

RTM Meeting
August 2, 2011

The call

1. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the First Selectman, to reappoint Alexander Balas, Robin Coleman, Anthony Ialeggio, Russell Blair, and Edward Kowalcyk to the Public Site and Building Commission for a term to end June 2015.
2. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Deputy Police Chief for an appropriation of \$90,000 to the Railroad Parking Account (Storm Expenses) in order to cover snow removal expenses incurred during the winter storms of 2010-11.
3. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Historic District Commission, to amend Chapter 38-24 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Westport by adding the property and building(s) located at 93 Cross Highway as a historic property. (First reading. Full text available at the Town Clerk Office)
4. To take such action as the meeting may determine to approve the recommendations of the joint committees of the RTM in response to a petition from electors requesting the RTM and the First Selectman to implement a plan for the control of the Town's deer herd.

Minutes

Moderator Hadley Rose:

This meeting of Westport's Representative Town Meeting is now called to order. We welcome those who join us tonight in the Town Hall auditorium as well as those watching us streaming live on www.westportct.gov, watching on cable channel 79 or ATT channel 99. My name is Hadley Rose and I am the RTM Moderator. On my right is our RTM secretary, Jackie Fuchs. Tonight's invocation will be by State Representative Jonathan Steinberg.

Invocation, Jonathan Steinberg:

Thank you Hadley. It feels kind of strange to be here without saying "Jonathan Steinberg, district 8." Thank you for having me back here today. It feels good to be back. It doesn't really feel as if I've left. I try to follow what's been going on. Speaking of things going on, it seems at least a measure ironic that I'm here on the day that the United States stared at the precipice of defaulting on its debt obligations; though, I understand that some people view it as just a leap off a cliff like skydiving without a parachute. We are in a very interesting point where trust and faith in government are at an absolute nadir. How did we get ourselves into this situation? Should we care here in Westport about the fact that people don't really think much of government? I think we really do need to. We are all part of this process; trust in what we do, particularly, as unpaid volunteers, it's something that should matter to all of us. I've tried to unravel that which got us to where we are today. I think it's based upon a lot of well-intentioned people who

believe they are doing what they promised to do when they got elected to office by delivering on promises that got them elected. Yet, by championing the causes and the pledges and the promises that they made to those people, things have gotten worse instead of better. Not only do we expect our representatives at every level of government to represent our principals and beliefs, we expect them to represent our interests. When I speak about interests, I talk about results. Even though we may be principled and desiring certain outcomes and very vigilant and determined to honor those, we are still accountable for the results at the end of the day. I think one of our strengths and weaknesses is that we are a country of beliefs and beliefs are often described as something that makes for a strong leader but beliefs can also be a reflection of insecurities. If we stick to our beliefs to a point where we are no longer listening to the other person, we don't show compassion or understanding of their point of view, that we think we have all the answers and are not willing to consider that there may be more than one point of view, we find ourselves in intractable situations where none of us are happy with the results. All I can offer you today is that we all try to listen to one another; we all try to show a measure of understanding and compassion for other points of view; that we recognize that we do not have all the answers and there is always more than one way to look at a problem and that, ultimately, at the end of the day, we are accountable for the results of our actions and only by finding solutions are we serving the interests of those we represent.

There were 24 members present. Ms. Milwe, Mr. Guthman, Ms. Ancel, Mr. Galan, Mr. Meyer, Dr. Cunitz, Mr. Rossi, Mr. Suggs, Ms. Colburn, Mr. Lebowitz, and Ms. Cherry notified the Moderator that they would be absent. Dr. Green was also absent. Mr. Keenan and Mr. Seidman arrived late.

Corrections to the minutes of June 7:

Ms. Bruce/Mr. Underhill:

Page 2, Mr. Seidman was absent, not Mr. Underhill.

Page 2, Ms. Bruce notified the Moderator she would be late.

Ms. Starr:

Page 14, paragraph 2, line 3, change "know" to "set".

Corrections to the minutes of June 14

Ms. Starr: (from Minority Report)

Page 18, 4th line up from end, underscore section heading, "Background considerations:"

Page 19, 16th line up, insert "we" between "can" and "set"

11th line up, underscore "The 60 percent affordability requirement"

Page 20, 12th line up, underscore section heading, "The shaping of the bidding process."

19th line up, underscore "Only 12 out of the 65 affordable units went to previous residents."

Page 21, line 24, there is an "a" in Italics that should be in plain font.
Page 49, 11th line up, please change "income" to "revenue stream".

Announcements

Mr. Rose:

Birthday greetings: We only have one this month. Happy birthday to Mr. Underhill.

We have a fairly unusual announcement for the RTM. We have congratulations to an RTM member having gotten married. It was about three weeks ago. Congratulations to Chris Urist. That's what happens when you have RTM members under 30!

The next RTM meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 6 right here at 8 o'clock.

RTM announcements

Matthew Mandell, district 1:

In terms of committee meetings, next Tuesday, Aug. 9, room 201 will be a joint committee meeting of Planning and Zoning and Long Range Planning, meeting with the Baron's South Committee as our first meeting with the RTM and that committee as they work towards what is going to be occurring on Baron's South in terms of senior housing. All RTM members are welcome to come. Members of the Public, you are welcome to come and see what occurs.

I have been working on a project that is called the "Slice of Saugatuck Festival." It is a food, wine and food tasting and retail experience. Thirty-four merchants from the Saugatuck area have joined together to offer their free wares for the day from noon to three o'clock on Sept. 17. It is a gathering of the community to show what Saugatuck has and while we worry about what is going on in Fairfield and their restaurants and we think that we're behind what's going on in SoNo and the P&Z worries about how we can change downtown, Saugatuck is having its own renaissance in terms of restaurants and retail and everybody should come and check out what's going to be occurring. Sept. 17 from noon to three, free wine, free food tasting, retail experience, take a Kayak ride for free, work out at a gym for free, see what kind of coupons you get for other things moving forward, come on, walk "the Slice," we call it, the "Slice of Saugatuck." I bet you'll be full before you finish it. Sept. 17, noon to three o'clock. If you want more information, go to Westportd1.com/Saugatuck and find out all about it. You know on Sept. 6 you'll be hearing from me again because it will be coming up again.

The secretary read item #1 of the call - Reappointment of Alexander Balas, Robin Coleman, Anthony Ialleggio, Russell Blair, & Edward Kowalczyk to the Public Site and Building Commission. By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously, 24-0.

Mr. Rose:

There is no committee report. It was decided because all of these members had been on Public Site and Building for a number of years, there was no need to run through this.

Members of the Westport electorate - No comment

Ms. Flug read the resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Rubin

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the First Selectman, the reappointment of Alexander Balas, Robin Coleman, Anthony Ialeggio, Russell Blair, & Edward Kowalcyk to the Public Site and Building Commission for a term to end June 2015 is hereby approved.

Mr. Rose: Seconded by Mr. Rubin.

Members of the RTM

Mike Rea, district 8:

I suspect this will move along quite quickly. There is generally not a lot of fanfare for volunteers like this but I know many of the individuals on this committee who have served in the past. This is an interesting but thankless job. They work hard. They are on call. They add a great deal to our community in the service they render us. I just wanted to take the time to thank them for re-upping for another term and I wish them well.

Judy Starr, district 1:

I'm also Chair of the Public Works Committee. While we didn't meet, I want to echo the thanks that Mike says because these are unsung volunteers. We are lucky to have them. Five out of the eight are up for approval tonight. We are really lucky to have these five.

By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously. 24-0

Mr. Rose:

I'd like to add my thanks as well to all the people who have done a tremendous job.

The secretary read item #2 of the call – To appropriate \$90,000 to the Railroad Parking Account (Storm Expenses) in order to cover snow removal expenses. By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously 24-0.

Presentation

Deputy Police Chief Dale Call:

I am wearing my hat tonight as Director of Railroad Parking. It seems a little bit odd in 90 degree weather to be talking about snow removal and I think back in the winter that we were all wishing it was now. It is my opportunity to bring a little

bit of that coolness back into the summer doldrums. I am here tonight to request an appropriation of \$90,000 from the railroad fund back into the operating budget for the railroad parking. We went approximately \$90,000 over budget in the snow removal line. No one has to be reminded that it was an unusual winter for us. Much like Public Works had with the town roads, at the train stations, we have a couple of differences from Public Works in that it takes very little snow to bring out our full force of contractors. We are responsible for the platforms and the stairs and the parking lots and everything to do with the train stations. A half inch of snow brings a lot of people out. It will save us a little hassle on lawsuits when people slip and fall on stairs at train stations. This year we had a lot of contractors out a lot of times clearing a lot of snow from the train stations. They did a pretty good job other than not having a place to put all that snow. We guess, normally, approximately how much snow we're going to get. We actually raised our budget to \$125,000 from \$100,000. We hit that pretty good. This year, after the first snow storm, I felt pretty comfortable about it until three days later and three days after that and it seemed every couple of days after that, it seemed that \$125,000 was not going to cut it. We had to pay our contractors. Our budget is now in the hole by \$88,211 rounded up to the dollar. The \$90,000 appropriation request was because when we first came to the Board of Finance in June, we still had not received all of our invoices for the snow removal from our contractor. That is the exact amount of our overdraw on our snow removal line. This is money from the railroad fund back into the operating budget making up what we had to pay our contractors.

Committee report

Finance Committee, Mr. Rea:

Our committee could not bring ourselves to bring up snow removal in this weather but we finally did before this meeting. The Finance Committee met, Dick Lowenstein, Allen Bomes, Cathy Talmadge, Linda Bruce, myself, Steve Rubin from Transit Committee. We reviewed with the Deputy Chief, the request for the \$90,000 appropriation. We asked the Finance Director, John Kondub, about money that might have been received from FEMA for emergency snow removal. I received a note saying the amount of \$18,870 was received from the State of Connecticut from a federal grant for emergency snow removal. That portion has been credited to railroad parking. The town got a larger sum but the part going to railroad parking was \$18,870. Upon reviewing the request, it was moved and seconded and the committee voted unanimously to approve the appropriation of \$90,000 to railroad parking.

Members of the Westport electorate - No comment

Ms. Flug read the resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Rubin

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Deputy Police Chief the sum of \$90,000 to the Railroad Parking Account (Storm Expenses) in order to cover snow removal expenses incurred during the winter storms of 2010-11 is hereby appropriated.

Mr. Rose:

It has been moved and seconded by Mr. Rubin to approve the resolution just read.

By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously.

The secretary read item #3 of the call - To amend Chapter 38-24 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Westport by adding the property and building(s) located at 93 Cross Highway as a historic property.

Presentation

Randy Henkels, Chair, Historic District Commission:

I am pleased to present to the RTM this study report for this proposed historic property at 93 Cross Highway. This is a wonderful house with much of its original historic character still intact. It is historically significant for a number of reasons. First, its age, which we have determined to be at least 1764 at its current location. There is some question about whether portions dated to the late 1600's and might have been relocated to this site. Secondly, from the beginning of the 20th century, it was the home of George Hand Wright who was a very prominent illustrator and, I think, considered to be possibly the father of the art colony here in Westport. The designation is proposed by its current owner, Mr. Ed Gerber, who is here tonight. Ed, since his childhood, has had a close personal relationship with the subsequent owners after George Hand Wright. We are very pleased that Ed has come forward and undertaken this effort to insure the long term preservation of this important feature of Westport's heritage.

There is no committee report. This will go to ordinance for approval.

Members of the Westport electorate - No comment

Members of the RTM – no comment

The secretary read item #4 of the call - To approve the recommendations of the joint committees of the RTM in response to a petition from electors requesting the RTM and the First Selectman to implement a plan for the control of the Town's deer herd.

Mr. Rose:

As I'm sure you all recall, the petition had already been read and there was public discussion so we'll go straight to the administrative recommendation.

Committees report

Jeff Wieser, district 4:

I'm not going to read the report which you have all had for some time. The three committees, Health and Human Services, Environment and Public Protection, met three times over the last 12 months together and a couple of times individually to talk about the petition we were given just about 12 months ago. The petition was signed by a couple of hundred people and another 100 online. There was another petition we heard of that was signed by 600 people that was against any sort of deer hunting. I don't have the exact wording of that petition. The petition that we were given last year was directly to control the size of the deer herd in town. The discussions that we had were multi-faceted. We discussed the fact that this was a multi-faceted topic with many questions and very few proven answers. That was absolutely confirmed by the number of presentations that we had with different people discussing many different things. In some cases, they were countering arguments. We sifted through a lot of that in the committee meetings. We got down to this last meeting which is the only meeting where we had any vote which is why it is the only meeting with a vote. We quickly got to the fact that we wanted to determine whether or not there was a problem and if there was anything we could do about it. We determined that we couldn't vote as a body so we took a straw poll among the three committees and ended up voting on the question: "The members of the RTM committees assembled here this evening agree with the petitioners that there is a need to control the deer population in the Town of Westport." Fourteen members of the three committees voted in that straw poll and the vote was 9-5 in favor of that statement. Then, with that understanding from the straw poll, we talked about what options we would have in responding to the position. The one thing we got out of the way fairly quickly was "The committees assembled are in favor of upholding the current Westport Hunting ordinance." That vote was 13-1 in favor of that statement. So, the majority in the straw poll agreed there was a problem and the large majority agreed we should not change the hunting ordinance. With those two votes taken, those are straw polls so those aren't the exact votes that are coming to you tonight. We talked about what we could do as a body and as a town and we talked about drivers' education, the way to look out for when deer might be in the area, we talked about doing plants that would be deer resistant so at least there would be fewer complaints about deer eating our landscaping and the ways to dress and act outdoors to avoid any contact with ticks. There was quite a bit of discussion as to whether or not deer were the cause of the ticks, exacerbating influence or whatever. In any case, there are ways to dress outdoors to reduce the chance of contact. We then discussed the fact that we were asked, in concert with the First Selectman's office, to control the deer population. Mike Rea suggested that we have a Deer Control Warden or Deer Control Board that would have an ongoing view of what steps should be taken. We also talked about reviewing funding options. We talked about different forms of pesticide control through four posters and the current study that is being taken by Yale around town, as things that should probably be encouraged but still need to be further studied. So, we agreed that the recommendation to come here tonight, that we should include an education program; we should create a board in charge of monitoring the deer situation in town and, along those lines, study a

four poster system coordinating with Earthplace and the Health District ways we can monitor and possibly use some of their activities to help, especially with the tick population. The final topic, the lead petitioner asked if our approval to not change the deer hunting ordinance might not still be possible to have some sort of deer culling and we all agreed that it wouldn't make sense. I have since talked with the Assistant Town Attorney who confirmed that, since the current ordinance says no hunting, that means no culling. Following this meeting, the Moderator and Assistant Town Attorney talked about the resolution to come tonight. That's what you have before you which included all in, 17 members, 14 who were there that night to vote on the various topics.

Mr. Rose:

Before we turn to the public, just a few guidelines. Please identify yourself. Please spell your last name for the secretary and give your address. Please try to limit your remarks to three minutes and please try to limit your remarks to what is on the table at this point which is whether we should approve or not approve this recommendation. There is no reference to the hunting ordinance which is on the table at this point so please do not address the hunting ordinance. If you choose to do so, I'm going to ask you to stop. That is not part of the discussion. We are really limiting ourselves to whether or not this report should be forwarded to the First Selectman.

Members of the Westport electorate

Dr. Mark Friedman, 40 Park Lane:

I think we need to be cognizant that there is a serious public health issue here and that the incidence of Lyme Disease in the Town of Westport is significant and growing. The next step of the board should be logically to contact the State Department of Environmental Protection and ask for their help since they are the experts on how we should manage the deer population here in Westport.

Peter Garcia, 4 Charcoal Hill Common:

On behalf of Peter Knight, who was a lead petitioner on this issue, I would like to read a letter. Unfortunately, he is unable to attend tonight's meeting due to some unavoidable circumstances. This is a letter that he addressed to all members of the RTM.

Mr. Rose:

Mr. Garcia, it has been entered into the record and all members of the RTM have it. There is no reason to read the entire letter.

Mr. Garcia:

Is it possible to read it for the benefit of the public? [No.]

Ellen Linker, 37 Otter Trail:

I would like to respond to Dr. Friedman. The statistics on Lyme have been entered into the committee meetings. There have been extensive studies. He

was very vague. We were very specific on exactly what the numbers are. If he wants to refute them, please use numbers. Also, on the commission, I think it was Mr. Garcia or someone who mentioned the DEP. The DEP is the one who sells hunting licenses. A big part of their revenue is from selling you hunting licenses. They are totally pro-hunting. As far as the deer control committee, I would like to know how the committee members will be chosen and ask that this will be transparent and open and not from a list supported or handed in by the petitioner.

Mary Frances Carmell, 61 Maple Avenue North:

At three o'clock today, my painter and I fired each other and that is why I'm dressed in this shabby way. It in no way reflects my respect for the meeting. I have lived here over 30 years. I have seen deer come and go. As I have grown older, I think I've lost some height, I would expect does to grow larger because evolutionary biology says when coverage becomes foreshortened and concentrated, houses with zero lot lines, 500,000 foot driveways allowed to be blacktopped, these are P&Z issues, deer have much less available to them. They involuntarily must grow smaller and fewer in number. In the worst winter we've had in the past 30 or 50 years, depending on who you read, I have never seen on my acre plus property more than five deer. Usually fawns are born as twins I've seen only one, occasionally. The other mate did not make it. Consequently, the deer have done their part. It is our obligation to do our part. I would promote education. I would promote physicians to tell parents to take responsibility. Don't sit on a stone wall and put your flannel jacket next to you. Chipmunks with ticks will gather to it. Do not allow your children to sit for hours bare legged and bare footed at a sports event while you are nicely covered up. They could be picking up ticks. This is just intelligent education. We have a lot to learn and I foster that decision very much.

Mr. Steinberg:

I had the opportunity to participate in some of the earlier committee meetings and there has been much said and written about the work of these three committees. I just think it is important to recognize the incredible hard work by all the members of all three committees, their chairs, who had a very difficult task in trying to create an environment where both sides or multiple sides of the issue could be heard and their seriousness about this subject. Anyone who has any doubts that the Town of Westport gave very serious consideration to the issues of deer problems and Lyme Disease here in Westport should be assured that this was given a thorough review. Not everybody is going to be happy with this report but I hope that we can come together as a town and recognize that we have tried really hard to look at this issue and resolve it. I will end by adding that it is no longer the Department of Environmental Protection. It is the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Ms. Flug read the resolution

RESOLVED: That in response to the petition of electors to create and implement a plan for the control of the Town's deer herd, the RTM hereby

A) Accepts the report of the joint committees and supports the recommendations of the Health and Human Services, Environment and Public Protection Committees:

- 1) To implement a public education campaign which would focus on ways to protect against the harmful effects of deer; and
- 2) To create a volunteer board and/or deer warden charged with monitoring advances in deer control techniques; and further

B) Recommends that the joint committees' proposals be sent to the First Selectman.

Mr. Rose:

It has been moved and seconded by Mr. Rubin to approve the resolution just read.

Members of the RTM

Mr. Mandell:

Mr. Steinberg, you are absolutely right. These committees did a phenomenal job. Thank you very much for the time that you spent, numerous hours, that you spent here and in other committee rooms with this issue. You did a fine job and I thank you very much. I will be supporting this resolution. I do have one caveat with this.

The wording of it, as a trustee of Earthplace, where it says "protect against the harmful effects of deer", you have to realize, deer are inoffensive and benign animals. What's occurring is that we have encroached upon their world and the effects that are occurring are human generated, for the most part, where the carrying capacity of their food supply, they have to turn to alternative means such as eating our plants and whatnot. That's what's occurred here. I'm not going to ask to change the wording of it because we have done such a fine job up to this point but I want to put it on record that deer, themselves, are not harmful. What is occurring around them is what's creating the problem. That's what we have to educate our residents about.

Ms. Starr:

I serve on the Public Protection Committee so I have been to a few of these meetings and I just want to say it has been a really been very educational thing for many of us. We learned a lot of things. We learned that the numbers of deer are not the only factor in regard to Lyme; that the deer population, if it's decreased, can rebound; that if you're in a mainland area, deer can migrate; of course, we knew that but it is worth stating; Lyme is spread by other animals, mice and birds. The State Department of Public Health, which is an agency that we are thinking about, reports on its website that between 1991 and 2009, there has been a zigzag but steadily declining incidence of Lyme Disease in Westport and parallel to that in Fairfield County. So, I think it's good news that we can take

some comfort from as we look at this problem. In terms of traffic, State Farm Mutual, which is one of the nation's largest auto insurers indicates that our state, Connecticut, is in the lowest category of having a low number of deer/motor vehicle accidents. Mrs. Linker submitted very detailed statistics on that which are in the record and can be found in the Town Clerk's office if anybody wants to look at them. In conversation with Chief Fiore last February, he said that deer/motor vehicle accidents are not a major problem in our town. So, we can landscape and we can educate and we can protect and I think we need to look at the scope of deer and Lyme, which is a serious problem, you don't want to know from it, I'm sure, in a very rational context and decide what we would want to do from here. There is so much to know. It's not something to panic about but if you look at the underlying problem, the underlying solution is going to be education.

Arthur Ashman, district 7:

It is appropriate that you ended on education. I'd like to bring to the RTM's attention an article that Peter Knight had referenced. I don't know how many of you looked it up. I'd like to highlight some points because it is very informative and something the public should be aware of. The article was written by Judy Benson who is with the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station's Department of Forestry and Agriculture. They pointed out the relationship between Japanese Barberry and ticks as very synergistic. Apparently, the barberry bush creates a moist cool shelter that harbors ticks that carry Lyme Disease and spreads amazingly rapidly. I don't think there's a person here that doesn't have a barberry bush in their backyard. In studies, they showed that deer served as the hosts for ticks, obviously, while barberry functions as a nursery. They call the plant a nursery for ticks. In this article, they mentioned that tick abundance in the barberry infested is 67 percent higher than native plants. In the article, it was described how you get rid of them. You actually burn them out. It's practically impossible to get rid of Japanese Barberry. They are here to stay. It depresses wildflowers and native trees, as well. A point about prevention: If you are looking at backyards and where playgrounds and where kids play, if there are barberry trees around, they are small bushes, it's almost like fungus. Chances are, underneath or near, there is going to be a 67 percent increase in the tick population. I thought this should be known.

Wendy Batteau, district 8:

Having been on two of the committees, I have been to an awful lot of meetings myself and they were extremely informative and, in some cases, self-contradictory from the beginning, when we received all the material, to the conversations. One thing I want to be very clear was that the one thing the joint committee affirmed was that we wanted to uphold the no hunting ordinance. That recommendation is made here only implicitly. It says "...recommends the joint committees' proposals be sent to the First Selectman." I want to be very sure...

Mr. Rose:

The report will be sent to the First Selectman along with the approval of the report and the recommendation.

Ms. Batteau:

So, before I make a proposal for an amendment, we don't need to have a #3 that says to uphold...

Point of information, Mr. Wieser:

Any change in the ordinance would come to us anyway, right?

Mr. Rose

Right. The Selectman can't change it in any case, plus, he is getting our recommendation that we don't change the hunting ordinance. I don't think there is any necessity to make a resolution.

Ms. Batteau: I just wanted to be sure everybody's agreed.

Dick Lowenstein, district 5:

My turn. This is the end of the beginning. This is an imperfect conclusion to a very, very complex issue. I am willing to accept the report of the committee meeting I was a part of. Considering the significant budget overhangs that the town has right now, particularly on pensions and OPEB, it is clear that no local funding will be available for anything involving deer control. There is no question about that. It will have to come from private money or outside the town but I really wanted to, as one of the three co-chairs of these committees, I really wanted to thank my fellow co-chairs, Jeff Wieser and Diane Cady. We met many times and we didn't always agree but we had a very collegial relationship, a relationship, I think, was ideal. The meeting Jeff ran at the end was perfect and I want to thank him and Diane and the committee members who attended that last meeting. This is the end of a period. I think we will all be going forward on this. I urge you all to accept the report as written by Jeff Wieser.

Allen Bomes, district 7:

While I support the concept of the recommendation, I want to make it very clear that this is nothing more than a sense of the meeting. It will carry absolutely no weight with the First Selectman. It might make us feel good that we approve this but we shouldn't kid ourselves that this may or may not, anything will be done.

Velma Heller, district 9:

You know this is such a complicated issue. I was on the Health and Human Services Committee and attended earlier meetings. I did quite a bit of research prior to this and shared with people what we had learned. As I've said before, this is the process that we go through, the amount of time that we put into it, considering, thoughtfully, all of the data, listening carefully to people who have very opposing points of view and giving everyone an opportunity to be heard and looking into what they have to say. I think this resolution really is a masterful way

of dealing with an extraordinarily complex issue. We are not implementers. We are the legislature. It is up to us to pull together all these pieces of information and to make recommendations as to what is the best solution. I think, in this case, I was unable to be at that last meeting, unfortunately, I was so proud of the way all the pieces were put together in a very carefully completed jigsaw. We are not finished with this but I think it's a way to go from here. I think it's a very positive direction.

Mr. Wieser:

Really quickly, I echo Dick's comments. The committee did a wonderful job in being together and being pro-active to a lot of these concerns. Recognize also, this is not a perfect solution to this. The one thing it really does, which I really do hope the First Selectman follows through on, is to establish a committee or some structure to keep this as an ongoing dialog in town. It's true he has no obligation to do it. We are just directing it. We could be getting petitions all the time if nothing does happen. The fact is, the facts change. The situation changes and it will change over the next couple of years as, maybe, things are stable. Maybe there are more deer, maybe there are fewer deer. Maybe there are coyotes in all of our back yards and that changes things but it keeps the conversation alive. I really do hope he appoints a board. Heaven knows, there are enough people who will provide point/counterpoint that will make it a very lively committee to serve on so I hope he will do it.

Ms. Starr:

What I think would be really, really helpful, too, would be to get information on the town website and coordinate with the Health District and Earthplace. I think those are going to be the means to get information to the people. I really do think education, people knowing, to be aware of what they can do and take responsibility and make happen is going to be the tool for pushing back at Lyme and any other problems we are concerned about in this regard.

Mr. Rose:

I am going to read a letter from Bill Meyer. I am going to read it without a fist pump.

Since I've been smitten by a slight case of the flu, I'm disappointed to miss tonight's monthly meeting. I encourage you to give a unanimous vote of approval for item # 4 on the agenda: implement a plan for the control of the town's deer herd. I hope you've had the opportunity to read Peter Knight's letter. Congratulations. [This is the real Bill clincher:] For all of the eight different RTM bodies I've served on, you are the most legislatively proactive.

Go Bill! I also want to thank the three committees who met numerous times both en masse and individually who dealt with a lot of very contentious issues, dealt with a lot of emotional issues and handled it as well as it could have been handled. Thank you for almost a year's worth of work put into this.

By show of hands, the motion passed 23-0-1. Mr. Bomes abstains.

The meeting adjourned 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia H. Strauss
Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacquelyn Fuchs".

by Jacquelyn Fuchs
Secretary

ATTENDANCE: August 2, 2011

DIST.	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	NOTIFIED MODERATOR	LATE/ LEFT EARLY
1	Diane Cady	X			
	Matthew Mandell	X			
	Elizabeth Milwe		X	X	
	Judith Starr	X			
2	Linda Bruce	X			
	Michael Guthman		X	X	
	Jay Keenan	X		X	Arr. 8:10 pm
	Sean Timmins	X			.
3	Amy Ancel		X	X	
	Robert Galan		X	X	
	Bill Meyer		X	X	
	Hadley Rose	X			
4	Jonathan Cunitz, DBA		X	X	
	Gene Seidman	X			Arr. 8:15 pm
	George Underhill	X			
	Jeffrey Wieser	X			
5	Barbara Levy	X			
	Richard Lowenstein	X			.
	Paul Rossi		X	X	
	John Suggs		X	X	
6	Joyce Colburn		X	X	
	Paul Lebowitz		X	X	
	Catherine Talmadge	X			
	Christopher Urist	X			
7	Arthur Ashman, D.D.S.	X			
	Allen Bomes	X			
	Jack Klinge	X			
	Stephen Rubin	X			
8	Wendy Batteau	X			
	Heather Cherry		X	X	
	Michael Rea	X			
	Lois Schine	X			
9	Eileen Flug	X			
	Kevin Green, Ph. D.		X		
	Velma Heller, Ed. D.	X			
	John McCarthy	X			
Total		24	12		