

Town of Greenwich
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, November 1, 2018
10:00 a.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

APPROVED MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 10:11 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

- a. Attendance:
 - i. First Selectman Peter J. Tesei - Present
 - ii. Selectman ~~John Toner~~ - Present
 - iii. Selectman ~~Sandy Litvack~~ - Present

Mr. Tesei expressed condolences from the Board of Selectmen to Barbara Heins, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman, and Donald Conway, Greenwich Community Television volunteer cameraman, who lost beloved family members this past week. The Board offers its sympathy and support at this difficult time.

Mr. Tesei praised Mr. Litvack's statement on the tragic loss of life in Philadelphia's Tree of Life Synagogue and that it could occur in our country today. He noted that services would be held on Friday, November 2 at Greenwich Reform Synagogue and Temple Shalom to express solidarity and unity. Mr. Tesei thanked local law enforcement for the increased surveillance at Greenwich's houses of worship. Mr. Litvack commented on the anti-Semitic nature of the violence while differentiating Greenwich as a community that demonstrates respect for its diversity.

2. First Selectman's Update

- a. The First Selectman issued his annual message on the "state of the Town" and directly attributed the Town's strength to the engagement of its citizens in civic and cultural activities, donating their time, talent and treasure to ensure that the Town prospers.
- b. Mr. Tesei noted that all three Selectmen attended one of the events of Experience Greenwich Week on Sunday, October 28 at the Isabel Garrucho Fine Art Gallery which was a reminder of the abundance of art and culture in the community. He commented that the week of events was well-executed and looked forward to hearing more feedback.
- c. Greenwich's Breast Cancer Alliance Fashion Show and luncheon on October 30 was the concluding event of Breast Cancer Awareness Month; Mr. Tesei applauded the number of people who commit themselves to supporting its mission of raising funds for cancer research.
- d. Greenwich received top honors in a recent survey as the safest city in the nation, Mr. Tesei announced. He acknowledged local law enforcement's contribution to the Greenwich community's recognition.
- e. Looking to the future, the Boys & Girls Club November 20 annual Thanksgiving Feast for its 350 members and staff, Mr. Tesei suggested that members of the community might volunteer as servers for the event and experience the impact that the organization has on Greenwich's youths.

- f. Greenwich's Fellowship of Clergy Proclamation of thanksgiving will be delivered at 9 A.M. on Thanksgiving Day at St. Catherine of Siena Church. A member of the Board of Selectmen in attendance.
- g. Town Administrator Benjamin Branyan, and Senior Management Analyst Blaize Levitan have been developing information in support of the RTM Sense of the Meeting Resolution on the NW firehouse. Questions are being solicited from the BET, RTM Committees responsible for financial allocations and surrounding property owners, to learn any questions of concerns that need to be answered before the project can go forward. Mr. Tesei recognized the contribution of the Fire Administration and the Town's GIS mapping in the preparation of background material.

3. Old Business

- a. **Update on Hillside Road Working Group Report – Town Administrator, Benjamin Branyan**
Mr. Branyan introduced Working Group members attending the meeting: Chief of Police James Heavey and Sgt. P. Smyth; Elizabeth Dempsey, Hillside Road neighborhood resident; and, GHS Director of Safety & Security, Tom Bobkowski. Mr. Branyan, commented that the Board of Selectmen had received a letter from Hillside Road residents stressing the need for action on the Traffic Study. Mr. Branyan noted that a deliverable, the Traffic Consultant Study, mentioned in June 27 Report to the Board of Selectmen, had fallen behind, lacking a funding strategy. The Board of Education Cabinet, in reviewing the Cardinal Stadium traffic study scope of work has evaluated estimates for the more extensive Study and plans to bifurcate the Hillside Road portion reducing the required funding amount so that work can go forward. Because Mr. Litvack expressed concern that the sense of urgency for the Traffic Study might diminish, it was decided that it would be an ongoing BoS Agenda item until completed.

4. New Business

- a. **Closure of Greenwich Avenue between Amogerone Crossway and Havemeyer Place November 11, 2018 for Veterans Day Walk – Sgt. P. Smyth**

Due to the cancellation of the BoS Meeting of October 25, the closing of Greenwich Avenue for the November 11 Veterans Day Walk had not yet been approved. Sgt. Smyth commented that the Police Department had previous experience with the closure and is prepared to sequence access to the roadway as the crowds progressed along the thoroughfare.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tesei that was seconded by Mr. Litvack, the Board unanimously approved the road closure without objection.

- b. **Closure of Sound Beach Avenue in Old Greenwich from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 1, 2018 for Annual First Light Festival**

Mr. Fulton, a member of the Old Greenwich Merchants Association, was unable to be present due to the rescheduling of the request from October 25 Board of Selectmen meeting, his request was submitted in writing and read by Mr. Tesei. Sgt. Smyth commented that the event was contained within the main shopping area of Old Greenwich and the Police Department considers it a routine event.

Upon a motion by Mr. Toner that was seconded by Mr. Litvack, the Board unanimously approved the road closure without objection.

5. Appointments and Nominations

There were no appointments or nominations before the Board of Selectmen, but Mr. Tesei indicated that the Board would go into Executive Session to meet with candidates for the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Tesei commented that the strength of the Town relied on the quality of individuals willing to volunteer; he recognized Mr. Maitland as Chairman of the Commission for 18 years of service to the Town with gratitude for his commitment. He expressed regret that the RTM did not reappoint Mr. Maitland. Mr. Litvack, who had spoken at the RTM meeting in favor of Mr. Maitland’s reappointment, added that the sense of the RTM meeting signaled community concern and their decision, regrettably, was to go another way.

Mr. Tesei noted that the Board of Selectmen would be interviewing current Alternate members of the P&Z Commission but that no decision would be taken at today’s meeting.

6. Executive Session

a. Interview candidates for the Planning & Zoning Commission

Mr. Litvack motioned to enter executive session. Mr. Toner seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 10:44 a.m.

b. Discuss pending litigation and settlement of workers’ compensation claims

In attendance were Heather K. Porto, Esq. Pomeranz, Drayton Esq., Eugene McLaughlin, Assistant Town Attorney, Mary Pepe, Director of Human Resources, Tiffany Navarro, HR Workers’ Compensation Administrator and Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary.

Mr. Litvack motioned to exit Executive Session at 11:51 p.m. Mr. Toner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Toner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Litvack to approve the settlement of Claim Numbers 0570209792, 0085542, 0117334 and 0130142 for a total of \$4,500 in full and final settlement. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Toner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Litvack to approve the settlement of Claim Number 0150864 for a total of \$15,000 in full and final settlement. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Toner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Litvack to approve the settlement of Claim Number 0121236 for a total of \$18,000 in full and final settlement. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Toner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Litvack to approve the settlement of Claim Numbers 0142982 and 0149545 for a total of \$75,000 in full and final settlement. The motion was approved unanimously.

Assistant Town Attorney McLaughlin was present when the Board of Selectmen discussed the following property tax credits.

Mr. Toner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Litvack to settle Docket No. FST CV-17-6032116S – Parcel No. 02-1300S for a tax credit of \$5,024 against future tax payments.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Toner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Litvack to settle Docket No. FST CV-16-6029135S – Parcel No. 3-067S for a tax credit of \$19,070 against future tax payments. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Mr. Tesei noted that it is possible there might be a Special Meeting to address nominations for appointments to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

7. Adjourn

Mr. Toner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. Mr. Litvack seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman

Catherine Sidor
Recording Secretary