

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 12, 2018**

**“Subject to Approval”**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:04 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Board members Michael Paine, Christopher Kelly, Sean Askham, Cheryl Cook and Chris Peterson. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Finance Director/Treasurer Sean Kimball; Social Services Director Kirsten Formanek; James Rabbitt, Director of Planning and Community Development; UConn Student Muhammed Razzaq and other interested parties.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

Diane Nash, 5 Merrywood, spoke about forest loving residents out on Onion Mountain, Ethel Walker Woods and Belden Forest seeing markings on trees which is a sure sign of clearing them. She asked that the Board not permit the clearing as we conserved the forest and open space as a natural preserve.

Helen Peterson, said it was time for another forum regarding our role as caretakers for conserved, natural land. She said it is a Regional Forum to be held at the Simsbury Public Library on April 26<sup>th</sup>. This forum is called “The Planet, Our Forest and Championship Trees.” She encouraged everyone to read the last forum, held in April of 2017, on the website under the Open Space Committee.

Susan Masino, 41 Madison Lane, spoke about renewable energy and possible legislation. She also said the Hazardous Waste Disposal for electronic recycling will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> at Andy’s from 9-12. Boy Scout Troop 76 will be helping once again this year. There is a \$10 optional donation. She said there is a hazardous waste disposal site in Farmington on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Masino asked the Board to look at the big picture before doing anything with the Open Space Management Plan.

Erin Leavitt-Smith, 7 Wintergreen Lane, said she hopes that the Town takes a look at what is coming up at the forum. She said we need to preserve our natural resources and get everyone’s input before doing any clearing in our open spaces.

Ferg Janssen, 3 Fox Den, spoke about Town tourism and funding the Tourism Center, which is in a basement. He said we need a place to go to that can help people get more information on what we have going on in our Town.

Dan Correa, 15 Billings Gate Drive, said we do need a Visitor’s Center in our Town and it needs to be funded now, especially with the statues coming.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, commended Ms. Capriola on the structure at the Budget Workshop. She spoke about the Ambulance service, the Middle School upgrades, Economic Development, the Golf Course, 200 Hopmeadow Street, reimbursements to the Planning and Community Development Director, electric car charging stations, and other issues.

Sue Brachwitz, 10 Pinecrest, spoke about the Forest Management Plan. She said people are upset about clearing land and would like further discussion on this.

### **FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT**

Mr. Wellman, First Selectman, reviewed his report, which is part of the agenda packet.

### **TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT**

Ms. Capriola, Town Manager, reviewed her report, which is part of the agenda packet.

### **SELECTMEN ACTION**

#### **a) Tax Refund Requests**

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$320.29 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector and to authorize the Town Manager, Maria Capriola, to execute the tax refunds. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **b) Acceptance of Simsbury Public Library State Construction Grant in the amount of \$405,525**

Mr. Wellman said the Library hopes to start this project in October and to complete it next spring.

Mr. Peterson made a motion effective March 12, 2018, to accept a Connecticut State Library Construction Grant in the amount of \$405,525 to be used for the Simsbury Public Library’s lower level renovation project and to authorize Town Manager Maria Capriola to execute all related grant documents. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **c) Federal Appropriations Request**

Mr. Wellman said he received correspondence from Congresswoman Esty’s office asking if the Town would like to make an appropriations request for federal funding for a project or projects. However, we would need to do so no later than Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

There was some discussion on not only applying for appropriations for the Streetscape, but to add the Eno Memorial Hall renovations project to the request. There was also some concern about using pavers and bricks at Eno.

Ms. Cook made a motion effective March 12, 2018, to authorize the Town Manager Maria Capriola to submit a federal appropriations request in the amount of \$548,500 for the Hopmeadow Streetscape improvement project as presented in the attachments. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion effective March 12, 2018 to authorize the Town Manager Maria Capriola to submit a federal appropriations request for the Eno Memorial hall renovations in the amount of \$8.8 million. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**d) Discussion and Possible Action of Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget Holdbacks**

Mr. Wellman said late in the budget process last year, the Board of Selectmen presented \$50,000 in proposed cuts to different programs and organizations. The Board of Finance agreed to allow the Board to restore funding, if they wished, at a later date.

Ms. Cook said she was concerned about the letter receive from the Chamber about the Visitor’s Center. There was discussion on the Visitor’s Center and the Main Street Partnership funding.

Mr. Paine made a motion to give \$5,000 to the Chamber for the Visitor’s Center and \$5,000 to Main Street Partnership from the 2017/18 contingency fund. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. Ms. Cook, and Mr. Paine were in favor with Mr. Askham, Mr. Wellman, Mr. Kelly, and Mr. Peterson against. Therefore, the motion failed.

**e) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget**

There was discussion on the Visitor’s Center. The Chamber will be asked to make a presentation at the Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop.

There was also discussion on several other budget items and the total proposed Board of Selectmen budget including adding another employee to the Social Services Department. Mr. Askham noted that there are contractual obligations needed to be met on this budget.

Mr. Wellman said there will be another Budget Workshop on Thursday to discuss final issues and to make a good faith effort to meet the Board of Finance goal.

**APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

There were no appointments or resignations at this time.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**a) Regular Meeting of February 26, 2018**

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting of February 26, 2018 and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

**SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a) Personnel** – no report at this time.

**b) Finance** – no report at this time.

**Public Safety** – Mr. Askham said the Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Thursday morning to discuss weather events and other issues. All are welcome to attend.

**c) Board of Education** – no report at this time.

Ms. Cook said there will be a Community for Care program on the Dangers of Vaping on Wednesday night.

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Ms. Cook said it will be Simsbury’s 350<sup>th</sup> Birthday and she has received several calls from people who would like to be involved in the celebration. They will be holding a meeting on Wednesday night at the Historical Society and hope to have a table for more people to sign-up at the Volunteer Expo. There will be more information on the Town’s website.

Mr. Wellman said he is the liaison to the Economic Development Commission which doesn’t exist anymore. He would like to have some discussion at the Board meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> to see what the EDC would look like and what projects and planning should be looked at.

Mr. Paine said the Conservation Commission has held many meetings and have come up with Forestry Plan recommendations for open space properties.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**a) Eno Memorial Hall Renovations**

Mr. Askham said the Board appreciated the information given on this project. There is a lot of planning around this.

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**a) Pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(B) concerning Pending Claims and Litigation – Deepwater Wind Appeal, Petition 1313**

The Executive Session was cancelled.

**ADJOURN**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio  
Clerk