

Board of Selectmen Meeting
February 12, 2020
APPROVED MINUTES

The Westport Board of Selectmen, Traffic Authority and Water Pollution Control Authority held a public meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Westport Town Hall Room 201/201A. In attendance were Jim Marpe, Jennifer Tooker, Melissa Kane, Eileen Flug, Peter Ratkiewich, Sara Harris, Paul Friia, Jennifer Fava, Cyndi Palaia, Al D'Amura, presenters as noted in the minutes, members of the public, and Eileen Francis, recording secretary.

MINUTES

1. Jennifer Tooker presented Item #1. Because Ms. Tooker was not in attendance for the Special Meeting, the minutes were read into the record and voted upon separately.

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

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's public meeting of January 22, 2020 are hereby APPROVED.

AND

Upon motion by Jim Marpe, seconded by Melissa Kane and passing by a vote of 2-0-1 (Jim Marpe and Melissa Kane in the affirmative; Jennifer Tooker abstaining), it was:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Board of Selectman's special meeting of January 22, 2020 are hereby APPROVED.

APPROVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WESTPORT AND THE DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION FOR STREET CROSSING AND LIGHTPOST BANNER AND DECORATIONS INSTALLATION

2. Assistant Town Attorney Eileen Flug presented Item #2. Ms. Flug provided insight into the history of the program and the conditions currently in the downtown area, including the addition of another street crossing and light post banners to promote non-profit events. Ms. Flug stated that the DMA's liability insurance requirements are robust and that the charged fee for local non-profits will not exceed the costs for installation. The agreement is for one year, with the option to terminate. Director of Public Works Peter Ratkiewich stated that Public Works was interested in insuring that the banners were of standard design and safe to withstand wind and weather conditions. Building Official Steve Smith has reviewed the required safety standard for the banners and how they will be affixed to the buildings. Operations Director Sara Harris noted that the agreement will provide efficiency for the Selectman's Office since the town will no longer manage the program. Selectwoman Kane confirmed the process by which the DMA would prioritize the installation for various non-profits. Upon motion by Melissa Kane, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between the Town of Westport and the Downtown Merchants Association as it relates to the maintenance and installation of local non-profits' street crossing

banners over town roadways known as Church Lane and Main Street; and banners and decorations attached to town-owned lampposts and trees located on town property on Main Street, Church Lane, Avery Place and Elm Street; and state roadways known as Route 1 and Route 33 is hereby APPROVED.

APPROVE AMENDMENTS AND/OR TERM EXTENSIONS TO TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENTS AT 61 MAIN STREET AND 69-97 MAIN STREET

Item #8 was included in the discussion for both locations

3. David DiScala representing AV Tuchy presented Items 3 and 8. For 61 Main Street, Mr. DiScala stated that the construction is ongoing and that the companies anticipated the need for the fencing and sidewalk detour will continue for approximately 16 more weeks. He anticipates that the area will be clear by Memorial Day. He addressed the concern around the handicapped ramp and the space to need to accommodate the required 36-inch sidewalk, and stated that it was being addressed that day. It was requested that a daily inspection be performed to insure the requirements were met. Regarding 69-97 Main Street, Mr. DiScala stated that construction had ceased for a period of time, that the company was managing the workers to re-start on March 15. Once that occurred, he anticipates 6 more weeks of construction. Director of Public Works Peter Ratkiewich stated that AV Tuchy was very cooperative and responsive. Officer Al D'Amura stated that the conditions in the area were very tight and he hoped the construction moved along smoothly and on time.

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

RESOLVED, that the amendment to the Temporary Construction Easement between 61 Main Street, LLC and the Town of Westport, dated August 21, 2019, to extend the term of the agreement and to include revised plans for temporary fencing, safety and ADA compliant ramps, in compliance with comments from relevant Town departments and contingent upon final review by the Town Attorney's Office is hereby APPROVED.

AND

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

RESOLVED, that an extension to the Temporary Construction Easement between AV Tuchy Builders and the Town of Westport, dated July 2, 2019, as it relates to construction activity and safety fencing encroaching on town property adjacent to 69-97 Main Street on Main Street and Parker Harding Plaza is hereby APPROVED.

APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE WESTPORT BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

4. Assessor Paul Friia presented Item #4. Mr. Friia explained that with the upcoming town-wide revaluation, it was important to have an alternate to address the possibility of a higher number of appeals. Mr. Friia stated that Mr. Thomas Bloch possessed the appropriate background and experience to help with the elected Board's duties. He requested that the call be amended to include additional time on Mr. Bloch's term so that Mr. Bloch will have adequate time to be trained on the requirements of the position. Upon motion by Jim Marpe, seconded by Melissa Kane and passing by a vote of 3-0, the original call was

amended to extend the term to September 30, 2021. Upon motion by Melissa Kane, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 9-199 (b) and upon the recommendation of the Assessor, that the appointment of Thomas Bloch as an alternate member to the Westport Board of Assessment Appeals for a term effective March 1, 2020 *through September 30, 2021* is hereby APPROVED.

APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION TO PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT FROM STAPLES BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER BOOSTER CLUBS FOR LOEFFLER FIELD TURF MAINTENANCE

5. Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Fava presented Item #5. Ms. Fava explained that the donation was valued at \$15,610.00 and will be earmarked for the US Pitchcare maintenance program for the turf at Loeffler Field. The town will receive guidance on the maintenance and will insure all products are within requisite guidelines for the public fields. Soccer coach Dan Woog and Booster Club member Carlos Garcia spoke about the need for the turf management at the field which, due to its extensive use, requires special attention and maintenance. The Board expressed its appreciation to the Booster Clubs. Upon motion by Jim Marpe, seconded by Melissa Kane and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the acceptance of a donation to the Parks & Recreation Department from the Staples Boys and Girls Soccer Booster Clubs valued at \$15,610 to be utilized for the enhanced turf maintenance program on the town-owned property known as Loeffler Field is hereby APPROVED.

APPROVE PROPOSED PERMIT AND PROGRAM FEE INCREASES FOR THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2020 SEASON

6. Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Fava presented Item #6. Ms. Fava stated that due to the Connecticut law effective January 1, 2020, a sales tax will be placed on parking fees. To aid in the reporting and collection of the tax, the daily permit fees will include the cost of the tax. For the program fee increases, Ms. Fava explained that the costs will offset the increase in the minimum wage that the part time employees will be earning. The fees were vetted and approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Upon motion by Melissa Kane, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Parks & Recreation Commission the following proposed permit and program fee increases for the 2020 season:

	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
<i>Parking Permits</i>		
Compo Beach		
Weekday	\$40	\$45
Weekend/Holiday	\$65	\$70
Burying Hill		
Weekday State Resident	\$20	\$25
Weekday Non State Resident	\$25	\$35

Weekend/Holiday State Resident	\$25	\$30
Weekend/Holiday Non State Res	\$40	\$50

Programs

Tennis

Pee Wee Tennis Instruction	\$50 per session	\$70 per session
Youth Tennis Instruction	\$80 per session	\$95 per session
Tennis Camp	\$150 per session	\$160 per session
Camp Compo	\$170 per session	\$190 per session
RECing Crew	\$195 per session	\$220 per session
Youth Basketball		
Tots Program (age 3 & 4)	\$70 per session	\$80 per session
Kindergarten & Grade 1	\$70 per session	\$80 per session
Grade 2	\$90 per session	\$100 per session
Grade 3	\$90 per session	\$100 per session
Grade 4 – 8	\$135 per session	\$145 per session
Grade 9 – 12	\$135 per session	\$145 per session

Are hereby APPROVED.

WITHDRAWN

~~7. To take such action as the meeting may determine, acting in its capacity as the Water Pollution Control Authority, to review and approve the request by the Westport Housing Authority to abate sewer use charges associated with properties located at Hales Court and Hidden Brook (aka 1655 Post Road East Rear Lot).~~

Item #8 was discussed with Item #3 (see above)

8. To take such action as the meeting may determine, to approve an extension to the Temporary Construction Easement between AV Tuchy Builders and the Town of Westport, dated July 2, 2019, as it relates to construction activity and safety fencing encroaching on town property adjacent to 69-97 Main Street on Main Street and Parker Harding Plaza.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Melissa Kane, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 AM

Eileen Francis, Recording Secretary