

Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
December 27, 2018
APPROVED MINUTES

The Westport Board of Selectmen, Traffic Authority and Water Pollution Control Authority held a special meeting on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 310 of the Westport Town Hall. In attendance were Jim Marpe, Jennifer Tooker (via telephone), Melissa Kane (via telephone), Ramin Ganeshram, Police Lieutenant Ryan Paulsson, Police Captain David Farrell, and Eileen Francis, recording secretary.

Jim Marpe called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. He read the single agenda item. Westport Historical Society Executive Director Ramin Ganeshram thanked the attendees for accommodating the late request and arranging a special meeting. She provided background and insight into the WHS request. She noted that recently, a number of visitors to the Historical Society commented on the cancellation of First Night festivities this year; Ms. Ganeshram believed that the Historical Society could fill a gap due to the cancellation. While most of the events would be taking place on WHS property as well as at the TD Bank branch on Main Street, the horse and carriage rides on Town roadways and the use of Veterans Green for a bonfire required permission from the Board of Selectmen. She noted that she had contacted the Historic District Commission due to the historic designation of Veterans Green, and received positive feedback – there were no concerns. Parks & Recreation and the Public Works Departments had no specific concerns, although both departments expressed the opinion that the Historical Society should contribute to the costs associated with repair and re-seeding of Veterans Green in the spring should the bonfire cause damage. Lieutenant Paulsson and Captain Farrell stated the requirements and the expectations for public safety, including the recommendation to hire 2 officers for traffic and pedestrian control and coordinating the delivery and placement of barriers at the WHS driveway. First Selectman Marpe and Ms. Ganeshram indicated that the Fire Marshal would be in charge of managing the bonfire permitting and all associated safety considerations. Mr. Marpe, Ms. Tooker and Ms. Kane expressed thanks to the WHS for working to host the event.

Upon motion by Jim Marpe, seconded by Melissa Kane and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the request by the Westport Historical Society for the use of Veterans Green and various town roadways (Myrtle Avenue, Avery Place, Church Lane and Main Street) on Monday, December 31, 2018 from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm for New Year's Eve activities, contingent upon compliance with comments from relevant Town departments and in accordance with Procedures for Use of Town-owned Property, Facilities and/or Public Roadways is hereby APPROVED.

Upon motion by Jennifer Tooker, seconded by Melissa Kane and passing by a vote of 3-0, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 am.

Eileen Francis
Recording Secretary