

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 23, 2018  
“Subject to Approval”**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Board members Sean Askham, Christopher Kelly, Cheryl Cook, and Chris Peterson. Absent was Michael Paine. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria Capriola, Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby, Director of Public Works Tom Roy, and other interested parties.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

Susan Masino, 41 Madison Lane, said the Grange Electronic Recycling Event will be held on May 12, 2018 at Andy's Market from 9-12. Troop 76 will help again and they are requesting a \$10 donation.

Ms. Masino also spoke about supporting Option B on the Onion Mountain Management Plan as more information needs to be looked at before cutting there. She feels the forests can manage themselves.

Diane Nash, 5 Merrywood, also spoke on the forests. She feels more discussion is needed on the open space master plan and studies should involve the public. She also wants the Board of vote for Option B on Onion Mountain.

Margery Winters, 111 Old Farms Road, also spoke on the forests and the public being involved in the discussion. She feels the Board if putting the cart before the horse on a lot of the forestry issues and there needs to be an educational program to help people understand the process and to make sure all goals are met.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the increase in taxes and voting no on the budget. She feels there needs to be a feasibility study done before approving the Henry James School project. Ms. Coe also spoke about the former EDC, Simsbury Ambulance vs. AMR and the Director of Planning and Development.

Joann Perry, Gifts of Love, spoke about the Community Farm and there plans this year. She said there is an educational program for 1<sup>st</sup> graders who have planted seedlings. They hired a new farmer in January who is organic and has a 4 year plan.

She said Gifts of Love benefits from the Maple Tree Golf Tournament on May 4<sup>th</sup>; the Walk against Hunger on May 5<sup>th</sup> along with the Maker Faire; and on May 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a “Taste of Farmington. There will also be a 5k race.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about the purpose of Simsbury Farms being a “poor farm” to benefit the poor of Simsbury. He also spoke about filing a FOI complaint about the April 23, 2017 meeting holding an Executive Session without notice.

Sue Brachwitz, 10 Pinecrest Drive, spoke about the logging plan. She urged the Board not to proceed with the plan and said she sent the members of the Board an e-mail on this issue. She feels it is inappropriate to log the forests.

Diana Moody said she supports everyone else who spoke on forest management. She also supports Option B.

Don Rieger, 9 Stodmor Road, spoke about the complexity of the forests. He is concerned about the limitation of resources that the Board has available. He feels the Onion Mountain Plan is very important to carry out and he feels it is really a limited plan. He walked it after the trees were marked and feels few trees are marked for cutting. It's motivated by forest health and it is for diversity on the Mountain.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **a) Proclamation in Honor of Bike Month**

Ms. Cook made a motion to authorize the execution of the Bike Month Proclamation as presented. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Wellman presented a proclamation to Diana Moody, Debbie Thibodeau and Patti Smith Jacobus in honor of Bike Month.

Patti Smith Jacobus said this is the 8<sup>th</sup> season of Simsbury Free Bike, which attracts people and businesses to Town. She gave the Board their Calendar of Events, including the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Simsbury Bike Challenge, Bike to Work Day; Bikes and Books, etc.

## **FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT**

Selectman Wellman reviewed his First Selectmen's report.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manager, Ms. Capriola, reviewed her report.

## **SELECTMEN ACTION**

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

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$2,963.43 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the tax refunds. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **b) FY 18/19 Historic Documents Preservation Grant**

Mr. Wellman said each year the Town Clerk can apply for the Historic Documents Preservation Program Grant which is offered through the Connecticut State Library, Public Records Administrator. Based on our current population we are eligible for a grant of up to \$6,500.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective April 23, 2018 to submit a FY 18/19 historic documents grant application and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to execute the grant application. Further to move to designate Town Clerk, Ericka L. Butler as the designated applicant. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion, to accept FY 18/19 historic documents grant should it be awarded to the Town, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola and Town Clerk, Ericka L. Butler (as the designated applicant), to execute all documents related to the grant award. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**c) Onion Mountain Forest Management**

Mr. Wellman said on March 6, 2018 the Conservation Commission members voted 4-2 in favor of recommending that the Onion Mountain Management Plan be resuscitated. They also recommended public education and engagement on this issue. There are two options to discuss on this item.

After discussion, Mr. Askham made a motion to table Option A of the Onion Mountain Forest Management Plan and timber harvest as planned. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**d) Gifts of Love (Community Farm) Grant Application**

Mr. Wellman said Gifts of Love is seeking grant funds to pay for the installation of a new well and removing four trees that are currently shading one of the fields used for farming. Ms. Capriola said if the grant is awarded, the Farm would be the recipient of the grant and the Town would not be the fiduciary.

Mr. Roy said this well would only be used for irrigations and power for the well will be supplied from the WPCA pump station adjacent to the facility. The Farm would be responsible for securing all approvals for this project.

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective April 23, 2018, to authorize Town Manager Maria E. Capriola to issue a letter of support for the grant application being submitted by Gifts of Love to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture for installation of a new well for irrigation. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**e) Capital Regional Council of Governments (CRCOG) Funding Solicitations for Transportation Projects**

Mr. Wellman said CRCOG is currently soliciting proposals for municipal transportation projects that will be funded by the LOTCIP Phase 2 Program.

Mr. Roy said they analyzed projects that were most suitable for this program. He said it was determined that the construction of approximately 5,000 linear feet of new sidewalk along Firetown Road was the most feasible option. He said the construction wouldn't take place until 2020.

Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective April 23, 2018 to submit a proposal and funding request to CRCOG under the LOTCIP Phase 2 Solicitation to fund the construction of approximately 5,000 linear feet of new sidewalk along Firetown Road and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to execute the application documents. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Cook made a motion to accept the LOTCIP Phase 2 Solicitation funding should it be awarded to the Town and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to execute all documents related to the grant award. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**f) Proposed Revisions to ADA Notice and Municipal ADA Grievance Procedure**

Mr. Wellman said with the change in the Town government, the ADA Notice and Municipal ADA Grievance Procedure have been updated to designate the Deputy Town Manager as the ADA Compliance Coordinator and to reflect the change in the chief executive officer position from First Selectman to Town Manager.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective April 23, 2018 to adopt the ADA Notice and the Municipal ADA Grievance Procedure as presented and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to execute the documents. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

**a) Proposed Appointment of Elizabeth Peterson (R) as a Regular Member of the Tourism Committee with an Expiration Date of December 2, 2019**

Mr. Askham made a motion to appoint Elizabeth Peterson as a Regular Member of the Tourism Committee with an expiration date of December 2, 2019. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**b) Proposed Appointment of Michael Tanca (R) as a Regular Member of the Clean Energy Task Force with an Expiration Date of December 2, 2019**

Mr. Askham made a motion to appoint Michael Tanca as a regular member of the Clean Energy Task Force with an expiration date of December 2, 2019. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**c) Proposed Appointment of Robert Heagney (R) as a Temporary Regular Member to the Board of Assessment Appeal with an Expiration Date of September 30, 2018**

Mr. Askham made a motion to appoint Robert Heagney as a temporary regular member of the Board of Assessment Appeals with an expiration date of September 30, 2018. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**d) Proposed Appointment of Elaine Lang (D) as the Simsbury Historical Society Member of the Hometown Hero Selection Committee with an Expiration Date of December 2, 2019**

Mr. Askham made a motion to appoint Elaine Lang as the Simsbury Historical Society Member of the Hometown Hero Selection Committee with an expiration date of December 2, 2019. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**a) Regular Meeting of April 9, 2018**

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2018, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

**b) Special Meeting of April 13, 2018**

There were no changes to the Special Meeting Minutes of April 13, 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.
- c) **Welfare** – no report at this time.
- d) **Public Safety** – Mr. Askham asked that everyone slow down for safety as the weather is warmer and everyone is back outside.
- e) **Board of Education** – no report at this time.

Ms. Cook said the Aging & Disability Commission will hold a guardianship and legal issues for the disabled program at the Library on April 24, 2018.

Ms. Cook said the Community for Care will have a Community Book Read, reading the Seventh Wish, on May 9, 2018. This book is about being in a drug addicted family.

Ms. Cook said May 16, 2017 is Prevention Week and the Community For Care will hold several programs. Please check the Social Services website for more information.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- a) **Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth – source: CCM Legislative Committee, April 2018** – no discussion at this time.
- b) **Contract Amendment for Dial-A-Ride** – no discussion at this time.
- c) **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** – no discussion at this time.
- d) **Memorandum from T. Roy, re: 2018 Paving Schedule, Dated April 6, 2018** – no discussion at this time.
- e) **Memorandum from M. Glidden, re: CGS § 8-24 referral from Board of Selectmen concerning Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Improvement Plan, dated April 11, 2018** – no discussion at this time.
- f) **Freedom of Information Decision – Kalechman v. Board of Selectmen and Town of Simsbury – FOIC Docket #2017-0225** – no discussion at this time.
- g) **Press Release, re: Police Chief Appointment, dated April 13, 2018** – no discussion at this time.
- h) **Press Release, re: Neighborhood Assistance Act, dated April 7, 2018** – no discussion at this time.
- i) **Press Release, re: Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Hearings, April 18, 2018** – no discussion at this time.

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to executive session pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(B) concerning Pending Claims and Litigation – Deepwater Wind Appeal, Petition 1313 and to include Attorney DeCrescenzo, Jesse Langer, Town Manager Maria Capriola, Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby, Director of Planning and

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Community Development James Rabbitt and Assistant Planner Mike Glidden at 7:40 p.m. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session. Ms. Cook seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Executive Session adjourned at 8:39 pm.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cook seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio  
Clerk