

TOWN OF SIMSBURY - BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 24, 2011

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 Mary Glassman; Board members Robert Hensley, Lisa Heavner, John Hampton, Moira Wertheimer and Nancy Haase. Others in attendance included: Tom Cooke, Gerry Toner, Linda Johnson and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION

Simsbury Celebrates! - Gerry Toner, Director, Culture, Parks and Recreation

Ms. Glassman said the weekend after Thanksgiving is Simsbury Celebrates!

Mr. Toner said this is the 10th year of Simsbury Celebrates and there has been more sponsorships and involvement for the celebration this year. The Committee has worked very hard to make Simsbury Celebrates a very special event. They are very passionate and enthusiastic about the event and it is a great way to welcome the holiday season. He thanked Linda Johnson and her committee for all of their work.

Ms. Johnson said Carol Brown handles marketing and publicity with the help of Taryn Rae, Director of Programs. Janet Calabro handles most of the fund-raising, but everyone works very hard together to make this event happen. There are 20 groups listed in the program and all events are free and open to everyone. All events will be held inside, except for the Fireman's Parade, they run from the Historical Society to the First Church. The cost will be over \$29,000 and they are still accepting donations.

Ms. Johnson read a letter from Ms. Brown explaining how the event has grown every year. The involvement of volunteers and sponsors has also grown greatly and they are proud that the event is still free to everyone. Approximately 50 volunteers are needed; anyone who is interested can contact Taryn Rae at 860-408-4684. The hours are from 4:30 p.m. to approximately 8:30 p.m.

The Board thanked everyone for all of their hard work and donations. This will be a very exciting event and hopefully everyone will attend. The Town website will have a link so more donations can be made.

Ms. Glassman introduced Dave Roberts of the International Skating of Central CT. Mr. Roberts said there will be a free public skating rink at Bushnell Park opening on November 25th. There will also be free ice skating shows during this period. Approximately 1,000 slightly used pairs of skates are needed to help run this free program and he thanked the Town for their collection boxes at Town Hall, the Skating Center and Simsbury Farms.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive said this was the last Board meeting before the elections and she asked everyone to vote on what has been accomplished, not most popular. She said the Charter Revision Commission has been meeting, but no candidates have endorsed the changing of the Charter to change to a Town Manager form of government.

Ms. Coe spoke about the staff behavior at the Blight Hearing and wants to know where this stands.

Ms. Coe also spoke about the new communication tower, saying that old cables were spliced together instead of using fiber optics.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street spoke about Veteran's Day and honoring all of those who served. He wanted more advertising for the memorial at Eno Hall. He read a portion of a poem from Henry V.

Mr. Kalechman also said there is no handicapped access at the renovated pool and he can't understand why.

Sue Bednarczyk, 119 E. Weatogue spoke again about Land Use planning and the open space planning. She reflected on years past when Simsbury used to beat Glastonbury with open space and feels Simsbury should embrace open space more.

FIRST SELECTMAN REPORT

Ms Glassman reminded everyone who experienced damage from Hurricane Irene that they have until November 3, 2011 to register with FEMA to submit their claim for damages. She said that even if you are not sure of the extent of the damage, it is very important that you register and then they will help you with the plan. You can contact them at 800-621-FEMA or for a TTY line at 800-462-7585. You can also register on your smart phone by contacting M.FEMA.GOV and on line by going to www.disasterassistance.gov. You can go on the Simsbury website for a link as well.

SELECTMEN ACTIONS

a) Approve Tax Refunds

Ms. Wertheimer made motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$183.40 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Ms. Haase seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Accept an anonymous donation in the amount of \$3,750.00 for the Paw Meadow Dog Park

Mr. Hensley made motion to approve the anonymous donation of \$3,750.00 for the Paw Meadow Dog Park after review by the Finance Director. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Johnson said the Committee is hoping to open the Dog Park this year as the clearing is already done. Donations are still welcomed to meet the fund-raising goals.

c) Update on Town Quarterly Financial Report

Ms. Glassman said the new Finance Director, Mary Ann Harris, is working hard to become familiar with the Town of Simsbury's processes. This is the first of the quarterly reports the Board requested.

Ms. Glassman said there was an increase in investment income and licensing and permits are also increasing. Charges for goods and services are slightly lower.

Ms. Glassman said there will be a ribbon cutting at Dorset Crossing on November 1st at 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Glassman also noted that Employee Medical Insurance is lower this quarter due to other post employment benefits liabilities being lower in the current fiscal year.

Ms. Glassman feels the public will be very happy to see the new budget format. There have been a lot of good suggestions made on the format.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

a) Public Hearing October 12, 2011

Mr. Hampton made motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of October 12, 2011. Mr.

Hensley seconded motion. Ms. Wertheimer made a spelling correction on page 2. All were in favor of the amended minutes and the motion passed.

b) Regular Meeting Minutes, October 12, 2011

Ms. Haase made motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2011 as presented. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and 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 he and Mr. Hensley met with unaffiliated candidates, before this meeting, for the Board of Ethics. They will meet with more candidates and have their recommendation before the next Board of Selectmen meeting.
5. Board of Education - No report at this time

Ms. Heavner said she was representing Social Services and handed out mason jars to the Board, which are also around Town. They are trying to fill jars to hand out during the holiday season along with food donations.

Ms. Heavner also handed out red bracelets for "Red Ribbon Week". This is to honor a drug enforcement agent who was murdered in Mexico while investigating drug activity. Kids who are under 18 and wear these bracelets from October 24-28 will receive a free ice cream cone at J. Foster or free slice of pizza at Little City. The businesses were thanked for their support.

Mr. Hensley said the Gateway Sign Committee has received permission to use the property on Rte. 185. They will be meeting again on Wednesday.

Mr. Hensley said the Pension Committee had a very informative meeting last week.

Mr. Hensley said he will double check the handicapped accessibility at the pool. Ms. Glassman said the Aging & Disability Commission was involved with these renovations.

Mr. Hampton noted that Lisa Heavner, Ms. Glassman and he were models at the fashion show to benefit The Second Chance Shop. It was a great event which raised a lot of awareness for those in need.

Ms. Haase said the 50th Anniversary Chamber event was well attended and a great job was done by all.

Ms. Glassman reminded everyone about Veteran's Day on Tuesday, November 8th.

ADJOURN

Ms. Heavner made motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Mr. Hensley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Glassman
First Selectman