

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2021
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: Finance Director Anna Johnson, Public Works Deputy Director Bill Scheer, and Town Attorneys Ed O'Connell and Tracy Collins

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

1b. Additional Agenda Items

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery MOVED to add agenda item 7a for discussion and possible action on the Unaffiliated Group's benefits package, and to add an item to 2d to appoint someone to the Brookside Farm Museum commission. Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

1c. Delegations

There were none.

1d. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2020, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of December 29, 2020, as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Hardy. IN FAVOR; Nickerson, Seery, Hardy, Salerno and Cunningham. ABSTAINED; Dagle. Motion passed 5-0-1.

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (4)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of January 20, 2021, in the amount of \$2,747.40.

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

2a. Special Appropriation – STEAP Grant Transfer Station

MOTION (5)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Scheer addressed the Board and explained that the scale and scale house at the transfer station are old and in need of replacement. There are no facilities in the current scale house, and the heating and air conditioning system is inadequate. With this STEAP grant for \$128,205, as well as \$102,000 use of LOCIP funds and a \$20,000 match from the Town, a new building and scale will be built allowing for full

FILED

Jan 28 2021 AT 3:30 AM/PM

(Signature)

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

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interaction of employees with customers without having to leave the scale house. Mr. Scheer stated that the building will have hurricane rated glass and security cameras that will provide a live feed to dispatch for security purposes. It was discussed that he would look into the use of mesh or possible barred windows to provide additional security, as well as any opportunities there might be to power this building using solar energy. Mr. Scheer stated that the new scale house will be slight larger than the existing building, and that the location will be moved by about 10 or 15 feet. He does not anticipate having to shut down the transfer station during the construction, but that they are still working out the plan for that; it was discussed that we might want to contact DOT to see if they have a portable scale that we might be able to utilize during the construction. Mr. Scheer anticipates about a month to complete the project.

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve a Special Appropriation in the amount of \$128,205 a STEAP Grant Award, to CNRE Fund 32 to an account to be established titled, "Improvements to the East Lyme Transfer Station" which will include a New Vehicle Scale, New Scale House and all associated work. This grant is to supplement approved use of LoCIP Funds (\$102,000) and a required town match of town funds in the amount of \$20,000 (Public Works Department 317). And forward to the Board of Finance for Approval. This resolution is passed under the guidance of Executive Order 7S with no town meeting and being less than 10% of the current budget. Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

2b. Authorize First Selectman – STEAP Grant

MOTION (6)

Mr. Seery RESOLVED that Mark Nickerson, First Selectman of the Town of East Lyme be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of this municipal corporation a Grant Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to "Complete the Improvements to the East Lyme Transfer Station, including a Vehicle Scale and Scale House in Niantic (East Lyme)" (STEAP FY 20-21). In addition, that Mark Nickerson, First Selectman of the Town of East Lyme is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, contracts and execute all documents necessary to said grant with the State of Connecticut. It is further certified that Mark Nickerson, First Selectman of the Town of East Lyme, was elected First Selectman; his term of office began on December 2, 2019 and will continue to December 6, 2021. As the East Lyme First Selectman, Mark Nickerson serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Town of East Lyme and on January 20, 2021, Mark Nickerson, First Selectman of the Town of East Lyme had both the authority and the office to sign on behalf of the Town of East Lyme a Grant Agreement for financial assistance to "Complete the Improvements to the East Lyme Transfer Station, including a Vehicle Scale and Scale House in Niantic (East Lyme)" (STEAP FY 20-21). Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

2c. Portion of Girl Scout Camp Donation

MOTION (7)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that approximately eight acres of land not part of the larger purchase last year is being donated to the Town of East Lyme from the property owner. Attorney Collins added that this land is deemed open space in perpetuity. Mr. Nickerson stated that there are no current plans to allow for public access at this time, and he extended the Town's gratitude to the Girl Scout organization for gifting this open space to the town and its residents.

Mr. Seery MOVED that WHEREAS, the Girl Scouts of Connecticut, Inc. is the owner of 8.52 +/- acres of land on Upper Pattagansett Road in the Town of East Lyme, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto; and WHEREAS, said land is subject to a permanent restriction that the premises shall be

preserved in perpetuity as open space land; and WHEREAS, the Girl Scouts of Connecticut, Inc. desires to donate said land to the Town of East Lyme; NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that subject to the approval of the Board of Finance and a Planning Commission §8-24 review, the Board of Selectmen hereby approves the donation of said land and authorizes the First Selectman to accept a deed from the Girl Scouts of Connecticut, Inc. and receive, execute and deliver such other documents as may be necessary to complete said transaction.

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

2d. Appointments

MOTION (8)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that he is in receipt of Attorney O'Connell's resignation letter and read such into record, stating that it is with regret that the Board of Selectmen accept his resignation and that the Town is very grateful for his many years of service. It was noted that Attorney O'Connell was appointed as East Lyme's Town Attorney by then First Selectman Dennis Murphy in 1971, and that he has assisted the Town in so many ways since then. All Board of Selectman members recognized Attorney O'Connell for his many years of support and dedication to the Town and thank him for that. Attorney O'Connell thanked Mr. Nickerson and everyone for their support throughout the years, and for the kind words as he steps down, but he assured everyone that he will continue to support Attorney Collins.

Mr. Seery MOVED that the East Lyme Board of Selectmen on behalf of the Town of East Lyme recognize and thank Attorney Ed O'Connell for his over four decades of outstanding service to the Town of East Lyme. Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION (9)

Mr. Seery MOVED to appoint Tracy Collins, 7 Larchwood Lane, East Lyme, CT as the Town Attorney for the Town of East Lyme, with a term to expire on January 3, 2022.

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

MOTION (10)

Mr. Seery MOVED to appoint Denise Hall, 23 West Lane, Niantic, CT to serve as a Member on the Pension Committee for the Town of East Lyme.

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

Mr. Nickerson stated that the Pension Committee meets tomorrow for their quarterly meeting and Ms. Hall would like to participate as a Member. As such, Mr. Nickerson administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Hall.

MOTION (11)

Mr. Seery MOVED to appoint Robert Patterson, 208 Grassy Hill Road, East Lyme, CT to serve as a Member on the Brookside Farm Museum Commission for the Town of East Lyme with a term to expire on January 8, 2024.

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

Mr. Nickerson communicated the resignations of Mary Ann Salvatore from the Planning Commission and Lisa Pellegrini from the Board of Police Commissioners. He stated that the Planning Commission will have

30 days in which to fill their vacancy; and the Board of Selectmen will be responsible for filling the vacancy on the Police Commission and that he would expect this to be on the next meeting agenda.

3. Communications

There were none.

4a. Ex-Officio Reports

Mr. Salerno reported that the Planning Commission submitted the POCD and it was approved by the State OPM; the commission will now start meeting with other boards and commissions that may be affected by the newly adopted POCD. He reported that they approved a four-lot subdivision on Upper Kensington in the north end of town.

Mr. Dagle reported that the Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission will be exploring some potential opportunities for habitat restoration in the Pattagansett Estuary. Also, they created a subcommittee to review the shellfish management plan, which is about ten years old and needs updating, and they will request that the Town Attorney review any changes before it goes to the Board of Selectmen for final approval. Mr. Dagle stated that this commission is awaiting word on the status of the discussions between East Lyme and Waterford regarding where the town line boundary is in the river. He reported that the Town Building Committee held a special meeting to approve some contract changes, most notably that they discovered that the sheetrock needs to be replaced with fire rated sheetrock, which amounts to an approximate \$48,500 change order including some of the ceiling tiles in these areas. He reported that the town received a \$4,000 credit from the contractor because the Clerk of the Works has been doing all of the photographic documentation on the progress of this project. The project is moving along well and is ahead of schedule.

Mr. Cunningham reported that WELSCO is currently exploring alternative ways to make the shellfish permits more accessible through online measures.

Mr. Seery reported that he and Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Salerno met as the Fire Department Organization Subcommittee and reviewed the fire study and identified applicable recommendations to focus on. They also met with the two fire chiefs and their deputies to identify any concerns they may have within their departments. They are planning the next meeting to visit each of the firehouses. The Parks and Recreation Commission met and slightly increased the fees for tent and pavilion rental at McCook's. They also discussed their desire to take over the Darrows Ridge park; they have discussed making this a recreational area for activities such as disc golf. Mr. Seery reported that they also discussed honoring Charlie Fenick by naming one of the athletic fields after him and will discuss this further.

4b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson reported that he and Ms. Johnson have been busy working on this year's budgets. At the next meeting in February, this Board will receive their budget books and should be prepared with calendars in hand to schedule the upcoming budget discussions with the department heads. Mr. Nickerson shared the news that Mrs. Ann Peck has passed away, and he sends condolences to her family.

5. Public Comment

There was none.

6. Selectman's Response

There was none.

MOTION (12)

Mr. Seery MOVED to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate matters and personnel matters; and to include Mr. Todd Donovan for the discussion on real estate matters only. They entered executive session at 8:24 p.m.

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

MOTION (13)

Mr. Seery MOVED to exit executive session at 9:29 p.m. with no formal votes taken while in executive session.

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

MOTION (14)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Unaffiliated group's agreement for the fiscal year 2021/2022.

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

MOTION (15)

Mr. Seery MOVED to adjourn the January 20, 2021, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 9:31 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary