

Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen

Meeting October 27, 2016

10:00 A.M.

Cone Meeting Room

APPROVED MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 10:19 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 announced the passing of Robert Barnum Jr., a founding partner of the Greenwich law firm, Ivey, Barnum & O'Mara. Mr. Barnum passed away on Oct. 23, four days shy of his 95th birthday. Before the moment of silence held in Mr. Barnum's memory, Mr. Tesei highlighted Mr. Barnum's legacy of public service to the Town, including serving 25 years on the Representative Town Meeting and as chairman of three separate Charter Revision Commissions in the 1970s and 1980s, that recommended several charter changes including making the Office of the First Selectman a full-time position.

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 October 13, 2016 were moved for approval as amended by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.

3. First Selectman's Updates

- a. On Oct. 19, Saks Fifth Avenue expanded its commercial footprint in town with the opening of 10022-SHOE, a shoe salon located in the former Greenwich Time building at 20 E. Elm Street. It's the first shoes-only store for the chain. Saks also is planning to open a high-end, fine jewelry store called The Vault next spring, across the street from its Greenwich Avenue store.
- b. On Oct. 20, there was the 26th annual United Nations Day Celebration at the Julian Curtiss School that Selectmen Toner and Marzullo attended. Mr. Toner noted that there were 62 flags representing the diversity of the student population. He also noted that the school and students acknowledged the passing of U.N. Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed who attended nearly every one of the annual celebrations. Mr. Marzullo said the United Nations Day is one of his favorite events that included a great speech by one of the students' parents.
- c. Mr. Tesei said that on Monday, (Oct. 24), he met with Pat Ohnell and Betsy Unger from the Outdoor Sculpture committee of the Greenwich Arts Council regarding the care and maintenance of the collection of sculptures throughout Town. They

are planning to arrange for the cleaning and waxing of several pieces including the Butterfield Horses and 'The Girl Standing in Nature' sculptures in Bruce Park. The Greenwich Library also is undertaking similar work for the sculptures located there. Many of the sculptures were gifts to the Town and several have been appraised at hundreds of thousands of dollars. Going forward, money should be allocated in the Parks & Recreation budget for the maintenance and care of the artwork. Mr. Tesei also said that future donations of sculpture should include provisions for future care.

- d. Mr. Tesei also reported that on Oct. 26, he met with John Eddy, Stuart Reider and Caralyn Stevens of the RTM's Appointments Committee and the Selectmen's Nominations Committee. The Appointments Committee is continuing work on what will become a proposed Charter change to the appointments process. Among the changes will be staggering the terms of appointees to spread out the vetting and appointments processes for both the Board of Selectmen and the RTM. Currently, all appointments expire on March 31 of any given year. The final recommended changes should come to the Selectmen in January with the RTM taking action in March.
- e. Mr. Tesei said that he and Executive Assistant Barbara Heins had the pleasure of filling in as radio hosts on WGCH on the Lisa Wexler Show. He thanked Greenwich Time senior reporter Ken Borsuk for being a good sport and joining them for about 90 minutes on the program.
- f. Mr. Tesei also reminded the Selectmen that the First Selectman's Diversity Advisory Committee has organized a workshop on Oct. 28 that will be given by the Anti-Defamation League's A World of Difference Institute for town officials and members of community organizations.
- g. Mr. Toner said that he attended the Oct. 22 cleanup of a vernal pond at Hemlock and Oak Streets where neighbor volunteers filled two Dumpsters with leaves and invasive plants cleaned from the area. They plan to plant bushes in the spring to prevent landscapers from blowing leaves from adjacent properties into the pond. Mr. Toner said the effort was a good example of neighbors working together.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

- a. Old Greenwich Merchants Association annual First Light Festival. – Richard Fulton.
Mr. Fulton explained that the Association is seeking permission to hold the annual festival from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3 on Sound Beach Avenue in Old Greenwich. The Greenwich Police Department Traffic Section and the Department of Parks & Recreation already have given permission to close a portion of the roadway. This year, the association is promoting the local charity Operation Santa 2 which benefits underprivileged children at a public school in the Bronx, NY. Surplus donations will be distributed to Greenwich charities.

Mr. Toner motioned to approve the request. Mr. Marzullo seconded the motion which was approved 3-0-0.

A discussion regarding the standstill of work being done on the railroad

station and bridge rehabilitation and replacement followed the vote. Mr. Fulton said work has not been done for three to four months and that the construction was the reason why the Merchants Association decided to cancel its annual summer block party.

- b. Review of the draft Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy and Procedures. – Assistant Town Attorney Aamina Ahmad.

As Ms. Ahmad was unable to attend the meeting, Mr. Tesei said the proposal was prompted by the First Selectman's Disabilities Advisory Committee which was reviewing the Town website and found the Town does not have a delineated police and a representative as a point of contact to lodge a complaint – an ADA compliance officer. Mr. Tesei read Ms. Ahmad's memo into the record, and said the draft policy is consistent with policies in Westport, Stamford and Norwalk.

A decision is expected at the Nov. 10 Board of Selectmen meeting.

6. Appointments and Nominations

Mr. Tesei noted that there is a vacancy on the Inland Wetland Watercourses Agency that he would like to have approved and put on the RTM's December agenda.

There also is a vacancy on The Nathaniel Witherell board and the resume of a candidate had been forwarded to Mr. Toner by the Selectmen's Nominations Advisory Committee member Peter Crumbine.

There is a vacancy on the Historic District Commission and Mr. Toner mentioned one possible candidate is available.

Mr. Tesei explained that

7. Executive Session

Mr. Tesei motioned to enter into executive session at 11:15 A.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Present in Executive Session were: Mary Pepe, Director, HR Department; Tiffany Navarro, HR Department Workers' Compensation Administrator; J. Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Eugene McLaughlin, Assistant Town Attorney

Mr. Toner moved to exit Executive Session at 12:09 P.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

- a. Full and Final Settlement of commercial tax appeal Docket # HHB CV 11-6022818S Parcel No. 01-1634/S vs. Town of Greenwich for a credit of approximately \$41,473 against future tax payments.

Mr. Toner motioned to approve the request. Mr. Marzullo seconded the motion which was approved 3-0-0

- b. Full and Final Settlement of commercial tax appeal Docket # HHB CV 11-6022817 – Parcel No. 01-1962/S vs. Town of Greenwich for a credit of approximately \$46,858 against future tax payments.

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

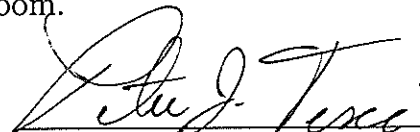
- a. Full and Final Settlement of Commercial Tax Appeal Docket # HHB CV 11-6022816 – Parcel No. 01-1966/S and Parcel No. 01-1831/S vs. Town of Greenwich for a credit of approximately \$165,297 against future tax payments.

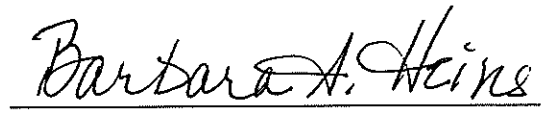
Upon a motion by Mr. Toner seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor of the settlement.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Toner motioned to adjourn at 12:09 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor.

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


Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman


Prepared by Barbara A. Heins,
Recording Secretary