

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES RECEIVED FOR RECORD
NOVEMBER 16, 2022 EAST LYME, CT

2022 NOV 18 P 12:31

PRESENT: Kevin Seery, Rose Ann Hardy, Ann Cicchiello, Dan Cunningham, Bill Weber and Anne Santoro

Ann Cicchiello
TOWN CLERK

Mr. Seery called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked everyone for their patience in getting the meeting up and running tonight, and he noted that this is the Board of Selectmen's first attempt at a hybrid meeting with the new equipment.

This meeting was held as a hybrid meeting, in person at Town Hall and 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.

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Items
There were none.

1c. Delegations
There were none.

1d. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (1)

Ms. Santoro MOVED to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 2, 2022, as submitted.

Seconded by Ms. Cicchiello. Motion passed 6-0

1e. Consent Calendar

There was no consent calendar for this meeting.

2. Presentation by SCORE

DISCUSSION: Nickie DeSardo, representative from SCORE CT, Southeastern Connecticut Organization for Racial Equity, gave a presentation and held an open discussion with the Board of Selectmen on matters of racial equity. Also in attendance via Zoom were SCORE members Anneliese Lapidés, Serena Valentin and Ben Ostrowski. The full presentation and discussion can be viewed in its entirety by visiting [Videos - Board of Selectmen - Town of East Lyme \(eltownhall.com\)](https://www.eltownhall.com). It was agreed that members of SCORE would continue to stay in contact with the Board of Selectmen often to keep the discussion open and active; the Board of Selectmen assigned Dan Cunningham and two additional members which will be decided at a later date.

3a. BOS 2023 Meeting Schedule

MOTION (2)

Ms. Santoro MOVED to approve the 2023 Board of Selectmen meeting schedule, as presented.

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

3b. Schedule Town Meeting for December 7th

MOTION (3)

Ms. Santoro MOVED the following:

TOWN OF EAST LYME NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given of a Special Town Meeting of the Town of East Lyme to be held on December 7, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. (E.T.) at the East Lyme Town Hall Upper Meeting Room for the following purposes:

1. To consider and act upon a special expenditure of \$84,084 from account 32-99-094-900-002 (LEARN Rental Fees) for the purchase and installation of a new hot water heater for the East Lyme Middle School.
2. To consider and act upon a special expenditure of \$53,191.46 from account 32-99-094-900-002 (LEARN Rental Fees) for the purchase of a 2022 F-350 Super Cab 4WD Pickup Truck with a Tommy Gate lift gate and a BOSS Vee snowplow attachment.
3. To consider and act upon a special expenditure of \$13,146.50 from account 32-30-400-700-727 (NIPS Grant Expenditures) for the purchase of two HC5/SC5.5 Double Station Garbage/Recycle containers.
4. To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Dated at East Lyme, Connecticut, this 16th day of November, 2022. EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

3c. Discussion – Dominion Building 278 Main Street (former Police station)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Seery stated that as per previous Board of Selectmen discussions, the Town had decided to pass on purchasing the property from Dominion. Mr. Seery reported that he has been contacted by the Niantic Main Street group asking if we could put off any final decision whether to purchase the property or not until after the Yale Charette study is complete. All of the Board of Selectmen members were in favor of waiting until after the results of the Charette study have been published to have a final discussion with Dominion regarding the possible purchase. Mr. Seery stated that he has spoken with the representative from Dominion, and they are amenable to waiting for the Charette study to be completed.

4a. Ex-Officio Reports

Mr. Cunningham Reported:

- Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the current charter revision process and noted that they would like to consider combining Parks and Recreation with Youth Services. Mr. Seery stated that this could be done by ordinance and would not have to go through the charter revision process.
- P&R - Discussing available options to replace the broken tent, keeping all of the deed restrictions in mind to make the right choice. The town will receive a full refund for the damaged tent and is working with the supplier to secure that refund.

Ms. Santoro Reported:

- BOE - She reported that there is another unfunded mandate being sent down by the State called the Right to Read Act, which affects reading programs for kindergarten through third grade. The BOE is considering if the town is eligible for a waiver.
- BOE - Projects at the Middle School and High School continue.
- BOE - The increase in electricity costs is a concern.
- BOE - Budget workshops have begun, and they are currently projecting a 9% increase in the budget from this year.
- Library – Auditor’s report is complete, and the audit went well.
- Library – new program available in which you can rent Wi-Fi for a short period of time through the library.
- Library - The official plaque will be placed at the current site of the Niantic Children’s Museum, which is the original site of the town’s first library.
- Police Commission – Dispatch employees are cross training with officers to have a better understanding of each other’s roles in order to improve communication.

Ms. Cicchiello Reported:

- Harbor Management Shellfish Commission – Voted in favor of increasing the annual mooring fee from \$25.00 to \$75.00, which puts the fees in line with surrounding municipalities.
- Harbor Management Shellfish Commission – Working to train on the newly acquired program, Online Moorings, and there will be a tutorial at the December meeting.

Mr. Weber Reported:

- Planning – November 29th public hearing is scheduled regarding public housing.

Ms. Hardy Reported:

- Ms. Hardy requested that the Board review the ethics policy.

4b. First Selectman’s Report

- It was reported at a recent COG (Council of Governments) that TVCCA is reporting approximately one thousand more application for heating assistance than last year.
- New programs are being added for assistance with water and sewer bills.
- Care and Share is also reporting an increase in families asking for food assistance for the upcoming holiday.
- Police Commission interviewed two outstanding candidates, of which they extended an offer of employment to one. The second candidate will be considered for employment and offered a position contingent upon the retirement of an existing police officer.
- He confirmed with the Public Works Director that we had locked in previous lower electric rates through the year 2024.
- The meter replacement project continues; please call the Water & Sewer Department directly with any questions or concerns.
- The cleaning and painting of the water tower ended up being less than estimated.
- The Board of Education is reporting that they are approximately \$700,000 over budget currently, and that they will need to hire at least one additional paraprofessional prior to the start of the next budget.
- The town has been notified that we could expect up to a 12% increase in healthcare premiums

- Mr. Cunningham, along with two additional selectmen, have been directed by the First Selectman to begin this year's review of the fishing dock leases.
- The Charter Revision committee continues their charge and has separated out into different subcommittees.
- They strong burning smell today is coming from a fire at the scrapyard in Montville.
- The Veterans Day celebration on Friday, November 11th at the town green went very well with our veterans being honored. The First Selectman was presented with a quilt, handmade and presented to him by members of Quilts of Valor.
- East Lyme Middle School held their annual Veterans Day celebration, this year honoring veterans Harry Danos and Dick Waterman.
- Holiday Stroll is December 26th with the tree lighting at 5pm.
- Don't forget about the annual Thanksgiving Day football game between East Lyme and Waterford.

5. Communications

There were none.

6. Public Comment

There was none.

7. Selectman's Response

There was none.

8. Executive Session

MOTION (4)

Ms. Santoro MOVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing real estate matters, East Lyme Land Trust Oswegatchie Hills property.

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

The Board entered into executive session at 8:39 p.m. They returned at 9:15 p.m. and it was stated that no formal votes were taken.

9. Adjourn

MOTION (5)

Mr. Cunningham MOVED to adjourn the regular meeting of November 16, 2022, at 9:15 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Cicchiello. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary