

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2018  
MINUTES

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

Also present was Finance Director Anna Johnson.

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1c. Delegations

Mr. Michael Stepski, 17 Maple Road, Quaker Hill, and Captain of the Tartan II and the holder of Lease #1 boat dock at Cini Park, addressed the Board and read from prepared notes, which are attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Mr. Stepski is very interested in renewing his lease with the Town for the use of the dock at Cini Park.

Mr. Greg Dubrule, Blackhawk Sport Fishing, was also in attendance in support of the Town continuing to lease the boat docks at Cini Park to commercial fishermen.

1d. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2018, as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 5-0-1. Abstained; Mr. Dagle.

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of November 7, 2018, in the amount of \$12,964.44.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Executive Session

MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery MOVED to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing labor issues.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

The Board of Selectmen entered into Executive Session at 7:46 p.m. They returned at 8:25 p.m. and Mr. Seery reported that no action was taken.

4a. UPSEU Collective Bargaining Agreement

MOTION (4)

Mr. Seery MOVED to authorize the First Selectman to enter into the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of East Lyme and the United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU).

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 5-0-1. Abstained; Mr. Cunningham.

4b. Outstanding Debt

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Johnson explained that this is simply a housekeeping motion, and that there is no physical money involved. She explained further that when the Town gets bonded for a project, often times there is grant money involved, but the Town must bond for the entire cost of the project. At the end of the

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Nov 15 2018 AT 11:40 AM/PM

*Karen Hill*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

project the leftover funds on paper need to be properly appropriated to account for the grant money received.

MOTION (5)

Mr. Seery MOVED that WHEREAS the projects and purposes set forth on Schedule A attached hereto (the "Completed Projects") are complete or are no longer intended to be completed and the Town desires to close-out such Completed Projects; and

WHEREAS, there are bond appropriations and authorizations remaining for said Completed Projects in the amount of \$11,118,244 which are no longer required for such Completed Projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen desires to reduce the bond authorizations for said Completed Projects.

RESOLVED that the appropriations and bond authorizations in the amount of \$11,118,244 for the Completed Projects are hereby reduced as set forth on Schedule A below.

SCHEDULE A

Completed Projects:

Sewer Construction	\$4,366,046
Solid Waste Collection Vehicles	5,000
Niantic Bay Overlook	3,800,000
Schools Renovations and Improvements Projects	166,066
Town Wide Radio System Upgrade	250,000
East Lyme-New London Regional Interconnection Project	2,209,131
Board of Education – Central Office Roof Project	95,000
Tower Truck Fire Apparatus	160,000
Fire Engine Pumper	15,000
Well 1A and Well 6 Upgrades	<u>52,001</u>
	<u>11,118,244</u>

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

4c. Non-Affiliated Group

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that two members of the Board of Selectmen will be directed to meet with the Non-Affiliated group of employees, who have been meeting amongst themselves and are ready to sit with Board members. Historically Rose Ann Hardy and Kevin Seery have filled this role, but Mrs. Hardy explained that she will be in Washington, D.C. with her students. Mr. Dagle stated that he would like to volunteer to work with Mr. Seery and attend this meeting.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Seery MOVED to direct Kevin Seery and Paul Dagle to meet with the Non-Affiliated group of employees.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

4d. Fishing Dock Leases

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that the Town owns four docks at Cini Park which are leased out, and the leases are up for renewal on December 31, 2018. He stated that the State has indicated that they do not like the idea of having one of the docks directly under the bridge, so we may end up with only three docks depending on how the conversation with the DOT goes. He also noted that parking will be greatly reduced during the State's project to re-paint the bridge, at which time they will be securing off a good deal of the lower parking area down by the docks. One of the leases, the Blackhawk, has written into his individual lease the right to renew, so potentially there will only be two docks available and up for lease at the end of the year. He noted that in attendance at tonight's meeting are two of the lessee's, Greg Dubrulle from the Blackhawk, and Michael Stepski of the Tartan II. Mr. Nickerson stated that there is some interest in the

docks, and that we need to devise a method to lease said docks; historically the current leases have been renewed and the existing lessees maintained their spots. Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Dagle agreed to work with the First Selectman to collect applications and come up with a fair plan to review all applications and lease the docks out, not necessarily to the existing lessees. Mr. Nickerson stated that the applications will be sent out to the existing lessees as well as the five new interested parties. He stated that the one stipulation that will be enforced is that the applicant must hold a valid commercial fishing license. It was agreed that the Board would collect applications and query other town's fee schedules and discuss this matter further at a future meeting.

4e. 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting schedule

MOTION (7)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting schedule, as submitted, and attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

5a. Ex-Officio

There were no Ex-Officio reports.

5b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson reported that Election Day went well yesterday, with the polling locations running smoothly all day long and an impressive number of taxpayers hitting the polls. He announced the plans for a press release on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> to inform the public of the Town's intention to pursue the purchase of a new facility to house the Police Department, as well as several other Emergency Management departments. There will be the annual Veteran's Day Vigil held on Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am at Liberty Green; and on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> there will be events at the Middle School and the High School. This year's holiday stroll is scheduled for Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, and this year's light parade will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the light parade, and fireworks are planned as well.

MOTION (8)

Mr. Seery moved to adjourn the November 7, 2018, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8.59 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Anderson  
Recording Secretary

## EXHIBIT 1

As a kid growing up on the Niantic river I knew at a very young age I wanted to fish for a living. At the age of 14 I bought an old lobster boat and spent two years rebuilding it into fine combination lobster\dragger. That same year I joined the NBCFA. The NBCFA was formed with the main purpose of pursuing a town dock on the old swing bridge span as a place for the areas many fishermen to tie up their boats. At that time, we had over 20 members both full time and part time fishermen that were having a hard time finding permanent dockage to grow their business. Many of the area's marinas don't allow commercial boats. Similar town fishing docks had been put in Stonington and Old Saybrook and there was a pretty desperate need for them in Niantic.

At about the same time the Cini park area became available for sale which is also when the boardwalk was in its initial phases. I think its important to note that our association persuaded the town to buy the land to coincide with the boardwalk planning, and lease us the dockage where a few of our members were already tied. I was fishing full time by then and needing a dock the town let me build my own dock where I am today.

Some years later a state grant was awarded to rebuild the docks that were there. Unfortunately, much of the money was used up in the planning so instead of one long dock connecting mine with the Blackhawk they just replaced what was there which was 4 separate docks. Our original intent was to build finger piers off the old bridge abutment were the kayak dock is today all the way to the end. We had blue prints for a fixed dock at the end and even floating docks inside the lagoon. I have the blueprints with me.

Due to the lobster die off in the late 90s early 00s our association membership declined and the need for more docks wasn't as strong, so we didn't keep pushing for docks on the old bridge span. I got out of lobstering and more into fishing. I bought another boat a larger boat and permit which I turned into an offshore monkfish gillnetter for fishing in the winter months. I did much of the work on the boat in Niantic and was encouraged to unload there, however for trucking and shipping reasons we did much of the offloading at Capt. Scotts in New London. I always kept Niantic as home base and did much of the gear work and net work here to keep the docks as active as possible. Over the years I've also run other monkfish boats which we would occasionally bring into Niantic to do gear work as well, Mike Beebe was nice enough to let me pull the last one into his dock for a short time off season a couple years ago to do some hydraulic work before setting up at New London seafood for the fishing season. I've always kept my smaller green boat the Phyllis Anne going working off a mooring in the river as well as off the dock.

Now fishing for a living has always been extremely difficult in many different ways, over regulation hit me pretty hard on the amount of days we could fish and amount we could catch to the extent I got out of offshore monk fishing and my wife and I decided to purchase an old wooden charter boat which we named the TartanII after my fathers charter boat that sailed out of Niantic in the 70s. We almost named it the Niantic. Traditionally chartering and commercial fishing have always gone hand in hand. I started working on the local charter boats when I was 12 which is how I was able to buy my first lobster boat so young. The real value of this boat to me was while it was still fairly small as head boats go it has a CG certificate to carry more than 6 passengers. While the odds were against us, we pulled it off after 5 years I can say we have built a successful charter/party business! However, we could not have done it without having this dock. The harbor of Niantic has become a fishing destination. Myself, Greg, JB, the mijoy and sunbeam all spend a lot of money advertising to bring people into town. Many of our customers after finding out what a family friendly town this is come back with their families to spend the

day in town spending money at all the other businesses. We sailed almost every day from Memorial Day to veteran's day. That's a lot of people we bring into town.

We've always tried to keep the docks as community oriented as possible we sell fish there, we teach people about fishing, constantly answering questions from people walking by. All of us have let other fishermen in the area use the docks to load or unload their traps, bait etc. A couple of local guys, the Meek brothers were trying to get going fishing, both Greg and I let them tie up for a while when they were getting their boat going. That's exactly what a town fishing dock is for to support small businesses. If you've ever stopped at any other fishing docks from Stonington to Pt. Judith, there's constantly boats tied 2-3 deep doing all sorts of repairs. We just have a smaller version of that.

This dock has been a huge asset to my business and my family. My wife Beth and my 3 young children are all very much involved in our business. From painting to bookkeeping and everything else involved in running a small business. We also employed 2 high school boys and another Niantic man just this year. We all work together very well. The main point is I am using the docks for their original intent. However after the lobster collapse some of the guys were forced to find new work and a couple of the boats weren't being used much. One in particular, however that boat has just been bought by Matt Dobratz who is trying to make a living fishing. I know he would love to stay there, and I know there are other people that would like to come in. So its not the action but rather the inaction at the docks which have a few people questioning things. Starting another association has been discussed as there is some new blood around. Timmy the oyster farmer has had some very good ideas. Originally a cooperative was part of the vision. There once was a fish market and boat rental place there. Don't forget the original grant was awarded because low income businesses were present there. We could apply for another one to finish the docks as originally planned and make room for more boats. There is still an open area were Craig Engelman tied up, so there is room. Stonington applies every year and they are regularly upgrading the docks.

Now I know my boat has to move over for the bridge work planned ahead. Ideally I hope we can all move over one spot, but my business does depend on this dock. I didn't even buy the boat until I had talked to Paul Formica then the first selectman about operating it out of there. I can't stress enough how important docking there is to my family's business. Without it I would literally be out of business and all the work we started so many years ago will have been wasted. I'm the last original member of the NBCFA that still fishes for a living out of here. I do all the weedwacking and litter pickup near my area. When the wall collapsed I fixed it. I never complain about anything and don't forget we don't have water or power down there. A working waterfront is the true character of Niantic. The very first house on main st was built by a fisherman. There are many people who appreciate that.

EXHIBIT 2

Town of



East Lyme

Mark C. Nickerson  
First Selectman  
MNickerson@eltownhall.com

108 Pennsylvania Ave.  
P.O. Box 519  
Niantic, Connecticut 06357  
Phone (860) 691-4110  
Fax (860) 739-2851

TO: Board of Selectmen  
FROM: First Selectman Mark C. Nickerson  
DATE: November 6, 2018  
RE: Regular Meeting Schedule for 2019

Meetings to commence at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted on the agenda.

January	9 23	July	10
February	6 20	August	7
March	6 20	September	4 18
April	3 17	October	2 16
May	1 15	November	6 20
June	5 19	December	4 18

FILED

Nov 9 2018 AT 3:45 AM (PM)

Caunthulm

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK