

## **RTM Meeting March 1, 2022**

### **The Call**

1. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Department of Human Services, to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$150,000.00 from Westport's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support predevelopment activities for affordable housing at West Parish Road in response to the ongoing pandemic and resulting housing crisis facing low-income households.
2. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the RTM Public Protection Committee, to appoint two additional candidates to the Westport Civilian Review Panel.

### **The Meeting**

Moderator Jeff Wieser:

Good evening. This meeting of Westport's Representative Town Meeting is now called to order and we welcome those who are joining us this evening. My name is Jeff Wieser and I am the RTM Moderator.

A notice about procedures for this electronic meeting: Pursuant to Sections 163-167 of Senate Bill 1202, there is not a physical location for this meeting. This meeting is being held electronically and live streamed on *westportct.gov* and shown on Optimum Government Access Channel 79 and Frontier Channel 6020. Meeting materials will be available at *westportct.gov* along with the meeting notice posted on the Meeting List & Calendar page. Members of the Westport electorate attending the meeting by telephone or video may comment on any agenda item. Comments will be limited to three minutes. Emails may be sent to *RTMmailinglist@westportct.gov*, which goes to all RTM members. These emails will not be read aloud during the meeting.

Tonight's invocation will be delivered by our Second Selectwoman, Andrea Moore. It seems like forever since we met in the Town Hall auditorium, but when we all had our self-appointed assigned seats, Andrea was my RTM neighbor for a few years when she served on this august body, and we are very happy to have her back with us.

Invocation, Andrea Moore, Second Selectwoman:

Thank you Jeff. It is a pleasure and an honor to be here tonight to give the invocation. So thank you for asking me. It is wonderful to see so many familiar faces - even if it's in Brady Bunch squares on Zoom. There are many faces from my RTM days but also many new members that I have worked with in various roles. So, hi to all of you. The breadth and depth of background, experience and perspective of RTM members is one of the things that make this governing body so critical to the success of Westport. Seven years ago, I was encouraged to run for the RTM by two of my lifelong townie friends - Jimmy Izzo and Chris Tait. After years of volunteering in Westport with various organizations, I was drawn to the idea of running for local government. I liked the idea of giving back to my hometown, serving the people of Westport and learning about the local governing process. I was especially intrigued by the RTM because of its bi-partisan nature. I had never considered myself as a political person and I liked the idea

that RTM members were driven by what was good for Westport and its people, not political ideology. When I was elected and began to serve on the RTM, I listened a lot so I could learn. I quickly discovered the importance and value of this body. I understood that every one of the 36 members had something to contribute. Each member had expertise or experience that adds value. Members collaborate and listen. They research, ask questions and work hard. What struck me the most was that RTM members care. You care deeply about our town, its residents and about doing the right thing. Here you discuss, debate, and sometimes disagree. But ultimately, you come together to make decisions in the interest of our residents that improve our town. To me, this is truly democracy. Recent turmoil in the world has every one of us reflecting on our core democratic principles and how truly fundamental and precious they are. It provides an opportunity to recommit to our shared values of civility and respect for one another and serves as a clear reminder that what binds us together is so much stronger than what separates us. As Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." I want to thank you all for representing our citizens and working for the betterment of our community. Your service truly shows what a group of thoughtful, committed citizens working together can achieve. So, thank you again.

Mr. Wieser:

Thank you, Andrea from someone who has talked the talk and walked the walk. You are of course welcome to stay and listen to tonight's proceedings, but suspect you might have other things to do in your evening!

We now have our zoom-era Mandell Montage Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Matt Mandell for creating this video and Nancy for having the backup flag.

I want to take an extraordinary detour tonight in an extraordinary week. Members of the RTM received an email today from our former member Ms. Hamlin asking us to acknowledge the horrors that are going on in Ukraine by, if we wish, wearing yellow and blue in support of the Ukrainian flag and having a moment of silence and/or having a sense of the meeting, if someone wished to propose a sense of the meeting. I took a quick survey of some of the RTM members and it's hard to imagine that anyone would vote against that sense of the meeting. We want to finish this meeting by nine o'clock to see what our leaders are going to do about it so I'm going to suggest that anyone can ask for a motion to have a sense of the meeting added to the agenda which would require 24 members to approve that and then we could discuss it and vote on it. With the belief that we would all concur with that, I'm going to ask for a moment of silence now before our announcements in solidarity with the people in Ukraine who are suffering from the invasion of the Russian army into Ukraine. Thank you for that and God speed to the people of Ukraine.

The minutes of the January meeting have been posted on the Town website. Are there any corrections to those minutes at this time? Seeing none, the minutes are accepted as submitted. If you later find any corrections, please inform Jackie Fuchs, Jeff Dunkerton, or me.

## **RTM Announcements**

Matthew Mandell, district 1:

Today begins the great Westport Salad Contest. We had a great kick off at Granola. A whole number of people showed up. We had some great salads to kick off a whole month of eating salads. There are 22 competitors throughout Westport in eight different categories so I urge all of you to go to the Westport/Weston Chamber of Commerce website to see who's competing. Go out and eat salads and every one of you and everybody who is watching can vote. At the end of the month, we'll find out who makes the best salad in Westport. We've done pizza and burgers and sandwiches and soup. Now we're doing salads. So, have a good healthy time this month and see who makes the best salad. Next announcement is Supper and Soul is returning, Tomorrow is the actual official announcement but I'm going to cheat a little bit and announce it tonight. Supper and Soul will come back on May 7 after two years of hiatus due to COVID and we're bringing back Chris Jacobs who, if you didn't know, played a great set at the Blues, Brews and Barbecue in 2017 and he's coming back. So, if you want to have a great dinner at any one of 11 restaurants that are participating in it and come and see a concert in the library, that's the way to do it. Supper and Soul, May 7, tickets go on sale on Friday at 10:00 a.m. I hope everybody comes out. If you don't know Chris Jacobs, go to the website [westportwestonchamber.com/supper](http://westportwestonchamber.com/supper) and you can check his videos and see what's going on. Last announcement: Velma Heller, myself and Jeff Wieser have been asked by the League of Women Voters to do a discussion and an explanation of what is the RTM? On March 23 in the library, the three of us are going to explain to people who don't know what the RTM is, what is the RTM, its history, what it does and why people should join it in the future. You guys know what the RTM is, for the most part, but you might want to hear our take on it. March 23 in the library. It will be live and streamed. Those are my three announcements.

Jack Klinge, district 7

I have two announcements. The first one I spoke to you a few months ago about the Long Range Planning getting involved with the appropriate committee chairs to work out an early intervention system of reviewing ARPA projects before they get to the Board of Finance, essentially getting involved in the development, creation issues, getting them straightened out prior to going to the Board of Finance. It turns out, that kind of early intervention would require a publically noticed meeting which is not so bad but, unfortunately, it is contrary to what our charter says the role of the RTM is. We are an appropriation body and Jen Tooker tells me, after consulting with her legal people, that we cannot change the process we have for doing appropriations; hence, we cannot have official noticed RTM meetings with Department Heads prior to any ARPA projects going to the Board of Finance. It does not preclude us going to public meetings called by the Administration like the one coming up on the Longshore Master Plan but we cannot have our own RTM open and noticed meetings. It's unfortunate. It does not preclude us from being citizens going to the other meetings. It may also not preclude us from knocking on Jen Tooker and Pete Ratkiewich's door and saying "Can we talk about project X, Y or Z?" But the Long Range Committee and Department Heads cannot be involved unfortunately until after the Board of Finance approves the

appropriation. The second meeting has to do with an offshoot of that result. The Long Range Planning Committee is going to meet next week. I am waiting to lock up either Monday or Tuesday night. We are going to talk about the five-year capital forecast in conjunction with the ARPA projects, how do they compare, contrast, review and also find ways to introduce new projects to the list, work on priorities and introduce recommendations, if we have some, back through the Administration and the appropriate Department Heads. Those meetings will be appropriate. They will be noticed. I am hoping that I can get enough committee members to agree to meet in person, spread out, so we can spread out our charts of the Five Year Capital Forecast and the ARPA projects and have a good dialog. And anybody else is welcome to attend. You should hear from me by Thursday whether it is Monday or Tuesday and the location. If there are any questions, I can listen to them tonight or you can shoot me an email after the meeting, tomorrow.

Peter Gold, district 5, Director of the Westport Transit District:

For those new members who don't know and for those old ones who may have forgotten, I just want to briefly remind all that the Board of Finance will be meeting on March 8 to vote on the Westport Transit District's budget for the upcoming fiscal year. In the past few years, the Board of Finance has significantly cut the Westport Transit District's budget and the RTM has voted overwhelmingly to restore it at its May budget meeting. While not presuming to speak on behalf of the Board of Finance, if the Board of Finance cuts the Transit District's budget in March as appears likely, I will be making a motion to restore the budget at the May RTM meeting. I'll be happy to meet with anyone who may want information about the Westport Transit District, its services and its upcoming budget request; just give me a call or send me an email to set up a meeting.

Wendy Batteau, district 8:

Referencing what Jack Klinge said, since RTM Committee Chairs are free to call meetings about anything that falls within the purview of their Committee, I can't imagine that Committees couldn't meet to simply to discuss not the funds that ARPA is being proposed for but it couldn't be inappropriate for us to have meetings discussing the subjects themselves. It would be good for someone to clarify that because it sounds like that would be against the Charter.

Mr. Klinge:

Let me try to help a little bit, Wendy, talking to Jen Tooker and she, in turn, talked to Ira and Eileen about it, we couldn't have Committee Chairs and maybe Long Range Committee members meeting with Department Heads and other decision makers from the Administration on creating and improving and developing and working on the particular projects. That's what I'm saying. That's what I know to be true based on our Charter. It may not preclude your committee meeting to talk in an open noticed meeting what you think you know about the project. But once you involve the Department Head, I think it becomes a no no and you should check with the First Selectperson before you have that kind of a meeting.

Mr. Wieser:

I think what we're saying is that we can't be a part of the appropriation process before it's our turn to be a part of the appropriation process but we can certainly be part of the investigative process as we go along. I don't want to get too deep into this at the RTM. It's really sort of a procedure question.

Brandi Briggs, district 7:

Last month, we were supposed to have an Ordinance Committee meeting on the CRB, the Civilian Review Board, but we had to postpone. We have rescheduled it for March 22 at 7:30. We will be reviewing the wording of the Ordinance.

Jessica Bram, district 6:

That meeting at the library that Matt Mandell talked about on March 23, do we have a time for it?

Mr. Wieser: We think it's 7 o'clock but we're not sure.

Mr. Gold:

I just want to say I agree with Wendy. Section C5-1 of the Charter specifically gives us *general investigatory power and the power to establish committees for special projects and studies with respect to new projects or improvements or public works*. So, I think we could actually do this.

Mr. Wieser:

We can get into that further on but thank you for that. We can meet as a body and as committees. Thank you.

Mr. Mandell:

The RTM Planning and Zoning Committee, hopefully, will be meeting on Tuesday, March 29. The Planning and Zoning Commission, last night, opted out of two State regulations which we are legally allowed to do. It must be ratified by the RTM to do so. We need to meet and discuss it and have it take place in the April meeting. Planning and Zoning Committee, see if you are available on March 29.

Mr. Wieser:

Congratulations to our March Birthday celebrants. With more than 40 members and supporting staff in Town Hall, we should have three birthdays each month, but this month we recognize only one special member with a birthday, Sal Liccione - Happy March Birthday, Sal!

Assuming that the business of our meeting is completed tonight, the next regularly scheduled meeting of the RTM will be on April 5 at 7:30 p.m. I sent around an email about when we are going to meet in person and got a number of responses. I would say we are definitely going to meet in person for the budget meetings starting Monday, May 3, 4 and 5. We might meet in person in April but given where we are, even though things are loosening up a bit, we probably will do one more zoom. Committee Chairs will

talk about that as we go but for the moment, we will keep them on zoom a little bit longer. We will be clarifying that as we go.

There are 34 members present. Ms. Talmadge and Ms. Schneeman are absent.

**The secretary read item #1 of the call - To approve an appropriation in the amount of \$150,000.00 from Westport's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support predevelopment activities for affordable housing at West Parish Road in response to the ongoing pandemic and resulting housing crisis facing low-income households.**

### **Presentation**

Elaine Daignault, Director of Human Services:

Thank you all for taking the time to review this request before you tonight. I am assuming that many of you have read the packet of information that was shared both at the Board of Finance and our RTM Committees. I am going to give you a basic overview of the proposal and then I will open up for questions because I am sure that there will be some. As you know, the ARPA funds are to be utilized by those most affected by the pandemic and I have been given the honor of making the request on behalf of those residents with the okay from our First Selectwoman Jen Tooker who I think is on this call. The \$150,000 ARPA funds are requested to sponsor the pre-project activities associated with the development of affordable housing at 900 Post Road East, also known as the West Parish Project. As you all know, this project came about as a result of our former First Selectman Jim Marpe and our Planning and Zoning Chair, Danielle Dobin, who went out and started looking for suitable locations for affordable housing in town. The reason for that is because the municipalities in the State of Connecticut are required to create and implement affordable housing plans for the next five years. As you also know, the town of Westport has had a pretty long run on 8-30g applications which are high density applications for buildings throughout our community. We have been fortunate to have received our first moratorium on 8-30g applications. We are on our way to our second moratorium on 8-30g applications and we believe that this project will help us get to that next threshold for a moratorium and, in fact, expediate the process for more affordable housing in our community. I have a couple of main points and then I am going to open in up for questions. I am pleased to say that Michelle Perelli is here from Planning and Zoning so when the questions come to moratorium points and all those calculations, I would like to defer to her because that is not my wheelhouse. What I do know is that Human Services has experienced a significant influx of calls from individuals who are current residents who are seeking affordable housing because they have either been priced out of their current rentals or they are having trouble taking care of those basic expenses. That need has been very well documented through 2-1-1 who does a regular count each year. The results show that there has been about a 33 percent increase in calls from town of Westport residents to their call center for people seeking housing and shelter situations. That speaks volumes, in my opinion, of the critical need that we're experiencing for affordable housing right now in our hometown. The timing is everything right now. When it comes

to ARPA funds and when we're looking at the ways we can use these funds to address the needs of all residents and specifically this population, I think we'll find this project at 900 Post Road East is a viable project. It is something that is in the queue. I believe that by approving this request, it will accelerate the process by which the State of Connecticut will make a transfer from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Housing. The town will not procure the land; will not own the land; will not manage the land. What will happen is once the State of Connecticut has determined how much of that parcel of land they will transfer to the Department of Housing for affordable housing development, they will put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for any developer to come in and make a proposal to develop that land into affordable housing. This is a unique situation in that we don't exactly know how large the parcel of land will be. We think it is going to be 1.7 to 1.8 acres of the entire DOT property which is right across from the Sherwood Diner and next to Walgreens which is about 10.7 acres. It may be parallel to West Parish and under two acres. Based on that estimate, we think that 20 to 25 affordable units could be developed on that property depending on the environmental surveys and reviews that have to happen prior to making the request from the developer. This is unique in that we're sort of putting the chicken before the egg, so to speak, but I'm afraid the State is going to become stagnant if we don't move on this because they have lots of other things on their plate. This was initiated by the town of Westport so we are very hopeful that this \$150,000 will get the ball rolling, I want to assure the residents of Westport and the neighbors of the property that we will take every action, and I'm speaking for myself, to keep you informed of the process. I also want you to know that the full land use review will have to happen so that the State and a developer will not be able to come in and say that it is done. Since this will happen in our town, it will have to abide by all of our Planning and Zoning regulations so anything that happens will have a lot of opportunities for public input and participation and I have made a personal commitment that whenever something happens on this property, we will make every effort to communicate with the neighbors and when the developer is chosen (and I'm sure it will be a very qualified developer), we would hand over the reins to continue that dialogue to insure that the project meets the needs of Westport. I think I'll end there. I don't want to go on and on. I will be happy to answer your questions and if I missed something, let me know.

Mr. Wieser:

Thank you, Ms. Daignault. We have a joint committee report by the Finance, Planning and Zoning and Health and Human Services Committees. We'll come back with questions after the report and I'm sure there will be some.

### **Committees report**

Finance, Planning and Zoning, Health and Human Services and Long Range Planning Committees, Seth Braunstein, district 6:

Thank you Mr. Moderator. I would add that the Long Range Planning Committee was also involved. It was a four-way joint committee meeting. I don't want to duplicate what Elaine said. Much of what she said was in the report made available to the full RTM at the end of last week. I would augment Elaine's comments with just a few things. I would clarify, although Elaine touched on it. This is a State project. The town will not take

ownership of the property or project. This money is really being used to determine if this is the right place to actually go forward and develop the project. I'm going to use the words of one of our colleagues, Jaime Bairaktaris, in effect, it is a catalyst for the addition of affordable housing in Westport. We also learned quite a bit about the RFP process itself but there are still some major question marks that exist there. We are really somewhat unclear on what are the direct criteria that are going to be used to drive the selection process. Key to this part of the discussion was the overarching question as to what portion of the development would actually be affordable units. Ultimately, this will need to be spelled out in the RFP terms that the State Department of Housing comes up with and may actually vary depending on which developer comes up on the bid process. All those in attendance favored a very high percentage being deemed affordable. If the Westport Housing Authority were to prevail, it would be deemed that a large majority of the units, perhaps as high as 80 percent would be affordable with the remainder being market based in order to have a diversity of incomes in the project's footprint. We also spent some time clarifying the role and origin of the Westport Housing Authority. I found it interesting to learn that it was created by the RTM and First Selectman back in the 1940s in order to address the creation of affordable housing in Westport. Its board members are appointed by the office of the First Selectperson on five year terms. One of the interesting things that came up in our discussion was the fact that Westport on an absolute and relative basis, certainly when compared to neighboring communities, has an inclusionary zoning policy that requires 20 percent of all multi-family units to have 20 percent affordability (far higher than neighboring communities like Darien and New Canaan which recently moved from 10 percent to 12 percent). Again, we're at 20 percent. Some of the questions that came up: Is this just for this project or for affordable housing more generally? How do we know what the density of the project would be and how we would have a say in that? Ultimately, that comes down to the way in which the RFP process will be determined. I think it is crucial to recognize that while the town will get 8-30g credit here, the development, itself, has to fall within the zoning regulations of the town unlike an 8-30g project. Some of the other things that came up were whether or not we could be certain that the ARPA funds would be used before the timeframe for use in 2024 runs out? Or can they be used for other related uses. There were definitely concerns about the area around this project becoming overly developed. So, there was an initial conversation about this portion of Post Road East seeing quite a bit of development over the last few years and other members said there were plenty of other places around town so we shouldn't think about Post Road East where the bulk of development is occurring. Most importantly, we also were able to hear from members of the public/neighbors who expressed that they feel that it is still very early in the process to have any real idea about the form of development that will take place here - can't really know yet what it is that will be built in terms of size, density, appearance, egress, impact on the area, etc. And, as such, while they are in favor of the desire to expand affordable housing, they remain reserved about offering support to this specific project until they know more about what it actually will entail. As Elaine promised and I think it's important for us to recognize, the neighbors are also hoping to be informed about how this is progressing. They would like the town to go above and beyond what the statutory notification requirements allow for. I would close by saying there was broad expression of support amongst all four committees

both for pursuit of affordable housing options and the use of the ARPA funds to support this outcome. Votes were taken by Finance, Planning and Zoning and Health and Human Services and each of those votes were unanimous in approving this project. Also, Long Range Planning expressed that they were in favor but lacked a quorum.

Mr. Wieser:

Thank you, Mr. Braunstein. We now turn to the Westport Electorate: Members of the electorate who raise their hands to speak during the public comment period for each agenda item will be called upon by the Moderator. Please remain on mute until you are recognized to speak and when you are finished speaking. Public comments are limited to three minutes. We ask that you avoid repeating comments already made.

**Members of the Westport electorate:**

Bill Rubidge, 18 West Parish Road:

Thank you very much. We appreciate your letting us sitting in on this meeting and comment. I suspect that only a few of us neighbors who are sitting in will speak live but as a demonstration of the degree of interest that we have in this, I would like to suggest that separate from the request to speak, our neighbors who are on zoom raise their hands just so you can see on zoom our neighbors here in West Parish. There are a number of us here and we wanted to point out that, in addition to some of the points that have already been brought up. Our point of view is that we know the idea for the development came up in 2020 and it has been in discussion so, from our point of view, this isn't early. Although much has been explored and has yet to be defined, if anything is going to be developed, we, the neighbors, want to be sure that it is done right. We know the neighborhood. We know the existing challenges so we want to be sure to be involved every step of the way. Again, Elaine has committed to that and other people have been good about committing and we really are grateful for that. But we are concerned about issues such as flooding, traffic, environmental issues which may even be present without a development given the nature of the DOT lot and safety issues such as making sure emergency vehicles can get into whatever the development might be given how small the lot the DOT is. I mention also regarding traffic issues, there is, you may be aware, an ongoing issue with the intersection of West Parish and Hillandale where we get a number of near miss accidents from drivers on Hillandale who fail to stop because they don't realize north/south traffic on West Parish has no stop sign. The key request we would like to make is we really would love to see if we can get one point of contact to help us stay up to date with any feedback promptly. We understand there are lots of different players and the State DOT is separate from the town but as much as possible if there is a way to get a point of contact about this issue overall, we think that would be great. Maybe the First Selectman's office could help with that. Next to last for me is one issue, I was wondering whether we should be looking to the State to be more actively involved in this. I think we have been in touch with the DOT but I really wonder if our local State Representatives and even the Governor's Office should be helping in this effort to make sure that the DOT and the DOH at the State level are responding appropriately and insure our success. Finally, I'd just like to reiterate my comment which Mr. Braunstein, in his report, I really appreciated the acknowledgement; I think everybody in the neighborhood supports the idea of more affordable housing here in

Westport but we really do keep hearing from everybody that we support this when we don't know what the "this" is yet. Please let's all remember to temper our enthusiasm until we know more about what may happen in our neighborhood. Thank you. That's all I have to say.

Lisa Mann, 15 West Parish Road:

I'm a life-long Westport resident and we've lived at this address since 1984 so I'm very familiar with the area. As Bill indicated, we met, as neighbors, over the weekend. Our primary concern at this point in time, aside from not understanding what the project entails, is the traffic concern. As Bill indicated, you've got the very busy West Parish/Hillandale where we hear honks, a lot of honks. It's a very bad intersection. Then you have the Post Road. We're already being used as a cut through. Cars fly by our house in the morning as a cut through. And now, initially, there had been some talk about putting the egress on the Post Road which we were much more in favor of. To have the project open up to West Parish is an issue almost uniformly for the neighbors who met over the weekend. I also wanted to indicate that, as Bill said, we're all in favor of affordable housing and there's been a lot of talk about this project being family housing, firemen, teachers and there is a need in Westport. I know that but I just wonder if you've taken into account the safety of the particular site that you're talking about. First, I wanted to say that you are talking about a tiny portion of the site which happens to be the only portion of the site that is not a blight on the neighbors right now. It's a wooded area. There is wild life. The trees grow. Three-quarters of the year we don't see the DOT because the particular area you're talking about is wooded. So, you're going to take away the pleasant wooded area to build this project. Also, I was going to ask if you've considered safety concerns. We can all attest, as neighbors, that there is a lot of foul language that goes on across the street. There's banging all day and night. There are cars and trucks always honking. We've made complaints in the past and it's worse than ever, certainly worse in the last five years than I've ever seen it. Neighbors have complained. We consider that site to a large extent to be a blight on our neighborhood. You're going to put family housing there. I just wonder if that's a wise choice. Not only do you have these trucks, if there are children there, there are a lot of considerations. Personally, I wouldn't want to move there if the DOT is on the other side. Finally, I just want to close. We have a cell tower across the street on the DOT property. I know that's an issue on Hillspoint. We are already dealing with cell tower issues and we have the DOT and we have Men's Warehouse being developed. I think you're asking a lot of a small residential neighborhood. We all moved here. We knew what the situation was. It's gotten worse and it's getting worse yet. I think you should consider the fairness to the current neighbors and maybe worry about the blight that we experience now at least on the same level as worrying about future residents in the area.

Ms. Karpf read the resolution and it was seconded.:

**RESOLVED:** That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Department of Human Services, the sum of \$150,000.00 from Westport's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support predevelopment activities for affordable housing at West Parish Road in response to the ongoing pandemic and resulting housing crisis facing low-income households, is hereby appropriated.

## **Members of the RTM**

Ms. Bram:

Very, very brief comment because I don't think this is going to be controversial: I usually don't mention minutes but this report written by Seth Braunstein that everybody received is extraordinary in how good it is and how thorough and it was also done about an hour after the meeting ended. It is a tour de force. I couldn't help saying that. This is a wonderful project and I won't repeat what Elaine Daignault said. It specifically fulfills the mandate of ARPA. It helps us meet our 8-30g requirements and it's the right thing to do. I would like to encourage our Administration to please find opportunities with the ARPA funds to meet the goal of homeowner assistance and whatever we can do to promote affordable housing. I think that is directly in tandem with what ARPA is expressed to do. So, thank you.

Jaime Bairaktaris, district 4:

The consensus is we know that we need more diversified housing in town and we know that this project could certainly be great for the community. I think the important part about this specific vote is that we are really voting to explore this more and a lot of the questions that are being raised will be answered because of this vote. It kind of sounds like it, unfortunately, because we are all so excited, I think, but it is definitely premature. We are voting to get more information which will, hopefully, answer a lot of these questions. I kind of said this in the committee meeting but I think we will have more public information based on this project just because we have the ARPA facet of it, because we're having these meetings prior to even getting into it. Again, we're not voting tonight on pushing this forward. We're voting on getting the information that it seems that everybody needs and, hopefully, it will act as a way to look at other parts of town so this could work out in other places too.

Louis Mall, district 2:

I want to echo that I agree that this is an appropriate use of ARPA funds. That's what it was designed for to help people that have been impacted by COVID and help relieve some of the situations that people find themselves in. I think more money should be funneled to Human Services and that will be a topic for another time. When listening to the neighbors, it was the same issue that I had at 136 Riverside Avenue that I had a constituent who felt she wasn't being notified, informed, and spoken to about what the project entailed and what it meant to her. I felt like I was lone wolf on that one but it is the same thing that faces any neighborhood. They need to be part of the process. They need to be part of the discussion. The need to be kept informed. So, to the powers that be at Planning and Zoning and with the Administration, keep the neighbors in the loop. The other thing is there are other sites and I think more money should be appropriated pushing this forward in other locations throughout town to assimilate affordable housing in different neighborhoods so that it isn't just the burden of one or two districts or sections of town; that we all have a responsibility to assimilate these developments and, therefore, meet our goal of having the right amount of affordable housing so that we can take back our own jurisdiction over Planning and Zoning issues from 8-30g developers. I am adamant that we drive these developers out of our town and the only way that we

do is to comply with the law. So, I am going to vote in favor of this appropriation. I hope there will be more in the future in other locations.

Kristin Purcell, district 1:

A couple of points quickly, Lou said some already. First of all, I want to acknowledge Danielle and P&Z and the work done to try and come up with creative solutions to address the 8-30g issues. This is one and I know we will see more. I also want to recognize Elaine's comments about keeping the neighborhood informed, keeping the neighbors involved in every step of the way. Thank you very much to the neighbors who came out tonight and hope that we are proactive in including them in our process going forward.

Ms. Batteau:

I want to echo Jessica's sentiments. I am excited that we are spending ARPA money on affordable housing and I would very much like to see, as Lou remarked, more money go to Human Services and health concerns. The one question I still have is if we spend this \$150,000 on this project, which is sort of a blueprint for the State and the State declines to move forward, are we simply out of our \$150,000 of ARPA money?

Ms. Daignault:

Thank you for asking Wendy. I did have a conversation with Gary Conrad today about that question. He assured me that we will know well in advance of the deadline to spend the funds whether or not it will be spent. If we don't spend the money, it will go back into the kitty and we will come back with a different ARPA request to spend those funds down before the expiration date.

Ms. Batteau:

But if we do spend the money on the report and the State gets the report and says they don't like it are we out of the money or will the report, perhaps, translate to another site?

Ms. Daignault:

No. The report is based on this land use study. If we go ahead with the report and it is deemed inappropriate for development of this nature, we would be out of the \$150,000, yes.

Ms. Batteau: So, it's risky but I'm still in favor of it. Thank you.

Mr. Mandell:

I fully support this as we did in committee which was unanimous through all the committees to support this money. This is the right thing to be doing for creating affordable housing, for creating diversity in our towns. It's not just a physical thing that we're doing. It's a political thing that we're doing as well. The State wants affordable housing. Lou was saying they're not going to stop it. We need to take back our own world here in terms of local control of things. Let me just tell you what the State has planned coming forward in the Legislature. They are again coming forward with a bill called "Fair Share" which would then require each town to provide "X" amount of

affordable housing and instead of it being done through local Planning and Zoning, it would be done, apparently, by a Commissioner, who would be appointed at the State level. It would completely take away the ability for towns to decide how and when affordable housing would be done. That's one of the things that's being proposed. Also being proposed is again focusing on Transit-Oriented Development, TOD's, both Green's Farms and Saugatuck. The idea is what they are creating is called "minimal lot zones". So instead of where in Westport we have one acre zones or half acre zones, they would now, within TOD units create 16 units per acre. That's something that is coming forward. You can imagine that we're a small town. Our infrastructure is based on what we have built, not a fresh slate where they could come in and do this. This would be a dramatic change. So, those are two things that are coming forward. We've seen similar things before and what occurred last year was a public act that created something called 8-30j. We all know 8-30g. This is 8-30j, a couple of letters down the alphabet. That is a proposal to have each town figure out what they can do themselves to create affordable housing. The rub here is that the same groups that proposed 8-30j are now not allowing this to move forward. Our Planning and Zoning Commission is going to be holding meetings, hearings and trying to come up with an affordable housing plan for the town. But, at the same time, the State is coming forward and pressing further on how they can densify our community and change us from a small town into a mini little city. That is something that is contrary to the feel that we have in our town. So, by using ARPA money, Federal money that was slated to take care of problems during COVID, this is the right money to be spending. Just as an aside, one other thing that is coming forward is called the "Open Access Law."

Mr. Wieser: If we could keep it on this item...

Mr. Mandell:

This is this item. Why are we doing this? We are doing this to create affordable housing, not just because affordable housing is the right thing to do which is the right thing to do but we should also be wary of what else the State is doing. Let me make one aside just so the RTM knows, Open Access is a proposal to not allow towns to charge more for our beaches than they charge anybody else. We do charge a lot of money for out of town people because we have been paying taxes for our beach. This would be a proposal to not have that occur any longer, opening up our beaches to anybody or have all of us pay more to make it level. That's something that's coming forward in the State Legislature this year that we should be looking at. Some of us will agree that it is a good thing to do. Some of us won't but I just wanted to let the RTM know that those are the things coming forward. One last thing, I have been appointed to the Connecticut Commission on the Development of Connecticut, the Affordable Housing Committee. This group will start meeting this Thursday and will meet every few weeks. It's to help municipalities figure out how to create affordable housing. So, this town will have a representative at the State level working with how to create affordable housing in a fair and equitable fashion.

Chris Tait, district 1:

Back in the day, we had the trailer park which was affordable housing. That was 100 percent affordable housing because we purchased it, right?

Ms. Daignault:

The town did not purchase that property. It was procured by the Westport Housing Authority. It was revamped in 1985. It was imperial trailers. The Westport Housing Authority purchased it in 1985 and then renovated it in 1999 and then again in 2015.

Mr. Tait:

I was just thinking if we owned it, it could be 100 percent affordable if the State would sell it to us. Would the State sell it to us?

Ms. Daignault:

I don't know the answer to that question. I do know if someone like the Housing Authority were to win the bid and I think that there will be more than one bid, it would be close to 100 percent affordable, 80 to 90 percent.

Karen Kramer, district 5:

I absolutely know that this is the right thing to do with the money but I also hear the neighbors very clearly and they are very correct, having lived there long enough. We have to make sure there is no entrance on West Parish Road. That is a nightmare, traffic, everything. So, is there any way we can make sure that there is no egress on West Parish?

Mr. Wieser:

I don't see that as a discussion for tonight. That is what the study is all about. I think I am hearing very strongly the sense that the RTM wants the neighbors to be part of that conversation so that's a good point to bring up but that is part of the study.

Ms. Kramer: Good enough. Thank you.

Dick Lowenstein, district 5:

I've been part of this conversation since 2020 when it was first broached to us by Jim Marpe and Danielle Dobin. It's taken a long time to get this far. I fully support the neighbors in what they're trying to do. Their hearts are in the right place but we have to make sure they are treated fairly and communicated with. My own intuitive feeling is that the key player in making this thing a success will be the Governor of the State. That bringing the DOT together, the DOH, making changes on the property itself are all going to require Executive Action by the Governor of Connecticut and while it's a premature guess on my part, I think it will happen. Again, I support this proposal tonight 100 percent.

**By roll call vote, the motion passes unanimously, 34-0-0.**

**The secretary read item #2 of the call - To appoint two additional candidates to the Westport Civilian Review Panel, Theresa Fabi and Michael Guthman.**

**Presentation**

Jimmy Izzo, Chair, Public Protection Committee, district 3:

In my 10 years as Chair, I can't say I've been prouder of a group of people. We worked together as one. We created a subcommittee. I want to give a shout out to Stephen Shackelford, Candace Banks, Claudia Shaum and Noah Hammond coming up with the questions. We had over 30 candidates, I believe, who sent resumes. We have a very deep bench in this community. We narrowed it down to, I believe, 10 that we interviewed. We went through a process that's phenomenal. Everyone that we interviewed were winners. We just narrowed it down to who we thought were the best two for taking on these roles. I want to thank the Library Committee for helping us out on process. I can't say enough about the process we went through and how the democratic process does work when you work toward a goal. I am very proud to say that we came up with two very good choices that I think you should all be very proud of and who will be a great asset to the CRP.

Claudia Shaum, district 5:

This committee report covers the Public Protection meetings on February 10, 15 and 16, 2022 in person and February 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> via Zoom. In attendance were Jimmy Izzo (Chair), Stephen Shackelford, Louis Mall, Karen Kramer, Noah Hammond, myself, Candace Banks, Sal Liccione and Andrew Colabella. The purpose of the in person and zoom meetings. The purpose of these in-person meetings (and Zoom sessions) was to review applicants for the open positions on the Civilian Review Panel, as directed by 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Jen Tooker, and ultimately select 2 to present to the full RTM at its March meeting. Methodology: The Committee agreed to review all the letters and resumes that had been submitted prior to the first meeting, without any discussion amongst members beforehand. Each member was to come to the meeting with their top 5 candidates in mind, and the discussion was to begin with an analysis of those candidates, and continue from there to the rest of the list. The Committee was truly overwhelmed with both the quantity (30+) and quality of the applicants for these volunteer positions. All of the applicants were clearly dedicated residents, with very impressive resumes, both from a corporate and volunteer perspective, and all demonstrated a dedication to Westport and to serving their Town - it was truly "an embarrassment of riches". The Committee discussed each and every applicant, with members fully disclosing any personal relationships (neighbor, friend, colleague, etc.) to the group. After two hours of discussion on February 10, it was agreed that 11 applicants would be interviewed, and a letter was drafted for Jeff Dunkerton to send to those applicants who were selected, inviting them to interview over the following week or so. The Committee interviewed a total of 11 candidates – nine in person over two days at Town Hall, and two via Zoom. Interviews ran approximately 20-30 minutes each. Again, the Committee was impressed by all of the candidates and agreed that we could've filled many more spots than we had available. The Public Protection Committee took great care and consideration in discussing all of the highly qualified candidates for these spots. After the final interviews, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, the committee further

discussed the candidates and ultimately unanimously voted to recommend Teresa Fabi and Michael Guthman to the full RTM for appointment to the Civilian Review Panel. I want to just add that I agree with everything Jimmy just said about the process and what I would like to impress on everyone, in case you're wondering, was what I loved most about it was that the process came from positivity. Everything was about who is the best of the best. We were so overwhelmed with the candidates. Our town, as Jimmy said, has such a great bench. So, we're truly proud of these two candidates and of everyone else who sent in their resumes to be considered.

Mr. Izzo:

I'd like to say a few words about Mike Guthman. One of my mentors before I got on the RTM was Hadley Rose, our former Moderator. When I came on, Michael was voted off the RTM and Hadley said I'm really sorry you don't know Michael or don't have an opportunity to work with him because he is a phenomenal guy and also an extremely intelligent good person. Through the interview process, I really got to know Mike Guthman and I was so impressed, as we all were, with his background and his volunteerism to the town, RTM member, President of Terra Nova Homeowner's Association, Library Board of Trustees...It goes on and on. What really blew me away was his human resource background, how he relates to people. He is a people person and a judge of character and a man of great character. I'm very happy to announce him as one of our nominees and I hope you unanimously vote him on along with Terry.

#### **Members of the Westport electorate – no comments**

Ms. Karpf read the resolution and it was seconded.

**RESOLVED:** That upon the recommendation of the RTM Public Protection Committee, Michael Guthman and Theresa Fabi are hereby appointed to the Westport Civilian Review Panel.

#### **Members of the RTM**

Mr. Mandell:

Mike Guthman was on the RTM and I know him very well. We can't have a more earnest and intelligent individual representing our town and making sure the Civilian Review Panel works properly. Mike, I saw your picture real fast in the Brady Bunch here and I was happy to see your face again. I heartily endorse his candidacy for this.

Stephen Shackelford, district 8:

I want to emphasize two things. Number one, we really did have a number of fantastic candidates and we encourage them to get involved and find ways to get involved with the town. It was a difficult decision. Number two, I have to say that the two folks we ended up having consensus on were not necessarily, going into the interviews, were the two folks that a lot of us would have picked, not because they were not as good on paper as other but the interviews made a big difference to the process. We had a lot of great interviews. Mr. Guthman, in particular, came in with some good ideas about...part of what we're doing here is the Panel is organic. It has a mission but it needs people to run through the process and to figure out what works and what doesn't. As we

emphasized in our interview questions, the panel has multiple tasks including not just the investigations aspect which is important but also the hiring aspect and the process and procedures oversight aspect of it and we heard a number of people we interviewed who had great ideas for that and showed they would be very dedicated to learning the process, improving the processes of the Panel and making it work effectively for the town and Mike was one of the best for that. And Terry also impressed us greatly with her background both as a prosecutor but also working with justice-involved women in the non-profit that she has worked closely with for many years. We thought it was important to have a lawyer with that sort of experience on the Panel from the investigation side. So, I'm very proud of the work that the committee did. I think these are two great choices. I hope the RTM supports them but, again, everyone else who applied, we could have put 10 people on this Panel and been very pleased with all of them. So, thanks to everyone who took the time to apply and took the time to come and interview with us...I'll say 11, more than 11. We really appreciate it.

Mr. Lowenstein:

I will be abstaining on the vote tonight. This is not a reflection on the candidates themselves, one of whom, Mike Guthman, I know quite well from my library experience. I will be abstaining because I feel the Panel, as it is called, is really a Board or Commission and, as such, must be in conformity with chapter three of the Town Charter which prohibits elected officials from being on a Board or a Commission. This Panel has the Second and Third Selectmen on the Panel and I believe that is wrong. I was unable to convince the First Selectwoman or the Town Attorney of my position and so I am going to abstain tonight. I am told that there will be some proposals coming forward over time to bring the Panel to conformity with some of the Commission and Board requirements and my only hope is it is done in my lifetime. Thank you.

Don O'Day, district 3:

I had the pleasure of working with Mike back in my Board of Ed. days. Mike was one that would always do the right thing, kept me in line and I think Mike's a great choice. Terry, I've just known by telephone. I had a conversation with Terry set up by a friend not too long ago. Terry just moved to Westport and her goal was to begin to do as much as she can for the town. With the resume that she has which is world class, I'm sure we're all going to benefit from that. So, I'm happy to support both Mike and Terry. I think it shows the bench that Westport has and it's truly a wonderful thing. I'm happy to support both of them.

Ellen Lautenberg, district 7:

I just have a question, maybe for Jimmy. Besides the Second and Third Selectmen, I know we're filling two slots, how many total on the Panel?

Mr. Izzo:

Yes. We're filling two. We had to either fill with two Republicans or one Democrat on that. We have Harold Bailey on already who is a Democrat and that's representation from TEAM Westport. That's why we came down to, we ended up with one and one. Terry's resume is phenomenal and you all know Michael. Terry's blew us away with

number one, her ability to work with people which she would do outside of her job as a Prosecutor. She worked with women trying to get them into the system. She worked with the Legislatures in the City. She worked with Prosecutors. She had phenomenal rapport. I urge any of you, please, give her a call and talk to her. You will be taken aback with what a wonderful person she is and how balanced she is. That's one thing that all of the candidates were. It was non-political. They were all about fairness, quality. Let's look at the situation. Let's be fair to everyone involved. It was a moving process for all of us. I did not feel like we were there for hours upon hours. I learned a lot. As to what Mr. Lowenstein said, I've spoken with Eileen, our paid Town Attorney, I've spoken with Ira Bloom, paid Town Attorney, I'm going to back them 100 percent. Abstaining, I don't think it's the right thing to do. It is legal. We're doing it the right way and I think this should be unanimous vote by everyone.

Mr. Mall:

I'm also a member of the Public Protection Committee. I just wanted to make sure that everyone knew that what we focused on was trying to find the two best candidates. Like everyone said, we had an abundance of riches. It was a very difficult process and then, by the way, we checked party affiliation to make sure that we didn't have the wrong mix of party candidates. As it turned out, the two candidates that we came up with, their party affiliation happened to meet the requirements. It was really a non-partisan decision made by what we are, a non-partisan body as it should be in this town. It's up to all of us to strive to keep it that way. I just want to make sure it's understood, we went for the best candidates and oh, by the way, they happened to fit the requirements of the Charter. I wanted to clarify that, as well.

Ms. Batteau:

Thanks everybody on the Committee for working so hard to interview people. I know Michael Guthman and I don't have anything but support there but it's a bit hard to support somebody who you've never met, never seen and never spoken to. Was the decision of the committee unanimous?

Mr. Shackelford: Yes. It was.

Ms. Batteau:

I guess we take it on faith from you guys but was there a reason Terry didn't come to the meeting tonight?

Mr. Wieser: She is here and we were going to introduce her after the vote.

Ms. Batteau:

Are you iPhone? I was looking for you and thought you might be a neighbor. Thank you for coming to the meeting and I'll be glad to vote.

Mr. Wieser: We will introduce Ms. Fabi and Mr. Guthman after the vote.

Mr. Gold:

Jeff, I'm going to respectfully disagree with you. I've never met either one of these people. I've seen their resumes but it would be really nice if they could say a couple of words before we vote for them about who they are and why they want to do this.

Mr. Izzo:

Wait a minute. We didn't do this with the library people, did we? Come on.

Mr. Gold: We did it for the Transit District candidates.

Mr. Wieser:

I think that's fair if there's a request for it. I think the Public Protection Committee did a wonderful job and I was going to complement them, as well, after the vote but I think it's a very fair comment that it would be great to have Mike and Terry, Mr. Guthman and Ms. Fabi, say hello.

Mr. Gold:

This is not to cast aspersions on the Public Protection Committee. I do think they did a great job. I want to make that clear but I'd like to know the people I'm voting for before I vote for them.

Mr. Wieser:

That's very fair. Ms. Fabi, say hello and if you would, just give us a little bit of background and maybe some of what you wowed the Committee with in your interview.

Theresa Fabi:

Certainly. I have been coming up to Westport for many years. I have a sister who lives here. I moved here two years ago. Unfortunately, I was not expected to come up the way I came but my husband passed away very suddenly and I just wanted to be near family so I left my home in Brooklyn where I had spent over three decades and where I had worked and raised my family and came up to Westport and rented a house. I never left. I bought a house in June here. I retired from the DA's office in 2016. I was a career prosecutor. I have only ever known working in government, much more in the macro sense than in the micro sense here which I'm finding so fascinating, what little I'm learning now. Having relocated to Westport, I love it here, being a part of this place. I always thought we would retire and come here. So, I am starting my next chapter here. I am passionate about criminal justice. I think it's so critical to have faith in your Police Department. I think it's so critical that the Police Department feel embraced by the citizens it protects. Because of my background, I feel that I can bring something, based on the experience that I've had working with the Police Department my entire career, I think the breadth and depth of my experience in criminal justice in that regard, it's just the right fit for me as someone who does want to get involved with this town. It seemed like the right fit. I was incredibly impressed, I have to say with this whole process, by the people that I met from Andrea Moore, Jen Tooker, Jimmy Izzo was phenomenal, the people that interviewed me. It's just a very impressive group of people. I'm fascinated by this whole Representative Town Meeting or council that you have. You all work together

to be a part of your community and I'm just thrilled to be a part of it and to help out any way that I can.

Mr. Wieser:

Thank you Ms. Fabi. It's great to know you better. Mr. Guthman, welcome back to the RTM. You're either on mute or you've gone home...

Mike Guthman:

I just gave you my best line. You missed it. What I was saying was thank you for all those loving comments. I was very embarrassed by them all but appreciative of every one of them. As you know, for the last 10 or 15 years, since I moved to Westport, I got involved in public service much in the way that Theresa did upon coming to this town. This town lets anybody who wants to be involved in public service, be involved. It's so welcoming for people who want to be involved. Specifically, as involves the Panel, one of the things that came very clear in the call for candidates is the strong human resource background and that has been my professional career in human resources. So, as we think through some of the trending issues and hiring issues, I think I bring a lot to the committee that way and then my knowledge of the whole town from the different jobs I've had. I'd also like to second what Jimmy said about the professionalism of the selection process. Having been involved in a lot of these processes when I was President of the Trustees of the Library, we did all the selection there, all the interviews and I found that the job that the committee did was every bit of a match of what we did in the library. Again, I look forward to participating in this process and I'm excited about the opportunity.

Mr. Wieser:

Thank you Mr. Guthman. I think that was really useful so thank you to those who suggested that we hear from them. It is true that in the library and in some of the other commissions where we appoint we really don't hear from the people but this was unusual. It was the first time and it was very useful.

Sal Liccione, district 9:

I just want to thank my fellow committee members for the wonderful job that you did and I want to thank Theresa and Michael who is friends with my uncle. I think you did a wonderful job. You will both serve this town well. Can I call for the vote?

Mr. Wieser: No. We have one more comment from Christine Meiers Schatz.

Christine Meiers Schatz, district 2:

I just want to say, Ms. Fabi, that I think your resume truly spoke for itself. We are really lucky to have you on the Civilian Review Panel. You have really unique experience that I think is going to be additive to the perspectives there. I'll be voting for both candidates.

**By roll call vote, the motion passes 33-0-1. Mr. Lowenstein abstains.**

Mr. Wieser:

The motion passes. Thank you Ms. Fabi and Mr. Guthman for applying and for serving. It has been said many times already but I think it is worth pointing out that this could have gone a lot of different ways. This is the first time we've ever done this; the first time we've ever appointed people to this board and it comes with a bit of history in the past. It was a very smooth process. Public Protection did a wonderful job of organizing this and getting it done in fairly short order, given the complexities of it. I really want to thank them. I really also want to thank the 35 or so people who applied. There were a lot of people that many of us know and there were a lot of people that we don't know and I think it is the strength of Westport where we get people engaged in important things like this. For those of you who were not interviewed, we all heard you were all potential candidates and could do the job. I know it was a very hard decision but thank you for applying for everyone who did apply. Congratulations Mr. Guthman and Ms. Fabi. Good luck in this work. It's not going to be that easy. It's going to be a fair amount of activity.

Just one more thing, I've just been advised that the balloon is going up on the cell tower tomorrow morning at seven o'clock. It may be from seven to nine. So, for those of you who are interested in seeing the demonstration balloon cell tower thing on Green's Farms Road, it's happening tomorrow morning.

Mr. Gold: It's seven to 11.

Mr. Liccione:

Can I make a motion to make a sense of the meeting in support of the Ukraine Government and opposing the Russian Government?

Mr. Wieser:

So, there is a sense of the meeting motion. What would you like that to say?

Mr. Liccione:

That we support Ukraine and oppose the Russian Government right now. We can put it in better words.

Mr. Wieser:

I can put it in the words I think you are referring to:

**We the RTM condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a free and independent nation, recognized by the United Nations."**

Is that your motion, Sal?

Mr. Liccione: Yes. That is my motion.

Seconded by Candace Banks.

Mr. Mandell:

Mr. Moderator, it is an adjustment to the agenda so we need to vote on adding it.

Mr. Wieser: You're right. We need a 2/3 vote. (24 members)

**By roll call vote, the motion to add the item to the agenda passes 31-1. Mr. Gold opposed stating he is opposed to sense of the meeting resolutions. Ms. Milwe and Mr. Lowenstein had left the meeting.**

**By roll call vote, the sense of the meeting resolution passes unanimously 32-0.**

Mr. Wieser:

Thank you. That accomplished more than we anticipated. It is a great thing to do; especially, I'm sure there are many family connections but I learned earlier this evening that our member, Ms. Kail has or had three grandparents from Ukraine. Well, good luck to all of them. God bless them. I believe we are adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeffrey M. Dunkerton  
Town Clerk

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

by Jacquelyn Fuchs

**ATTENDANCE: March 1, 2022**

DIST.	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	NOTIFIED MODERATOR	LATE/ LEFT EARLY
1	Matthew Mandell	X			
	Liz Milwe	X			Left 9:15 pm
	Kristin M. Purcell	X			
	Chris Tait	X			
2	Harris Falk	X			
	Jay Keenan	X			
	Louis M. Mall	X			
	Christine Meiers Schatz	X			
3	Mark Friedman	X			
	Arline Gertzoff	X			
	Jimmy Izzo	X			
	Don O'Day	X			
4	James Bairaktaris	X			
	Andrew J. Colabella	X			
	Noah Hammond	X			
	Jeff Wieser	X			
5	Peter Gold	X			
	Karen Kramer	X			
	Richard Lowenstein	X			Left 9:15 pm
	Claudia Shaum	X			
6	Candace Banks	X			
	Jessica Bram	X			
	Seth Braunstein	X			
	Cathy Talmadge		X	X	
7	Brandi Briggs	X			
	Lauren Karpf	X			
	Jack Klinge	X			
	Ellen Lautenberg	X			
8	Wendy Batteau	X			
	Rachel Cohn	X			
	Lisa Newman	X			
	Stephen Shackelford	X			
9	Lori Church	X			
	Nancy Kail	X			
	Sal Liccione	X			
	Kristin Schneeman		X	X	
<b>Total</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>		