

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2020
MINUTES

This meeting was held via Zoom online meeting services and was available for the public to view, listen and participate via videoconference and dial-in options.

This meeting, in its entirety, is available to view by visiting the East Lyme Town Hall webpage.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Senior Center Director Cathy Wilson

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1b. Additional Agenda Items

MOTION (1)

Mrs. Hardy MOVED to add an executive session after "Selectman's Response" for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

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

FILED

1c. Delegations

There were none.

Dec 29, 2020 AT 2:34 AM/PM
Brock Foreman ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

1d. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2020, as submitted.

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

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of December 16, 2020, in the amount of \$3,557.25.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. IN FAVOR; Nickerson, Seery, Hardy, Dagle and Cunningham. ABSTAINED; Salerno. Motion passed 5-0-1.

2a. Expenditure from Parahus Account – Senior Center Items

MOTION (4)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that although this appeared on the agenda as "old business", this item is actually "new business". Ms. Wilson addressed the Board and explained that at the October 13th, 2020 meeting, the Commission on Aging approved an expenditure of up to \$1000 from the Parahus Account to purchase a tablet for use at the Senior Center to support Zoom programs; and at the November 9th, 2020 Meeting, the COA approved an expenditure of up to \$2000 from the Parahus Account to purchase (1) HEPA filter per Senior Center vehicle. She reported that the installation of such filters will be done by Town employees at the town garage, and that it is recommended that the filters be replaced every six months at a cost of \$50 per filter. Mrs. Hardy stated that the filter replacement expense should be rolled into the general budget starting with next year's budget, under "maintenance", and should not be paid for out of the Parahus

account. Mr. Nickerson suggested that they might consider purchasing laptops instead of tablets, if the price is lower. Ms. Wilson stated that they looked into laptops but that for the size of screen that is needed for the classes, the tablet was the lower price. Mrs. Hardy stated that we should approve this expenditure tonight, but asked Ms. Wilson to continue to investigate laptops versus tablets for future purchases, if needed.

Mr. Seery MOVED to authorize the use of up to \$3,000 from the Parahus account; \$1,000 to purchase a tablet for use at the Senior Center to support Zoom programs, and \$2,000 to purchase one (1) HEPA filter per senior center vehicle, for a total of three (3) filters.

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

2b. Cini Park Fishing Dock Leases

DISCUSSION: Mr. Salerno reported on behalf of the subcommittee and stated that the town received four applications; two from existing lessees and two new applications. After thorough review and discussion, the three members of the subcommittee agreed unanimously to renew the lease to Michael Stepski of the Tartan II, but they were unable to come to a consensus on the second available dock lease. Mr. Stepski has been a longtime lessee, is a fulltime fisherman, has always paid his rent on time, and has always done proper maintenance and upkeep of his dock and the dock area in general. The subcommittee disagreed on whether to renew the lease for the second leaseholder, Mr. Beebe. It was noted that this dock has remained unused for the entire year of 2020, with COVID being used as the reason; and it was noted that prior to the onset of COVID, this dock has not been utilized on a regular basis throughout the years. It was discussed that Mr. Beebe did not provide financial proof that he derives any income from fishing, and it is unclear as to whether or not he is an East Lyme resident. Mr. Salerno and Mr. Dagle stated that renewing this lease to Mr. Beebe will not be utilizing the full benefits of this dock to the community. Mr. Cunningham disagreed and stated that Mr. Beebe has been a longtime lessee, he has always paid his rent, he has caused no trouble and there have been no complaints received; so he does not feel that there is just cause to deny the renewal of this dock to him as he has done nothing wrong except not using it regularly. Mr. Dagle stated that the Board will have to weigh the facts; to choose between a good, longtime tenant versus a fulltime fishing business and East Lyme resident.

In discussing the two new applications, it was agreed that both applicants, Mr. Lizza and Mr. Russell, fully meet the criteria set forth in the application, but that only one of them is an East Lyme resident, Mr. Lizza, which is the only factor that puts one above the other. It was also noted that both Mr. Lizza and Mr. Russell have for many years shown an interest in being considered for one of these dock leases.

Mr. Seery stated that although he agrees that Mr. Beebe has been a good tenant, it is more important to lease this dock to a fulltime, local fisherman, so he is in favor of leasing the dock to Mr. Lizza. Ms. Hardy acknowledged Mr. Beebe's longtime use of the dock but stated that she favors leasing the dock to an East Lyme resident and fisherman.

Mr. Nickerson stated that he respects and understands Mr. Cunningham's position, but that Mr. Beebe did not provide the information that was requested in order to make an informed decision, and it is questionable as to whether he is a fulltime fisherman or that he resides in East Lyme. Mr. Nickerson also noted that Mr. Beebe, as well as the other applicants, will have an opportunity to re-apply for a lease as the town currently re-evaluates the leases on a yearly basis. Mr. Nickerson also stated that although the fourth dock is currently not being leased due to the bridge work being done by the DOT, the town will allow all applicants to use such dock as a transient dock by providing a Certificate of Liability Insurance to the First Selectman's office; interested applicants should contact the office directly for more information. Transient means for on and offloading only; no tying off for an extended period of time and no overnight docking. He noted that it is unclear if the DOT is going to allow the Town to utilize this dock as anything but a transient dock going forward, and that will be investigated further once the bridge work is complete.

MOTION (5)

Mr. Seery MOVED to enter into a lease with Michael Stepski, Tartan II, for Lease Premises #2, Cini Park Fishing Dock, to be effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, at a rate of \$3,000 payable in two installments on January 1, 2021 and July 1, 2021; and to authorize the First Selection to execute said lease. Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Seery MOVED to enter into a lease with Joel Lizza, Sea Otter Fishing Charters Inc., for Lease Premises #3, Cini Park Fishing Dock, to be effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, at a rate of \$3,000 payable in two installments on January 1, 2021 and July 1, 2021; and to authorize the First Selection to execute said lease.

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

2c. Appoint Subcommittee to Review Unaffiliated Benefits for FY21/22

MOTION (7)

Mr. Seery MOVED to direct Kevin Seery and Rose Ann Hardy to meet with representatives of the Non-Affiliated employee group to discuss employee benefits for the upcoming 2021/2022 fiscal year.

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

3. Communications

There were none.

4a. Ex-Officio Reports

Mr. Dagle reported that the Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission continues to work on the boundary dispute with Waterford, and they are all hopeful for a resolution soon. He noted that they voted on officers and everything has remained the same. Mr. Nickerson stated that he has been in contact with Mr. Brule and that they look forward to continuing discussions after the holidays.

Mr. Salerno reported that the Planning Commission closed the public hearings for the Black Point subdivision and Upper Pattagansett matters and will plan to deliberate at the next meeting.

Ms. Hardy reported the Commission on Aging discussed the items that were on tonight's agenda from the Parahus account and noted that they are currently offering six online Zoom programs for their members. She stated that she noticed that the Police Department has been tagging vehicles that are parked in violation in anticipation of the storm, and that she would like to review this ordinance in the near future.

Mr. Seery reported that the Parks & Recreation Commission voted in a new Chairman, Tom Beebe, and Vice Chairman, Pat Larkin; many thanks to Bob Pfanner and Roger Nadeau, who have served as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively, for their many years of service to this commission and to the Town of East Lyme. He reported that they are looking into creating a disk golf area up at Darrows Ridge Park, and stated that they have discussed submitting a formal request to the Board of Selectmen that the one hundred acres at Darrows Ridge be turned over to the Parks & Recreation Department for their use.

4b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson thanked Bob Pfanner and Roger Nadeau for their many years of service to the Town. He stated that he delivered a proclamation to Mr. Vic Vicari in honor of his 100th birthday later this month; Happy 100th Birthday Mr. Vicari. He reported that this year's reverse light parade went very well and was well attended, raising over \$4,000 in donations for Care and Share; Parks and Recreation, Mr. Seery, and all of the volunteers did a great job and put in a lot of work to make this event successful; thank you to all.

Mr. Nickerson wished everyone peace, serenity and tranquility as we close out a touch year; 2021 will be a great year. See you next year; Happy New Year.

5. Public Comment

There was none.

6. Selectman's Response

There was none.

MOTION (8)

Mr. Seery MOVED to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.
Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION (9)

Mr. MOVED to exit executive session at 8:17 p.m. with no formal votes taken while in executive session.
Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION (10)

Mr. Seery MOVED to adjourn the December 16, 2020, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:17 p.m.
Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary