



**Town of North Stonington
Board of Selectmen Meeting
North Stonington Education Center & Zoom Meeting
September 12, 2023
6:30 PM**

Public will be able to attend the meeting in person or via Zoom with the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87939870150?pwd=RzFtLzVIL2hyVFlaaS9MR0NsYnZ0dz09>

Or via Zoom App-Enter Meeting ID: 879 3987 0150

Passcode: 586220

Or listen only via telephone by calling 646 558 8656 and enter Meeting ID: 879 3987 0150

Link to 9/12/23 Meeting Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q47EgZoEm0M>

MINUTES

1. Call to order/Roll Call: Call to order at 6:44pm. First Selectman Bob Carlson, Selectman Brett Mastroianni, and Selectman Nicole Porter in attendance with Director of Administration & Finance Christine Dias and Town Attorney Rob Avena.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items*
4. Selectman Comments: Selectman Mastroianni would like to Thank all those who came out for the POCD meeting on September 9 at 9:00am. Thank you also to Juliet Hodge for running the meeting.
5. First Selectman Report/Correspondence: Gary Annino would like permission to tap the Maple trees at the Town property on Main Street. Motion to allow Gary Annino to tap some of the maple trees in Town made by Selectman Porter, 2nd by Selectman Mastroianni; motion approved 3-0-0.
6. Lake of Isles Conservation Easement: Town Attorney Rob Avena spoke regarding the Conservation Easement that was granted to the Town on the property of Lake of Isles LLC around February 2004. There was information brought to the attention of the Board of Selectman that trees were taken down in parts of the Easement. Harry Heller Attorney for the Lake of Isle spoke as well. Following are the proposed actions as discussed with Lake of Isles. Discussion followed.

1. Lake of Isles LLC (LOI) will cease any tree cutting and removal within the Town Preserved Conservation Areas, and any trees that have been cut by the contractor HULL, but not yet removed from such areas, will remain in place.
2. LOI shall repair the damage to the stone wall located on LOI lands off of Swantown Road that occurred during the tree cutting activities to the reasonable satisfaction of the Town First Selectman.
3. LOI will have the Town Preserved Conservation Areas posted by the signage supplied by the Town Conservation Commission, and pledge to maintain and replace the Conservation Easement Area markers when necessary, and when reasonably requested by the First Selectman.
4. In the future, Lake of Isles, LLC shall not engage in any activities within the conservation easement area which are inconsistent with the terms and provisions of the Conservation Easement. In the event that Lake of Isles, LLC intends to engage in a future selective cutting of timber conducted in accordance with a forestry management plan prepared by a third party certified state forester, Lake of Isles, LLC shall provide written notice thereof to the Town of North Stonington and will refrain from commencing operations during the thirty day comment period contained in the Conservation Easement. In the event that the Town of North Stonington either (i) objects to such activity or (ii) renders comments and/or conditions with respect to such activity which are unacceptable to Lake of Isles, LLC, Lake of Isles, LLC shall have the right to conduct such activity only after it obtains the approval of such activity from a third party governmental agency formed for the purpose of, inter alia, regulating or providing advice with respect to activities which affect the environment, which by way of example, but not by way of limitation, may include the National Resource Conservation Service. The notice required shall be provided to the First Selectman of the Town of North Stonington, New Town Hall, 40 Main Street, North Stonington, Connecticut 06359.
5. Without admitting that any violation of the substantive terms of the Conservation Easement has occurred, Lake of Isles, LLC agrees to contribute up to Two Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$2,500.00) Dollars to the Town of North Stonington to reimburse the Town of North Stonington for attorney's fees incurred in the interpretation of the material terms of the Conservation Easement as it relates to the forestry management activities recently conducted by Lake of Isles, LLC's subcontractor, Hull Forestry Products.
7. The above terms will be incorporated into a Release and Settlement Agreement between the Parties, subject to town attorney and tribal counsel as to form. The First Selectman of the town and a general member of LOI are hereby duly authorized to execute said release agreement.

Motion to accept the agreement presented by Town Attorney Rob Avena with the amount of up to \$2500.00 for attorney fees by First Selectman Carlson, 2nd by Selectman Mastroianni. Motion failed 1-2. Selectman Porter and Selectman Mastroianni opposed. Motion to ask attorney Harry Heller to request an additional \$5000.00 along with the \$2500.00 attorney fees by Selectman Porter, 2nd by Selectman Mastroianni; motion passed 2-1; First Selectman Carlson opposed.

- 8. Affordable Housing on Wintechog Hill:** Presentation given by Members of Keeping North Stonington Affordable; Mary Ann Ricker and Juliet Hodge along with Consultant Dave Berto. Discussion followed. Motion to move the proposed information onto the Planning and Zoning Commission for 8-24 review by Selectman Porter, 2nd by First Selectman Carlson. Selectman Porter withdrew her motion. Selectman Mastroianni would like to make a motion to send this over for 8-24 review to Planning and Zoning Commission in regard to the leasing of 10 acres on Wintechog Hill Rd, 2nd by Selectman Porter; motion approved 3-0-0.
- 9. Community Conversation:** Grounds of 298 Norwich Westerly Road, this was a successful event. Will be addressed at a future meeting.
- 10. Call for Fall Town Meeting:** Selectman Mastroianni made a motion to send the four questions to Town Meeting on October 2, 2023, at the North Stonington Education Center at 298 Norwich Westerly Rd at 6:30pm, 2nd by Selectman Porter; motion approved 3-0-0.
- 11. Tax Refunds:** Motion to approve the tax refunds in the total of \$899.01 by Selectman Mastroianni, 2nd by Selectman Porter; motion approved 3-0-0.
 - a.** ACAR Leasing: \$264.10
 - b.** Brigham D Aldrich: \$14.50
 - c.** Joseph M Holt: \$40.00
 - d.** Linda J Sample: \$188.72
 - e.** Kerri L Scarchilli: \$18.96
 - f.** Edmund W Scarchilli: \$348.00
 - g.** Stephen E Sadowski: \$24.73
- 12. Old Business**
 - a.** Demolition of One Story 298 Norwich Westerly Road: no update.
 - b.** Vacancies & Appointments: no update.
 - c.** ARPA Funds Update and Discussion: No update.
 - d.** Plan of Conservation & Development Update: Vision session went well.
- 13. Minutes**
 - a.** August 22, 2023 Meeting: Motion by Selectman Porter to approve the Minutes as presented, 2nd by Selectman Mastroianni; motion approved 3-0-0.
 - b.** August 29, 2023 Special Meeting: Motion by Selectman Porter to approve the Minutes as presented, 2nd by Selectman Mastroianni; motion approved 3-0-0.
- 14. Public Comments***

15.Next Meeting: September 26, 2023

16. Adjournment: Motion by Selectman Mastroianni to adjourn at 10:14pm, 2nd by First Selectman Carlson; motion approved 3-0-0.

*The Board of Selectmen respectfully requests that public comments do not exceed two (2) minutes per person in respect for everyone's time.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Knight