

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 26, 2020
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CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00p.m. on Zoom due to Covid-19. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman, Deputy First Selectman Sean Askham; Board members Jackie Battos, Mike Paine, Chris Peterson, and Wendy Mackstutis. Others in attendance include: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola, Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby, Planning Director Mike Glidden, Culture Parks and Recreation Director Tom Tyburski, Park Superintendent Orlando Casiano, Dan Biggs and Rachelle McKnight from Weston Design Studios, Margery Winters, Gerry Wetjen and Tom Hazel.

Mr. Wellman said this meeting was called to review the Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

Mr. Biggs spoke about the plan showing strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for the Town. They used a five step process for this project, which began July 2019. They held community engagement sessions for input and then sent out surveys. Now they have a draft document on the Master Plan.

Ms. McKnight said the Master Plan is pretty involved and shows the concepts, trends, public engagement surveys, financial analysis, key issues, recreational interests, goals, etc. Their surveys had a 42% response from people who have lived in Town for over 20 years.

Ms. McKnight gave an overview of strengths in Town and areas of improvements like ADA accessibility, facility upgrades and habitat loss.

Ms. McKnight went through some key issues and recommendations and what they feel priorities are. They also went through staff capabilities like having enough staff for trash removal in the spaces.

Mr. Biggs said the Town needs to look at different policies and how realistic they are and how to enforce the different policies.

After some discussion, no action was taken.

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 6:53 p.m. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk