

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 26, 2021**

“Draft”

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CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on ZOOM due to COVID-19. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Deputy First Selectman Sean Askham; Board members Jackie Battos, Wendy Mackstutis, Chris Peterson, and Michael Paine. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Town Engineer Jeff Shea; Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation Tom Tyburski; Finance Director/Treasurer Amy Meriwether; Code Compliance Officer Tom Hazel; Director of Community and Social Services Kristen Formanek and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

- email written comments to ebutler@simsbury-ct.gov by 12:00 P.M. Monday, April 26, 2021, to be read into the records; or
- email tfitzgerald@simsbury-ct.gov by 12:00 P.M. Monday April 26, 2021, to register to address the Board of Selectmen through ZOOM

Mr. Wellman read an email from Shannon Knall to the Zoning and Planning Commission and Board of Selectmen. She is advocating for a revision on zoning regulations to allow 1000 sq. ft. ADU's without the approval of the Zoning Commission and an Equity and Housing Task Force to examine current housing practices and creation of a plan for equitable housing.

Ms. Mackstutis read an email from Joan Coe, who spoke about comments from the meeting on April 7, 2021, pictures not being shown at the meeting, Grange comments, the Meadowood acquisition, public audience at the Police Commission meetings, and other issues.

Robert Pomeroy, Chairman of the Board of Finance, spoke to the Board about the Meadowood acquisition issues between the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen. He spoke about the three Boards having many challenges during the budget process. He spoke about creating work groups for 2022/2023 capital projects this summer. He feels all the Boards need to work together to make the budget process work.

Kevin Kurian who spoke about affordable housing in Simsbury. He spoke about regulations to allow 1000 sq. ft. ADU's. He would like to see a task force created to come up with a policy on this issue and wants a letter sent to the Zoning Commission.

PRESENTATIONS

a) Aquarion Stratton Brook Facility Upgrade Presentation

Michael Hiltz from Aquarion and Alan Wells from Tighe and Bond spoke about the Aquarion Stratton Brook Project. This project will improve water quality and reliability in Simsbury. There are two projects going on right now. They spoke about the existing and proposed access drive, which would be a big improvement. They are hoping to have the projects completed by August of 2021.

b) SPIRIT Council Presentation

Presenters were Cheryl Cook, Nicole Kodak and Tenesha Grant.

Ms. Kodak update the Board on their events and monthly conversations. She also spoke about housing and COVID-19 issues.

Ms. Cook noted that the Council always outreaches to different groups for activities and events that could be added. She also spoke about ADU issues and the creation of a task force.

Ms. Grant spoke about criminal justice and educating the equity council, food insecurities, the health point crisis, etc.

Discussion ensued regarding a potential task force dedicated to affordable housing. Ms. Capriola said it would be more productive if a proposal was made to the Board with the Council’s specific ideas on what issues the task force would discuss and how it would be handled.

After discussion about creating a task force, Mr. Askham made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to add a sub-committee to the SPIRIT Council to focus on housing which would be tasked with identifying scope and focusing on housing issues in the community. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. Mr. Wellman, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Battos, Mr. Askham and Mr. Paine voted to approve the motion with Ms. Mackstutis opposing. Therefore, the motion passed.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

Mr. Wellman, First Selectman, reviewed his First Selectman’s Report.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Ms. Capriola, Town Manager, reviewed her Town Manager’s Report.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Donation from St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to accept a donation from St. Matthew Lutheran Church, in the amount of \$2,000, for the purpose of supporting Simsbury’s Community and Social Services Department and Food Programs with our thanks. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Proposed Revisions to the Juvenile Review Board Procedures

Ms. Capriola said there was a parental notification issue, that was recognized by the Town Attorney, about notifications to a parent or legal guardian. The revision was to add custodial parent to these procedures.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to approve the proposed changes to the Juvenile Review Board Procedures (Policy). Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) FY 2022 Historic Documents Preservation Grant Program

Mr. Wellman said this grant would support digitizing older Town land records. This would require an additional financial distribution from the Town. Ms. Capriola said the balance would come from the Clerk's special revenue fund.

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to submit the FY 2022 Historic Documents Preservation Grant Program application and to authorize Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager, to designate Ericka L. Butler, Town Clerk, as the agent for making the above application. If the Grant is awarded, to accept the FY 2022 Historic Documents Preservation Grant and to authorize Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager, to execute related documents to the grant award. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Tax Refund Requests

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to approve the presented tax refunds, in the amount of \$2,379.91, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to execute the tax refunds. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Rescission of Temporary Prohibitions of the Acceptance of Cash Payments

Mr. Wellman said it has been about one year since the Town has not been accepting cash due to COVID-19. We know a lot more now about how the virus spreads and the staff is now requesting accepting cash payments again.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective, May 3, 2021, to rescind the temporary prohibitions of accepting cash payments. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Board of Selectmen Position on Revised Bill 1105: An Act Eliminating the Proposed Tax on Certain Motor Vehicles and Adjusting the Uniform Policy Assessment Rate

Mr. Wellman said revised Bill 1105 would result in approximately an \$8,000,000 hole in Simsbury's budget due to revenue loss.

After some discussion, Mr. Askham made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to send the attached letter to the Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding Representative John Hampton and Senator Kevin Witkos outlining Simsbury's opposition to Revised Bill Number 1105; An Act Eliminating the Property Tax on Certain Motor Vehicles and Adjusting the Uniform Policy Assessment Rate. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) License Agreement for Storage Shed Installation at Simsbury Farms by the Simsbury Youth Hockey Association

Mr. Tyburski said this shed would be in an out of the way location near the other sheds and would be paid by the Youth Hockey Association.

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to execute the proposed license agreement with the Simsbury Youth Hockey Association. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h) Golf Cart Lease Agreement

Mr. Tyburski said this agreement is the same as the previous agreement. It is for 5 years and there haven't been any complaints about this golf pro.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the proposed golf cart lease agreement between the Town of Simsbury and John Verrengia. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

i) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – Simsbury Performing Arts Center – Conard High School Concert

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to approve the Public Gathering Permit application on behalf of the Simsbury Performing Arts Center and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit for the Conard High School Concert. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

j) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – Simsbury Performing Arts Center – Simsbury High School Concert

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to approve the Public Gathering Permit application on behalf of the Simsbury Performing Arts Center and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit for the Simsbury High School Concert. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

k) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – Simsbury Performing Arts Center – Riley's Dance Recital

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to approve the Public Gathering Permit application on behalf of the Simsbury Performing Arts Center and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit for Riley's Dance Recital. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

l) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – Roux Cajun Eatery Concert

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to approve the Public Gathering Permit application on behalf of the Simsbury Performing Arts Center and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit for the Roux Cajun Eatery Concert. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

m) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – Farmington Valley Dance and Music Recital

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to approve the Public Gathering Permit application on behalf of the Simsbury Performing Arts Center and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit for the Farmington Valley Dance and Music Recital. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

n) Memorial Day Ceremony and Celebration

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to approve the Public Gathering Permit application on behalf of the Simsbury Performing Arts Center and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit for the Memorial Day Ceremony and Celebration. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

o) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge – Simsbury 350th Park Dedication

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to approve the Public Gathering Permit application on behalf of Simsbury Parks and Recreation and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit for the Simsbury 350th Hopbrook Landing Park Dedication. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

p) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge – Shapiro Wedding

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to approve the Public Gathering Permit application on behalf of Simsbury Parks and Recreation and to authorize the public gathering permit for the Shapiro Wedding. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

q) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge – LoPresti Wedding

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to approve the Public Gathering Permit application on behalf of Simsbury Parks and Recreation and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit for the LoPresti Wedding. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

r) Proposed Revisions to Chapter 25 of the Town Code Concerning the Historic District Commission; Schedule Public Hearing

Mr. Paine said there has been a challenge to find people to serve on the Historic District Commission and to get a quorum for meetings.

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective April 26, 2021, to set a Public Hearing to receive public comment concerning proposed revisions to Chapter 25 of the Town Code concerning the Historic District Commission for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 24, 2021. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of April 7, 2021

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2021, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

b) Special Meeting of April 14, 2021

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2021, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIASION 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** – no report at this time.
- e) **Board of Education** – Ms. Mackstutis said there will be a Board of Education meeting tomorrow night at Tootin’ Hills.

COMMUNICATIONS

- a) **Memo from T. Roy, RE: Paving work 2021, dated April 6, 2021**
- b) **Memo from M. Capriola, RE: Administrative Approvals for Public Gathering Permits, dated April 21, 2021**

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk