



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Public Safety Sub-Committee

December 19, 2019

7:00AM

Main Meeting Room, Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Audience

Approval of Minutes

- 1) September 19, 2019 Minutes

Updates and Reports

- 1) Board of Education
- 2) Ambulance
- 3) Emergency Management
 - a) Update from Eversource regarding the electrical incident at the Commons
- 4) Fire
- 5) Police
 - a) Traffic Authority Related Items
 - b) Crosswalk Safety
- 6) Public Works
- 7) Farmington Valley Health District
- 8) Social Services
- 9) Work Group to Review and Ordinance to Prohibit the Intentional Feeding of Wildlife
- 10) 2020 Regular Meeting Schedule
- 11) Other Updates

Adjournment

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY - PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 19, 2019
"SUBJECT TO APPROVAL"**

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CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sean Askham called the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Subcommittee to order at 7:00 A.M. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices, 933 Hopmeadow Street. Present were: **James Baldis**, Chief, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department; **Nicholas Boulter**, Police Chief; **Kevin Kowalski**, Fire Marshal, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department; **Burke LaClair**, Business Manager, Board of Education; **Karin Stewart**, Executive Director, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association; **Thomas Roy**, Director, Public Works; **Gary Wilcox**, President, Simsbury Fire District. Also in attendance were Michael Berry, Assistant Emergency Management Director, Simsbury Fire District; Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Kristen Formanek, Director of Community and Social Services; Melissa Marquis, FVHD Public Health Emergency Specialist; Mark Massaro, Community Relations Specialist, Eversource; Chris Peterson, Board of Selectmen; Nancy Scheetz, Visiting Nurses Association; and Karen Haberlin, Commission Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

No one spoke at Public Audience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1) Approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting on June 20, 2019

The Minutes were approved as presented.

UPDATES AND REPORTS

1) Ambulance - Ms. Stewart reported they have been covering some stand-by for various organizations in Town, including the Latimer Lane 5K and MS Walk. She noted Car 17 has already exceeded the call volume from last year. It is running Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

2) Emergency Management

a) Hurricane and Severe Weather Preparedness Considerations

Mr. Berry referenced the Severe Weather and Hurricane Preparedness Considerations for Municipalities attachment in the meeting packet. He noted the Emergency Operations Plan is due for its bi-annual update. There have been some changes in administration and he asked Committee members to review their sections and update it with information they want included. Regarding communications he noted they are in excellent shape. He added that he will get all updates and phone numbers from Mr. Kowalski in case he is unavailable. He will also be working with all the department heads. He will be working with the Police Department to come up with a communication plan and routine testing to ensure communication is tested on a routine basis for the in-Town radio system and interoperability to make sure the Town is up to date with the State. Chief Baldis reported the Town tests monthly for 8CALL90. Mr. Berry updated the Committee on his classwork, noting he was accepted into both classes at the National Fire Academy. He will be there for 6 different weeks and will be done with the Master Planner class by April and the Executive Class by the start of 2021. He noted there is a capstone project in which he will complete a full-scale exercise as part of the Master Planner class. Mr. Kowalski noted some public relations will need to be done for residents of the new apartments. Mr. Peterson suggested an information

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kit be available for property owners to hand out to residents. Discussion followed about the new senior living building, the Tower Reservoir Dam Project tabletop exercise, Everbridge, CT Alert, WSIM and residents living in apartments.

b) Eversource Response Time to Electrical Incident at the Commons

Mr. Kowalski reported on the response to a call at the Simsbury Commons for a trouble alarm. Mr. Kowalski summarized what happened and introduced Mark Massaro, Community Relations Specialist at Eversource, the new company representative for the Town of Simsbury. Discussion followed regarding concern about the lack of response. Mr. Massaro spoke about the situation and noted there is a training DVD he can provide for the Committee. Mr. Peterson asked that Mr. Massaro report back to the Committee on what happened and why. It was agreed Mr. Massaro will provide an update at the next meeting. Discussion about phase protection followed.

3) Fire - Chief Baldis reported there was a basement fire on Evans Drive caused by an electrical issue. He noted there was good entry and stop of the situation. He thanked some of the resources that were used, including the Avon Fire Department, Social Services, the Animal Control Officer, and the Red Cross. Discussion following regarding a concerned neighbor's call about the residents returning to the home and what can or cannot be done about a situation like this.

4) Police - Chief Boulter reported there have been 9 cars stolen this year, all unlocked with keys in them. In 2018 there were 16 cars stolen. He added these thefts can roll into pursuits with people getting killed and that this needs to be prevented from happening. He noted crimes are being committed with these cars; some have bullet holes in them. He added if there is a valid reason to stop a car, the Police will. Items such as laptops and credit cards are being taken from unlocked cars as well. He noted an abandoned car in front of Town Hall and another recovered in Plainville. This is happening mostly in the southern part of Town. He noted cars need to be locked. October 26 is Drug Take Back Day during which unused medicines can be dropped off at the Police Station. He reported the uniforms have been changed and everyone is happy with them. He also noted they are in the process of changing over cruisers to all dark gray.

a) Traffic Authority Related Items

Chief Boulter reported there are several uncontrolled stops, noting one at Phelpsroft Road and Barry Lane. At Route 185 and East Weatogue Street there is a missing Yield sign which is creating an opportunity for mistakes. The Department is responding to a lot of requests for speed and traffic enforcement. Discussion about staffing vacancies followed.

5) Public Works - Mr. Roy reported Public Works and the DOT have just upgraded some crosswalk crossing signs. He added they have just wrapped up a very full season of paving and did more road closures as part of that. He noted Firetown Road will be paved next year and new sidewalks will be put in as well.

6) Board of Education - Mr. LaClair thanked Mr. Roy for his help coordinating work being done by Aquarion which would affect the High School. He reported there has been a lot of progress on security projects, including the completed vestibule at Central School. He noted the High School vestibule will be worked on next. He reported bollards were installed at the schools over the summer. Mark Critz, who retired from the Police Department, has been hired as the first Director of Safety and Security. Lastly, he reported there will be a training today on the Sandy Hook Promise Say Something app, which promotes an anonymous reporting of concerns people may have.

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7) Farmington Valley Health District - Ms. Marquis reported they are in the process of planning a mass vaccination full-scale exercise in November on Election Day at Thompson Brook School in Avon. Seasonal flu shots will be provided. She noted it will be a real event and an exercise all in one. Vaccinations will be provided for the Fire Department as first responders and all of the school staff. She is expecting about 400 individuals to come through over a 4-hour period and added it will be a good test of their plans. Lastly, she noted they have been working with McLean Nursing Home, which is interested in signing on as a closed-pod partner. She provided an update from FVHD Director Jennifer Kertanis noting a small grant was received from DPH to focus on the opioid epidemic. A video has been produced which focuses on different prevention messages, including ‘It can happen anywhere, so have the conversation,’ ‘Don’t be part of the problem and properly dispose of unused medications,’ and ‘Make the call.’ Resource cards have been developed for first responders to distribute after responding to an overdose, for which she thanked Chief Boulter for his help creating. Ms. Marquis added the FVHD has been working with community partners doing Narcan training and education about opioid abuse, as well as, QPR training. Mr. Kowalski noted the Fire Department is still maintaining a large drug cache provided by the CDC for response to a biological event.

8) Ordinance to Prohibit the Public from Intentionally Feeding Wildlife and Possible Sub-Committee/Work Group - Mr. Askham suggested a subcommittee work on drafting an ordinance if an ordinance is in line. He noted this now includes concern about coyotes in addition to bears and gave background on the topic of an ordinance. He noted they will be talking to DEEP about options. He invited Committee members to help draft language to be brought back to the Committee at the next meeting. Brief discussion followed about enforcement.

9) Social Services - Ms. Formanek reported there will be a flu shot clinic at the Senior Center. They continue to work with the FVHD on a community health assessment and the opioid epidemic.

Mr. Kowalski noted this is the time of year when there is an increasing number of fires in back yards. He added campfires are exempt from any permit process but the Town offers a permit process for campfires and bonfires. He added there is no law against campfires.

10) Other Updates - There were no other updates.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 A.M. Mr. Kowlaski seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk

TOWN OF SIMSBURY
DRAFT Ordinance to Prohibit the Intentional Feeding of Wildlife
Dated December 16, 2019 - DRAFT

Purpose.

The Town of Simsbury, under its powers pursuant to state law, has adopted this ordinance to protect public health, safety, and welfare by prohibiting the intentional feeding of wildlife. This ordinance is intended to assist our residents, guests, and other stakeholders peacefully and safely coexist with wildlife.

Definitions.

When used in this ordinance, the following definitions apply:

- a) **Authorized Enforcement Agency:** All sworn personnel of the Police Department and Animal Control Officers. Additionally, any employees or designees of the town as designated by the Town Manager to enforce this ordinance.
- b) **Person:** Person shall be construed to mean and include an individual, a corporation, a partnership, a non-profit, a trust, an unincorporated organization, business organization of any kind or any other group or organization.
- c) **Town:** Town means the Town of Simsbury.
- d) **Wildlife:** Wildlife includes, but is not limited to, non-domesticated animals that due to intentional feeding have been determined to be a nuisance or threat to public health, safety, and welfare such as bears, deer, coyotes, bobcats, fisher cats, turkeys and wild birds. Wildlife does not include livestock used for agricultural purposes.

Comment [CME1]: FVHD: Are there specific animals that cause the most concern for contaminating private water sources such as wells?

Comment [CME2]: DEEP: Are there certain wildlife that you believe to be most important to reference here?

Prohibited Activity.

In recognition that these animals are wild and should be left alone for the health, safety, and welfare of both the wildlife and our residents, guests, and other stakeholders, the following is prohibited activity:

- a) **Intentional Feeding of Wildlife.** Feeding, giving, placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering any edible material, attractant, or other substance with the intention of feeding, attracting or enticing wildlife.
- b) **Feeding Birds.** Bird feeders may not be used from May 1 – October 31st.
- c) **Improperly Storing Food, Refuse, or Other Wildlife Attractants.** Improperly storing food, pet food, refuse (garbage), or other attractants and substances in a manner that result in wildlife feedings.

Exceptions.

- a) **Unintentional Feeding of Wildlife.** Unintentional feeding of wildlife means using or placing any material for a purpose other than to intentionally attract, entice, or feed wildlife but which

results in unintentionally attracting, enticing, or feeding of wildlife. [Composting that was properly secured but unintentionally led to the feeding of wildlife is excluded.](#)

b) **Feeding Birds.** Bird feeders may be used from November 1 – April 30.

c) **Permitted Activity.** This ordinance does not apply to any person with a valid [permit](#) issued by the state of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Comment [CME3]: DEEP: Are there permits other than for hunting or trapping that would apply? We would appreciate a full understanding of applicable permits.

d) **Wildlife Rehabilitation.** Any person providing care to wildlife for the purpose of an animal's rehabilitation due to illness or injury, as part of a recognized for-profit or non-profit entity providing for such care of wildlife.

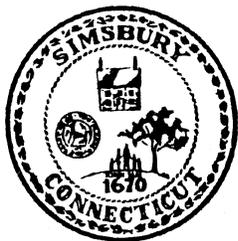
Violations and Penalties.

Whenever the authorized enforcement agency determines that a person has violated this ordinance, the authorized enforcement agency is authorized to issue a fine to the violator in the amount of [two hundred and fifty dollars \(\\$250.00\)](#) for each offense. Any violation continued more than one (1) day shall constitute a separate offense for each day such violation continues.

After two or more violations of this ordinance have been cited to any person, the town may initiate a civil action [in Superior Court](#) for injunctive relief to prohibit and prevent such violation or violations and the court may proceed in the action in a summary matter.

Appeals.

Any person receiving a fine may appeal the determination of the authorized enforcement agency. The notice of appeal must be received in writing and filed with the Town Clerk's Office within ten (10) business days from receipt of the notice of the fine. The appeal shall be deemed received by the Town on the first business day following the day it is filed with and received by the Town Clerk's Office. Hearing on the appeal before the Hearing Officer shall take place within thirty (30) business days from the date of receipt of the notice of appeal. The decision of the Hearing Officer shall be final.



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Maria E. Capriola - Town Manager

To: Ericka Butler, Town Clerk
Cc: Sean Askham, Chairman
From: Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager
Date: December 19, 2019
Re: Public Safety Sub-Committee – 2020 Regular Meeting Schedule

At their meeting on December 19th the Public Safety Sub-Committee unanimously approved to establish a regular meeting schedule for 2020. Meetings will be held quarterly on the third Thursdays of March, June, September and December at 7:00 am.

Meeting dates are as follows:

March 19, 2020
June 18, 2020
September 17, 2020
December 17, 2020

The meetings will be held in the Main Meeting Room of the Town Hall, located at 933 Hopmeadow Street. Meetings will be properly noticed in accordance with FOIA requirements.