



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

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SIMSBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Zoom

Special Meeting – April 14, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SELECTMEN ACTION

- a) Accept Certified Petition for Special Town Meeting
- b) Pursuant to Charter Section 409 Discussion of Special Town Meeting for Meadowood and Set Special Town Meeting Date

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Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AGENDA SUBMISSION FORM

1. **Title of Submission:** Accept Certified Petition for Special Town Meeting
2. **Date of Board Meeting:** April 14, 2021
3. **Individual or Entity Making the Submission:**
Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager; Ericka L. Butler, Town Clerk
4. **Action Requested of the Board of Selectmen:** *Maria E. Capriola*
The following motion is in order:

Move, effective April 14, 2021, to accept the certified petition which seeks to acquire and authorize bond funding for the property known as "Meadowood" and to call a special Town Meeting for the same topic.

5. **Summary of Submission:**

As of April 12, 2021, the Town Clerk's Office is in receipt of a petition which seeks to acquire and authorize bond funding for the property known as "Meadowood" and to call a special Town Meeting for the same topic.

It is estimated that at least 1,800 signatures have been received as of April 12th, which is reflective of approximately 9.45% of registered voters. Pursuant to our Charter, 5% of registered electors must sign such a petition for the acquisition of open space (Section 409(a)(8)) and bond issuance (Section 409(a)(1)) in order for a special Town Meeting to be called by the Board of Selectmen. As of March 26, 2021 Simsbury had 19,048 registered voters; 953 would be needed to reach the 5% threshold.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the Town's Registrars of Voters and Town Clerk certified approximately 1,250 signatures, an amount sufficient to certify the petition. They are continuing their work to certify all submitted signatures.

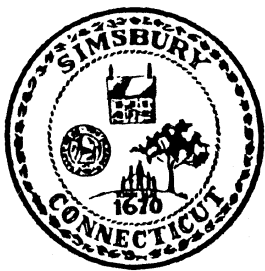
Staff in the Town Manager's Office, the Town Clerk, and the Town Attorney provided consultative services to the organizers of the petition to ensure that the wording would sufficiently meet our Charter and statutory requirements. The petition and call notice are attached.

6. **Financial Impact:**

Staff time and Registrars' (paid elected officials) time was required to certify the petition.

7. Description of Documents Included with Submission:

- a) Memo from E. Butler, re: Certification of Petition Pages (Meadowood), dated April 12, 2021
- b) Petition for Meadowood (Pages 1 & 2)
- c) Official Call of the Town Meeting



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Office of the Town Clerk

TO: Eric Sean Wellman, First Selectman
Sean P. Askham, Deputy First Selectman
Jackie Battos, Wendy G. Mackstutis, Mike R. Paine and Chris Peterson, Members of the Board of Selectmen

cc: Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager
Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager

Robert M. DeCrescenzo, Esq.
Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.

Judith A. Blank, Esq.
Pullman & Comley LLC

Karen E. Cortes, Democratic Registrar of Voters
Susan Salina, Republican Registrar of Voters

FROM: Ericka L. Butler, Town Clerk *Ericka L Butler*

DATE: April 12, 2021

Re: Certification of Petition Pages Re: Acquisition of Meadowood Property

I hereby certify to the Board of Selectmen that the petition pages and affidavits received in the Town Clerk's Office on April 12th, 2021 are sufficient in accordance with Charter Section 409(c) & 409(d).

As Town Clerk, I designated the Registrars of Voters and their Deputies to check the validity of each signature.

The petition includes the required number of valid signatures (953), which is at least five percent (5%) of qualified Electors (19,048).

PETITION TO REQUIRE THE CALL OF A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FOR ACQUISITION OF MEADOWOOD PROPERTY
WARNING: ALL SIGNATURES SHALL BE IN INK OR INDELIBLE PENCIL.

We, the undersigned persons, qualified Electors of the Town of Simsbury, hereby present this petition to the Town of Simsbury under the provisions of sections 7-9 and 7-9a of the Connecticut General Statutes and the Simsbury Town Charter, including but not limited to sections 406, 407, 409 and Chapter VIII of the Simsbury Town Charter, for the Board of Selectmen to call a special Town Meeting and propose that the call of the Town Meeting shall include the following question:

SHALL THE TOWN OF SIMSBURY APPROPRIATE \$2,515,860 FOR THE PURCHASE AND IMPROVEMENT OF MEADOWOOD (APPROXIMATELY 288 ACRES OF UNDEVELOPED LAND LOCATED OFF HOSKINS ROAD, COUNTY ROAD AND FIRETOWN ROAD); AND AUTHORIZE BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?

and thereafter referred for Automatic Referendum in accordance with section 406 of the Town Charter.

We certify under penalties for false statement that we are qualified Electors of the Town of Simsbury residing at such address set opposite our names and that we have signed this petition not more than once.

SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

This petition circulated by: _____
(Printed Name) (Street Address, Town, State, Zip)

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATOR

I state under the penalties for false statement that the following are true: That my name and address are above given, that I am a resident of the Town of Simsbury or eligible to vote in said Town, that each person whose name appears on this page signed the same in person in my presence and such person is known to me or has satisfactorily identified himself or herself to me, and that all signatures on this page were obtained not earlier than six (6) months prior to filing the Petition.

Circulator: _____ Date: _____
(Signature of Circulator)

State of Connecticut }
County of _____ } ss. Town/City of _____

On this the _____ day of _____, 2021, before me, _____, the undersigned officer,
(Name of Undersigned Officer)

personally appeared _____, known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose
(Name of Circulator)

name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the purposes therein contained. In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand.

(Signature of Notary Public) Date My Commission Expires _____

**CALL OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF SIMSBURY
Date to Be Determined**

A special town meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut will be held at a location to be determined, in the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut on a date and time to be determined, with a rain date and time to be determined, for the following purposes:

The special town meeting will be held to consider and vote on the following resolution:

1. ACQUISITION OF MEADOWOOD PROPERTY

RESOLVED,

(a) **THAT THE TOWN OF SIMSBURY APPROPRIATE \$2,515,860 FOR THE PURCHASE AND IMPROVEMENT OF MEADOWOOD (APPROXIMATELY 288 ACRES OF UNDEVELOPED LAND LOCATED OFF HOSKINS ROAD, COUNTY ROAD AND FIRETOWN ROAD); AND AUTHORIZE BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION.**

Dated at Simsbury, Connecticut this day of INSERT, 2021.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Eric Wellman, First Selectman

Sean Askham, Deputy First Selectman

Jackie Battos

Wendy Mackstutis

Mike Paine

Chris Peterson

**CALL OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF SIMSBURY
April 24, 2021**

A special town meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut will be held at the Simsbury Farms Ice Rink, 100 Old Farms Road, in the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut on Saturday, April 24, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., for the following purposes:

Pursuant to Charter Section 409, the special town meeting will be held to consider the following resolution:

1. ACQUISITION OF MEADOWOOD PROPERTY

RESOLVED,

(a) **THAT THE TOWN OF SIMSBURY APPROPRIATE \$2,515,860 FOR THE PURCHASE AND IMPROVEMENT OF MEADOWOOD (APPROXIMATELY 288 ACRES OF UNDEVELOPED LAND LOCATED OFF HOSKINS ROAD, COUNTY ROAD AND FIRETOWN ROAD); AND AUTHORIZE BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION.**

Dated at Simsbury, Connecticut this 14th day of April, 2021.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Eric Wellman, First Selectman



Jackie Battos



Mike Paine



Sean Askham, Deputy First Selectman



Wendy Mackstutis



Chris Peterson



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AGENDA SUBMISSION FORM

1. **Title of Submission:** Pursuant to Charter Section 409 Discussion of Special Town Meeting for Meadowood and Set Special Town Meeting Date
2. **Date of Board Meeting:** April 14, 2021
3. **Individual or Entity Making the Submission:**
Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager; Ericka L. Butler, Town Clerk
4. **Action Requested of the Board of Selectmen:** *Maria E. Capriola*
The following motion is in order:

Move, effective April 14, 2021, to hold a special town meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut at the Simsbury Farms Ice Rink, 100 Old Farms Road, in the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut on Saturday, April 24, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. to consider the following resolution:

ACQUISITION OF MEADOWOOD PROPERTY

RESOLVED,

(a) **THAT THE TOWN OF SIMSBURY APPROPRIATE \$2,515,860 FOR THE PURCHASE AND IMPROVEMENT OF MEADOWOOD (APPROXIMATELY 288 ACRES OF UNDEVELOPED LAND LOCATED OFF HOSKINS ROAD, COUNTY ROAD AND FIRETOWN ROAD); AND AUTHORIZE BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION.**

Pursuant to Section 406 of the Charter of the Town of Simsbury, this resolution shall be subject to an automatic referendum by all qualified voters of the Town of Simsbury on a date set by the Board of Selectmen.

5. **Summary of Submission:**
As of Tuesday afternoon, the Town's Town Clerk's Office and Registrars of Voters certified approximately 1,250 signatures, an amount sufficient to certify the Meadowood petition. They are continuing their work to certify all submitted signatures.

Pursuant to Section 409 of the Charter, a Special Town Meeting date must be set by the Board of Selectmen. Staff recommends holding the meeting on April 24th at 11am at the Simsbury Farms Ice Rink. Due to COVID, the rink provides an outdoor location with a roof covering which will aid in preventing inclement weather from interfering with the proceedings. Staff will coordinate necessary logistics related to the meeting such as set-up/break-down, parking, and technology needs. It is recommended that Town Clerk

Ericka Butler serve as secretary for the meeting and that Town Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo serve as Parliamentarian. A moderator will need to be determined. Staff will also develop an informational piece for voters to inform them what to expect for the meeting (check-in, parking, etc).

The next steps with target dates are as follows:

- Notice of special town meeting printed in Courant – 4/16
- Special Town Meeting held – 4/24
- Special BOS meeting to set the Meadowood automatic referendum date – 4/24 immediately following the Special Town Meeting
- Notice of Meadowood automatic referendum date printed in Courant – 4/26
- Meadowood automatic referendum date – 5/4

6. Financial Impact:

Staff time and time of the Registrars (paid elected officials) will be required to plan for and staff the special Town Meeting.

7. Description of Documents Included with Submission:

- a) Legal Notice for Special Town Meeting

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
LEGAL NOTICE - SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 409 of the Charter of the Town of Simsbury that a special town meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut will be held at the Simsbury Farms Ice Rink, 100 Old Farms Road, in the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut on Saturday, April 24, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. to consider the following resolution:

ACQUISITION OF MEADOWOOD PROPERTY

RESOLVED,

(a) **THAT THE TOWN OF SIMSBURY APPROPRIATE \$2,515,860 FOR THE PURCHASE AND IMPROVEMENT OF MEADOWOOD (APPROXIMATELY 288 ACRES OF UNDEVELOPED LAND LOCATED OFF HOSKINS ROAD, COUNTY ROAD AND FIRETOWN ROAD); AND AUTHORIZE BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION.**

Pursuant to Section 406 of the Charter of the Town of Simsbury, this resolution shall be subject to an automatic referendum by all qualified voters of the Town of Simsbury on a date set by the Board of Selectmen.

Special Town Meeting Date: Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.