



**Town of North Stonington
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Zoom Meeting
October 13, 2020
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: 6:00pm, First Selectman Mike Uργο, Selectmen Nita Kincaid, and Selectman Bob Carlson in attendance with Christine Dias, Administration & Finance Officer.
2. Public Comments on non-agenda items*
 - a. Motion by First Selectman Uργο to move item 13 to 4a, 2nd by Selectman Carlson, motion approved 3-0-0
3. Agricultural exemption 38 Rocky Hollow Road
 - a. Selectman Uργο discussed why there was a need for this topic to be acted on, discussion followed. The Selectmen elected to research and continue discussions at the next meeting.
4. John Dean Gallup Conditions Assessment & Feasibility Study RFQ award and additional appropriation request for this grant.
 - a. The Town of North Stonington applied for a \$20,000 Survey and Planning Grant from the State Historic Preservation Office to prepare a Conditions Assessment and Feasibility Study. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was made in September and four candidates and their proposals were received.
 - b. Motion by Selectman Kincaid for the award pending approval of the additional appropriation request as it relates to the technical assistance for housing plan for \$4,500 and the conditions assessment and feasibility study for \$20,000, 2nd by Selectman Carlson, motion approved 3-0-0.
 - c. Motion by Selectman Kincaid to award RFQ to Lothrop, 2nd by Selectman Carlson, motion approved 3-0-0.
4. Sustainable CT Match Program
 - a. Selectman Uργο provided an update on the SustainableCT initiatives. Alexis Kahn our local SustainableCT “chair” offered comments and support. With our first SustainableCT match initiative we will be supporting the purchase of the Sheets Family Forest on Putcker Road. The town will not have to contribute any funds towards this purchase at this time. Avalonia is

purchasing the land and has been under contract to complete the purchase. They are in need of \$30,000.00 more dollars to complete the purchase. Through this grant program Sustainable CT will match 25% of crowdfunding efforts. There will be a crowdfunding effort to raise \$22,500.00 for Avalonia and SustainableCT will match with a contribution of \$7,500.00. A minimum of 20 people must donate and funds can be donated online or by check to Avalonia with a note referencing the Sheets Family Forest. Terri Eickel, Director of Development and Programming at Avalonia provided further information. When the website is complete, Selectman Urgo will send out the link.

- b. Selectman Kincaid moved to pursue the Sustainable CT program and crowdfunding for the purchase of Herman E. Sheets Family Forest, 2nd by Selectman Carlson, motion approved 3-0-0.
5. 298 Norwich Westerly Road lease update
 - a. No new update.
6. 298 Norwich Westerly Road energy efficiency meeting discussion update
 - a. Selectman Urgo discussed recent meetings with Eversource Energy and Prism Energy concerning the creating more efficiency with utility cost and functionality.
7. Town Hall operations follow up
 - a. Selectman Urgo discussed the appropriation sent to Board of Finance to increase efficiency was not approved. Selectman Urgo, Christine Dias, Administration & Finance Officer and Juliet Hodge, Planning, Development and Zoning Official, will examine Town Hall and the town in general, to bring forward a report next month on their findings to drive the budgetary process this year.
8. Two story wing 298 Norwich Westerly Road discussion and/or action
 - a. Selectman Urgo presented the need to follow up about potential use of the building and potential rise in upkeep during the winter months.
9. Exit 92 area water update
 - a. Selectman Urgo discussed the issue of water access in the area near exit 92 affecting current and future businesses.
10. Lake draw down request update and/or action

- a. Selectman Urgo will submit to the state a modified letter urging a cautious approach to the original request as the drought was not in effect at the time of original request.

11. Route 2 sidewalk discussion

- a. Selectman Urgo provided an update after last week's initial meeting with the sidewalk initiative committee. He reported the Council of Governments staff will be creating some rough sketches that could be used to help drive future decisions and grant applications for sidewalk projects in some of the area of Route 2 to help increase safety and reduce accidents in the area.

12. Community Foundation of Eastern CT Grant for lake treatment

- a. Update provided by Christine Dias, Administration & Finance Officer, regarding the costs for treatment of the three lakes and available grant funding.

13. COVID-19 Update

- a. Selectman Urgo discussed cases in the town and surrounding areas, findings from Ledge Light Heath and their online forum Thursday October 15, 2020 at 7pm. A news blast will be sent out tomorrow.

14. Extreme drought update

- a. Selectman Urgo reminded the board that the town is still experiencing drought-like conditions despite the recent rain.

15. Tax Refunds

- a. Motion by Selectman Carlson to approve the tax refunds as presented by the Tax Collector, 2nd by Selectman Kincaid, motion approved 3-0-0.

Robert Beattie Jr: 107.84

Robert Beattie Jr: 76.58

Vault Trust: 393.88

Andrew Hryniewicz: 212.74

Joan Carroll: 37.65

Toyota Lease Trust: 362.03

Toyota Lease Trust: 233.94

Toyota Lease Trust: 139.70

Toyota Lease Trust: 261.52

Toyota Lease Trust: 226.12

Toyota Lease Trust: 457.55

Toyota Lease Trust: 203.55

16. Minutes

- a. September 22, 2020 - Special Meeting: Motion by Selectman Carlson to approve the minutes as presented, 2nd by Selectman Kincaid, motion approved 3-0-0.
 - b. September 22nd, 2020: Motion by Selectman Carlson to approve the minutes as presented, 2nd by Selectman Kincaid, motion approved 3-0-0.
17. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 8:00pm by Selectman Carlson, 2nd by Selectman Urgo, motion approved 3-0-0

Public will be able to attend the meeting by calling in through Zoom. Please call 1 646 558 8656, then enter Meeting ID: 839 9731 2243.

*Public comment on agenda items will be allowed following each item. Public comments are limited to 2 minutes in respect for everyone's time

Respectfully submitted,
Bailey Talbott