

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING OF JUNE 20, 2018
MINUTES

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Marc Salerno, Rose Ann Hardy, Daniel Cunningham and Paul Dagle.

Mr. Nickerson called the Public Hearing to consider the adoption of an Ordinance entitled "Ordinance Establishing A Tax Abatement Program for Certain Emergency Services Volunteers" and an Ordinance entitled "Ordinance Amending Ordinance Concerning Smith-Harris House Commission" to order at 7:31 p.m., and he reported that the Pledge of Allegiance was done at the Town Meeting.

Mr. Nickerson stated that he caused to have published the Notice of Public Hearing in The Day on June 9, 2018.

Mr. Nickerson opened the public hearing to consider the Ordinance Establishing A Tax Abatement Program for Certain Emergency Services Volunteers. Present to speak on this matter was Chief Stephen Wargo, Niantic Fire Department, and Chief Bill Rix, Flanders Fire Department. They explained that this is a way to help them recruit new volunteers in, as well as to provide incentive to keep our existing volunteers. If a person is on the payroll, they will not qualify for this program. In order to eligible for this abatement, a person much qualify; and the qualification process goes through a point system, then the Board of Directors, then finally the Chiefs, so it is very thorough. Mrs. Hardy inquired as to the approximate number of people that may take advantage of this abatement, and both Chiefs stated about a dozen, so they anticipate around 24 people total.

With no one else to speak on this matter, Mr. Nickerson closed the public hearing regarding the Ordinance entitled "Ordinance Establishing A Tax Abatement Program for Certain Emergency Services Volunteers" at 7:33 p.m.

MOTION (1)

Motion by Mr. Seery, Second by Mr. Salerno, to close the public hearing regarding the Ordinance entitled "Ordinance Establishing A Tax Abatement Program for Certain Emergency Services Volunteers". Motion passed 6-0.

At 7:34 p.m., Mr. Nickerson opened up the public hearing regarding the Ordinance Amending Ordinance Concerning Smith-Harris House Commission.

Speaking on behalf of this subject was Gary Lakowski, 12 Methodist Street and member of the Smith-Harris House Commission. He stated that the new name will give the public a better idea of what the house does as a museum, and it also incorporates farming, which was a big part of our community. He reported that there is a great display at the Smith-Harris House, provided by Historic Properties and that the public should stop in and check it out.

Mr. Steven Marks-Hamilton, Member of the Historic Properties Commission, stated that he is in favor of this name change, and he reported that the commissions are collaborating and working together moving forward. Mr. Nickerson noted that the Smith-Harris House Commission could not be included as part of the Historic Properties because there was an issue with the boundaries. This issue has since been resolved, so moving forward this Commission, whether or not the name gets changed, can now join the other two houses as a historic property.

Kathleen Sasso, 72 Chesterfield Road reported that she has made contact with the families involved with this property and that everyone she has spoken to is in support of this name change.

Mrs. Hardy inquired as to whether or not this name change will affect this property's status on the National Registry of Historic Properties. Mr. Lakowski stated that this will have no affect on the status, and that the property is registered as the Thomas Avery House, doing business as Smith-Harris House. Mrs. Hardy stated that she would like to see the Avery name recognized in the name, and Mr. Lakowski responded that the tagline does include the Avery name and will be on all literature, letterhead, etc.

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery moved to adjourn the June 20th Public Hearings at 7:47 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion Passed 6-0

Respectfully submitted by:



Sandra Anderson,
Recording Secretary