

TOWN OF SIMSBURY - BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 12, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:20 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Mary Glassman; Board members Robert Hensley, Lisa Heavner, John Hampton, Moira Wertheimer and Nancy Haase. Others in attendance included Hiram Peck, Tim Goodwin, Tom Cooke, Emily Moos, Ted DeSantos and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation and possible endorsement of Route 10 Corridor Study

Ms. Glassman thanked the Steering Committee, who unanimously endorsed the Route 10 Corridor Study earlier this evening. She said they worked very tirelessly on this study. Ms. Glassman also thanked CRCOG for the grant money and Emily Moos and her staff along with Ted and his staff for the wonderful graphics also.

Ms. Moos said it was great going through the process with such a great Committee. She said the Charrette in February was the first one done by the Capitol Region. As a result over 100 people came to the Charrette. The CRCOG website was very highly visited for all information being used by the public.

Ted said there were 16 Committee meetings and he congratulated the Town on the endorsement. He gives the Town the credit for all of their involvement. Ted went through the 20 year transportation plan. He said this was a great challenge, however fun, and he appreciated the business.

After some discussion, Mr. Hensley made motion:

WHEREAS, the Town of Simsbury on November 22, 2010 by vote of its Board of Selectmen, agreed to participate with the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CROG), its staff and the selected consultant in the Simsbury Route 10 Corridor Study, and

WHEREAS, the CROG staff, Town of Simsbury staff, the consultant, Connecticut DOT staff, the appointed Steering Committee members and interested citizens of Simsbury have worked together at a town-wide charrette held on February 7 - 10, 2011, and at many subsequent public Steering Committee meetings where the study has been circulated and made available to the

public, and

WHEREAS, through public meetings, stakeholder discussions, submitted comments both in person and to the CROG study website, the Study's recommendations have been discussed, analyzed, refined and finalized into their present form and content, and

WHEREAS, the Simsbury Route 10 Corridor Final Report has been submitted to the Steering Committee, has been reviewed by the Steering Committee members and has been (unanimously) endorsed and referred to the Simsbury Board of Selectmen for final local endorsement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the referenced Simsbury Route 10 Corridor Study has been reviewed by the Board of Selectmen and is hereby endorsed by the Simsbury Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Heavner seconded the motion. Vote to endorse: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, October 12, 2011. This report will now be forwarded to the CRCOG Policy Board.

Community Farm of Simsbury presentation by Tim Goodwin, Farm Manager

Mr. Goodwin thanked the Town for all of their support for this 2+year old Farm. This Farm is set up for food education and security, which helps families in need. The never turn any students away from learning. They are now working on social interactive sessions now.

Mr. Goodwin said the Farm donated 9,800lbs of produce so far this year. There have been events and two dinners there. All of the money raised goes back into the charity of the Farm Mission.

Mr. Goodwin showed different pictures of the upgrades done at the Farm, including an irrigation system and thanked everyone for their donations.

Mr. Hampton thanked all of the partnerships who work with the Community Farm who help them with their accomplishments.

There is a whole series of events held at the Farm on October 21st from 4-9:30 and everyone is invited.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26, Whitcomb Drive spoke again about having a Town Management form of government. She feels this Board of Selectmen find public audience a waste of time and never follow-up on any residents' comments.

Ms. Coe said this Board embraces Town Farm Dairy even though it was never approved by the Attorney General's Office for compliance with the Eno Trust. There is now a lawsuit against the Town about milk at the Farm. She feels the Farm should give the Board their tax returns.

Ms. Coe feels the Performing Arts Center Committee should be dismantled and Mr. Vincent shouldn't get any type of salary. She said this Committee has never been self-sustaining and always costs the Town money.

Mr. Kalechman reminded everyone that Public Audience is to represent for the betterment of the Town residents. He spoke again about residents not paying their taxes.

Mr. Kalechman feels the staff treats Ms. Coe poorly and this needs to be investigated further. Ms. Glassman said she will follow-up on the allegations.

Sue Bednarczyk, 119 E. Weatogue said she is concerned about the animals at the Town Farm Dairy as people can get injured. She wants the safety issue addressed.

Ms. Bednarczyk feels the Rte. 10 Corridor study has a missing link and needs more land use planning. Land use planning should be done before anything else. She thinks the residents should get what they want, not what they think they may want.

Ms. Bednarczyk also feels one of the staff members needs to have his attitude addressed as he spoke to her inappropriately as well.

FIRST SELECTMAN REPORT

Ms. Glassman thanked First Church for the rehab work at 2 affordable housing units on Old Farms Road. Volunteers put in over 600 hours and she thanked everyone for their help.

Ms. Glassman thanked Susan Masino for the "safe route to school" program where 158 kids and parents participating. There were 8 different meeting points and everything went very well.

Ms. Glassman also thanked Ms. Masino for her participation in the Women's Transportation Seminar. She is a great advocate.

Ms. Glassman said the Public Works equipment sale went well; \$5,419 was raised and she thanked Tom Roy and the Town Staff for all of their help.

Ms. Glassman said the low bidder for the main building renovation at Simsbury Farms was Millenium Builders. They were approved by referendum. A contract has been drafted and she thanked everyone for their efforts on this process.

SELECTMEN ACTIONS

a) Action on Public Hearing regarding proposed changes to the Blight Ordinance, Chapter 123 of the Town Code

Mr. Hampton made motion to table this issue until further review. Mr. Hensley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Approve Tax Refunds

Ms. Wertheimer made motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$6,566.32 as approved and recommended by the Tax Collector. Mr. Hensley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Review and discuss waiver of fee for the Theatre Guild's event at Boy Scout Hall

Ms. Wertheimer made motion to waive the application fee of \$180 for the Theatre Guild's event at Boy Scout Hall. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Accept a financial donation in the amount of \$2,200 from the Archdiocese of Hartford Archbishop's Annual Appeal for the Simsbury Food Closet and \$1,200 to the Keep Simsbury Warm program for a total of donation of \$3,400

Mr. Hampton made motion to accept a total donation of \$3,400 from the Archdiocese of Hartford Archbishop's Annual Appeal: \$2,200 for the Simsbury Food Closet and \$1,200 to Keep Simsbury Warm program with our thanks. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Wertheimer made motion to amend the agenda to include a request by Richard Sawitzke to receive FEMA funds. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Hampton made motion to approve the creation of a special project account in the amount of \$60,684 in order to receive FEMA funds in that amount through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Mr. Hensley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business at this time

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Accept the resignation of David Ryan (D) as chairman of the Performing Arts Center Board effective September 30, 2011

Ms. Wertheimer made motion to accept the resignation of David Ryan as chairman of the Performing Arts Center Board effective September 30, 2011 with great thanks. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Approve the appointment of Arpit Dave as the student liaison to the Aging and Disabilities Commission effective October 4, 2011

Ms. Heaver made motion to approve the appointment of Arpit Dave as the student liaison to the Aging and Disabilities Commission effective October 4, 2011. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes, September 26, 2011

Ms. Wertheimer made motion to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2011 as presented. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor, with Mr. Hensley abstaining. Therefore, the motion passed.

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 - Mr. Hampton said the appeals process will continue for the Tariffville Post Office and all testimony is being reviewed

Ms. Hampton said the Simsbury Historical Society is holding their Centennial Celebration on the 15th from 11 - 4:30 and everyone is welcome.

5. Board of Education - Ms. Heavner said the Social Services Dept. is taking applications for the State Energy Assistance Program. Please apply as soon as possible as there are cut-backs in the program.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone that the mason jar collections are ongoing. The collection of change is to help your neighbors, especially during the holiday times.

ADJOURN

Ms. Wertheimer made motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Hensley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman