity to an osprey nest and depth of the water at low tide.

xi. A June 30 response letter from Joseph Salvatore, Maritime Officer from the State DOT, refers to Special Acts 93 and 288, and says the Town BOS has the authority to regulate this issue, not the DOT.

xii. The proposed location of the mooring was 150 feet from an osprey platform. That distance brings in DEEP and their Wildlife Office.

xiii. Denise Savageau, Conservation Director, said that under State regulations, a 600-foot buffer zone is required around an osprey platform. This regulation is enforced by DEEP, whose perspective and main concern is the impact on the osprey platform at 21 Vista Drive's seawall.

xiv. DEEP wants to know is this a predictable use, and if the ospreys are used to the activity caused by having a mooring. Are they accustomed to it by now from where they are nesting, or does it change their normal environment.

xv. Denise Savageau added that osprey poles are situated 300 feet from electrical lines, and 600 feet from roads, houses, industrial facilities, and any human involvement. There are 20 active nests in Greenwich this year, but boat moorings do not impact the ospreys.

xvi. Ospreys establish their nests in April, before the boating community comes in. The Conservation Commission will bring their opinion in writing to the BOS at the next regular meeting.

xvii. Chuck Zoubek came forward, and stated that he is a 62 year resident of Greenwich, and he has had a mooring for 42 years at Chimney Cove. On June 21, he was given a verbal mooring approval by Mr. Macmillan, but on June 22, the approval was revoked. Mr. Zoubek stated that the mooring depth problem is fictitious, and that he wants his mooring back.

xviii. Ian Macmillan (Harbormaster) and Michael Finkbeiner (licensed land surveyor) came forward. Ian Macmillan stated that he provided Mr. Zoubek with an alternative to his current mooring that would be amenable to him. The Harbormaster performed a field check and inspection after discussion with Mr. Zoubek on phone, which led to the revocation.

xix. Ian Macmillan searched and found no history or record of Mr. Zoubek's mooring prior to this year. He has never before paid or been issued a mooring permit for that location.

xx. Aamina Ahmad stated that the BOS must make a determination as to what the proposed use of this mooring will be. She will discuss with DEEP and let them know the expected use of the mooring.

xxi. Mr. Zoubek added that this is not a safety nor a navigation issue, and he is willing to prove that it is not a depth issue. He also never received a counter proposal from Ian Macmillan. This was the first year he filled out a mooring application, because he did not know there was a requirement to fill out an application and obtain a permit.

xxii. Frank Mazza, Chairman of the HMC, said his Commission cannot act on it because they do not yet have a Harbor Management Plan. His
additional concern is Greenwich Cove, and the fact that 75-100 moorings are located near an osprey nest there.

xxiii. Michael Finkbeiner said there are issues of safe passage of vessels surrounding this mooring. When an issue stems from the navigation and safety of the harbors, the Harbormaster is to advise the BOS.

xxiv. Aamina Ahmad concluded that when there is a Harbor Management Plan, the plan takes control of the day-to-day adjudication of the harbors. As of now, the Special Acts still remain intact. Issue like this in the future will be settled by the Harbor Management Commission.

xxv. This topic will be revisited at the Board of Selectmen's next regular meeting under Old Business.

6. Appointments and Nominations

There were no appointments or nominations before the Board of Selectmen.

7. Executive Session

There were no items of Executive Session before the Board of Selectmen.

Drew Marzullo motioned to adjourn at 12:34 p.m. John Toner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be on Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Peter J. Tesei
First Selectman

Prepared by Michael Rosen
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman