

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Lisa Heavner; Board members Cheryl Cook, Philip Purciello, Michael Paine, Sean Askham and Christopher Kelly. Others in attendance included Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services, Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo, Joseph Mancini, Director of Finance, Gerry Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, thanked everyone who voted for her and believed in her mission. She spoke about continuing to make sure the Board continues to serve the tax payers. She also spoke about a professional town management form of government, the new Town Planner position, different lawsuits, the Chestnut Hill tax abatement issue, the marijuana issue, the homeless and other issues.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, congratulated the Republican candidate for First Selectman who ran. He also spoke about corruption in politics, the Veterans Memorial Monument and other issues.

Chris Barnett, a member of the Economic Development Commission, said she supported the abatement of the historic portion of the Chestnut Hill project. She wants the building to maintain its historic quality. She also had some concerns about this project in making sure the Town is covered if any problems occur.

Lisa Graham, Simsbury Chamber of Commerce, said their Halloween event was the best ever, with about 1700-1800 people in attendance. They have already begun to work on next years' event, which will be held on October 29th. She also went through their upcoming activities and hoped everyone will attend.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Veterans Day Program – Wednesday, November 11th at 10:45 a.m. at Eno Memorial Hall**

Bruce Elliott, Post Commander of American Legion Post of Simsbury, spoke about the upcoming Veterans Day Ceremony. He said the American Legion and VFW have arrangements in place for

November 11th at 10:45 a.m. at Eno Memorial Hall. He said we still have the opportunity to honor those who remain among us and he invited everyone to attend the service.

Mr. Elliott said noted the VFW holiday clothing drive to benefit residents of the Veterans Home in Rocky Hill. This event will run from November 11th to December 10th. He said the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary wrap donated items as Christmas presents for these vets as well as for widows and orphans of deceased veterans. He said a complete list of needed items is available at the many drop off points and here at Town Hall.

Mr. Elliott also invited everyone to remember all veterans in December by participating in the national “Wreaths Across America Day.” Simsbury’s Abigail Phelps Chapter of the DAR is again lead organizer of this event. The event will take place on Saturday, December 12th, at noon, in front of the Center Cemetery flag at the top of Plank Hill Road.

He encouraged everyone to purchase a wreath to be placed on the grave of a Veteran. For more information, email AngieBautista@me.com. Wreaths are \$15, which includes a \$5 donation toward veteran’s causes.

Len Lanza, Simsbury Veterans Memorial Project Chairman, said there is no timetable for dedication ceremony of the memorial. He said the project is getting there. The first set of bids were rejected and they have gone back to the drawing board. The integrity of the design has remained the same. They have had several meetings to discuss the numbers and are moving forward with the project. He said he has worked with the Board of Selectmen on this project and they have always been supportive and cooperative.

Ms. Heavner and the Board thanked the members of the Committee for all their hard work on this project.

- **Annual Recycling Award**

Mary Turner, Chairman of the Recycling Committee, said the Recycling Award goes to a person or organization who has made a special effort to recycle materials. The Committee has chosen Jonas Strimaitis for his efforts in education and promoting composting best practices.

Mr. Strimaitis said he has been recycling and composting since 1974. He gave the Board a sample of his composting materials. He thanked everyone for this award.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

Ms. Heavner thanked everyone who ran for offices as it shows residents are ready to serve.

Ms. Heavner thanked the Public Works Department for hosting a very successful household hazardous waste collection event last Saturday. This was a joint initiative with the Towns of Avon, Canton, and Granby.

Ms. Heavner said Town Offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th for Veterans Day. There will be a Veterans Day event at Eno Memorial Hall beginning at 10:45 a.m., which is being organized by local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion chapters along with Boy Scout Troop 76.

Ms. Heavner said Simsbury Celebrates will be held on November 28th, beginning at 4 p.m. There will be a Fire Truck Parade at 7:25 p.m. and Fireworks at 8:15 p.m. For a full schedule of events, visit www.simsburycelebrates.com.

Ms. Heavner said National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 12th. The Abigail Phelps Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will be holding a Simsbury Cemetery Ceremony on Plank Hill Road beginning at 12 noon. There will be a reception at the Simsbury Public Library Program Room following the ceremony.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone about the leaf pick-up schedule being on-line at www.simsbury-ct.gov or by calling the Public Works Department at 860-658-3222.

Ms. Heavner said the Town and the Simsbury Economic Development Commission is holding the first annual Community Photography Contest. Everyone was encouraged to submit their best work. Information is on www.simsbury-ct.gov under the “Get Out Your Cameras” link under Town news.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Approve Tax Refunds

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$12,118.92 as recommended and approved by the Tax Collector. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Appoint James Rabbitt, AICP, as Director of Planning and Community Development

Ms. Heavner said there were a number of highly qualified applicants for this position. She said Mr. Rabbitt has 26 years of experience as a certified planner and many other qualifications.

Ms. Heavner welcomed Mr. Rabbitt and introduced him. Mr. Rabbitt said it was a pleasure to be considered by the full Board. He looks forward to working with everyone in Simsbury. He feels Simsbury is a beautiful town and everyone has been very welcoming.

Mr. Askham said Mr. Rabbitt has a lot of interesting challenges ahead of him. He looks forward to the residents getting to know him. He feels he has a great approach and will work well with everyone.

Mr. Askham made a motion to confirm the appointment of James Rabbitt as Director of Planning and Community Development. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Consider Tax Abatement Request for Chestnut Hill Associates of Simsbury, LLC

Ms. Heavner said there was additional information received this afternoon from Chestnut Hill Associates, LLC. She said the Business Development Committee met twice on this issue. They did vote unanimously to recommend the tax abatement for Chestnut Hill Associates of Simsbury, LLC, in the amount not to exceed \$300,000 over a period of 7 years for preserving the mansion.

Attorney Arnold Sholovitz said this project was spearheaded by Jackson Eno, who has since passed away, to preserve the mansion as part of his heritage. He said the reason for tax abatement is to fill a gap when dealing with historical structures that are unable to sustain themselves economically.

He explained the difference in the revised amount of \$479,348 from the original \$300,000 they asked for. He said they have received more information on preserving this historic building. He went through all of the issues and figures in their amended tax abatement. He said they need help in preserving this building. In the application process, the State grants 25% of qualified hard costs and the Federal government grants 20% of soft costs, but it has to be maintained over 5 years. Those are only tax credits not actual dollars.

Bill Crosby, Architect, said this building is a great asset to the Town. He said they will be taking down the Parish Hall and the teller building and then restoring the mansion. They will also be retaining the front lawn. They will have to deal with asbestos, electric and heating issues also. He said most of his projects do receive tax abatements. He said the paybacks will be substantial to the Town.

Dick Anthony, an investor and a cousin of Mr. Eno, said he has a lot invested in the community. He feels tax abatements are part of the mansions survival.

Attorney DeCrescenzo went the abatement process. After several questions from the Board, Attorney DeCrescenzo said he would continue to work with Chestnut Hill Associates of Simsbury, LLC. on this abatement issue.

Mr. Askham made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Business Development Committee to extend, subject to certain conditions, the tax abatement for this project as described, \$300,000 over 7 years, subject to further review of the draft contract and further subject to the ability of the development entity to come back and provide further evidence and proven concept of the need of something greater than \$300,000 and up to \$479,000, subject to the Board of Selectmen’s satisfaction if warranted. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Approve Proposed Eagle Scout Project

Justin Bush explained his Eagle Scout project to construct and install wayfinding signage and trail re-blazing at Ethel Walker Woods Open Space.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the proposed Eagle Scout Ethel Walker Woods project of Justin Bush with thanks. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Approve Creation of a Friends of Simsbury Farms 501(c)3 for Simsbury Farms Complex

Ms. Heavner said the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously voted to recommend the creation of the Friends of Simsbury Farms 501(c) 3 organization. Attorney DeCrescenzo has reviewed and approved the documents as well.

Mr. Toner said this will streamline the process already in place.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the creation of the Friends of Simsbury Farms, a 501-C-3 non-profit organization intended to plan, form, coordinate, and monitor charitable donations for the benefit of the Simsbury Farms Recreation Complex with the amendment to the By-laws and Board of Selectmen approval. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Accept Donation from Peter Dumont for Video Equipment at Simsbury Farms Ice Rink

Mr. Toner said Peter Dumont approached him on this issue. He said they will find an area in the building to put the equipment and screen and this is much appreciated.

Ms. Cook made a motion to accept the donation, of a \$900.00 value, from Peter Dumont with thanks. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Approve Temporary Right of Entry and Easements for the Tariffville Water Commission of the Tariffville Fire District

Ms. Heavner said the bottom line is that Tariffville needs water and we need to help them get it.

Kevin Donohue said their water storage tank is aging. The Department of Public Health agrees that the tank needs to be replaced. The next step is to determine if the site identified for the new tank is viable. The site needs to be surveyed and a non-invasive geotechnical investigation, including boings, needs to be done. It's a very complex project.

Mr. Askham made a motion to authorize the Town to enter into a temporary right of entry agreement with the Tariffville Water Commission of the Tariffville Fire District on property owned by the Town of Simsbury to allow the Tariffville First District to complete necessary geotechnical investigations for the relocation of the Tariffville Water Supply. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to refer the proposed construction easement pursuant to section 824 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut Planning and Conservation Commission. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h) Approve Fiscal Year 2015 Transfers

a. Fiscal year 2015 General Fund Cleanup

Ms. Heavner said the Town fiscal year 2015 budget transfers covers all the expenditures that are currently in the general fund. She said on the expenditure side, the Town is coming in favorably with \$107,862. She said revenue is favorable in the amount of \$725,000. She said the Board has already approved two earlier appropriations in the amount of \$400,000 for the pension plans and \$70,000 for heart and hypertension. She thanked Joe Mancini and staff for their hard work on this.

Mr. Mancini went through the transfers with the Board.

Mr. Askham made a motion to authorize the transfers for fiscal year 2015 general fund cleanup as outlined in the presentation. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

a. Simsbury Farms Deficit Cleanup for Fiscal 2015

Mr. Askham made a motion to authorize a transfer of up to \$60,000 from the general fund for the Simsbury Farms deficit cleanup. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b. Funding of the next revaluation

Mr. Paine made a motion to authorize the Board of Finance to transfer up to \$270,000 from the general fund in order to fund the next revaluation in its entirety. Mr. Purciello seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c. CNR transfer as approved during the fiscal year 2016 budget

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the CNR transfer of \$83,550 as approved during the fiscal year 2016 budget process. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

i) Review Recommendations as proposed by the Economic Development Task Force (EDTF) Process Group

Ms. Haase, Economic Development Task Force, went through the process of their proposal. Bill Ethier and Kevin Crimmins said there were three different groups and their single goal was to efficiently bring forward any project or other initiative related to economic development in Simsbury.

Mr. Ethier said there were three areas of focus: Land use process, structure, sequence of steps; staffing; and commission members.

He said their recommendations include a revision to the Charter to consolidate the Planning Commission and Zoning Commission. They feel this will improve the efficiency of communications, eliminate delays, streamline the land use process, and improve staff efficiency.

Mr. Ethier said they are recommending supplemental staffing for both the building department and the planning departments. They feel these two part-time roles could be consolidated into one full time, cross-trained staff.

Mr. Ethier said the Task Force is also recommending creating an orientation and continuous education process and access to tools and resources to enable Commissioners and Board members to be knowledgeable in roles and responsibilities.

After some discussion, Ms. Haase said this team has completed their work. Ms. Heavner thanked the Task Force for all their hard work and suggestions.

No motion was needed for this agenda item.

j) Accept the Performing Arts Center 2015 Administrative Fee of \$10,000 per the Facility Operating Agreement

Dave Ryan passed out a power-point presentation to the Board, which he explained. Ms. Heavner accepted a check for \$10,000 for the 2015 Administrative Fee per the Facility Operating Agreement.

Mr. Ryan said they will finalize the requests to replace the Cushman, place an office at the screening and to extend the contract to end 12/31/16. They are also still working on a roof project.

Ms. Heavner thanked all the volunteers who help with the Performing Arts Center.

No motion was made on this agenda item.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Update on Senior Community Center Project

Ms. Heavner said she met with Mr. Mancini and bond counsel to get some recommendations on bonding this project. The recommendations should be ready in a few weeks.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Acknowledge the resignation of Barbara Petijean (R) as a regular member of the Board of Ethics effective October 21, 2015

Mr. Askham made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Barbara Petijean as a regular member of the Board of Ethics effective October 21, 2015 with thanks. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to amend the agenda to accept the resignation of Mary Lou Patrino from the Aging and Disability Commission. Mr. Purciello seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Mary Lou Patrino as an alternate member of the Aging and Disability Commission, effective immediately with thanks. Mr. Purciello seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a) **Regular Meeting of October 14, 2015** – no action was taken and therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Personnel** – no report at this time.
2. **Finance** – no report at this time.
3. **Welfare** – no report at this time.
4. **Public Safety** – no report at this time.
5. **Board of Education** – no report at this time.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) **Per General Statutes section 1-200(6)(B) pending litigation: Town of Simsbury v. Corrine Nevers, et al**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to executive session per General Statutes section 1-200(6)(B) pending litigation: Town of Simsbury v. Corrine Nevers, et al at 10:05 p.m. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

At 10:18 p.m. Mr. Askham and Mr. Purciello recused themselves from consideration of the matter and left the meeting.

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Cook made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 10:27 p.m. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN

Ms. Cook made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 p.m. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk