

Linda M. Hodge



First Selectman

NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

2008 MAY 19 PM 2:41

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COLCHESTER, CT

**Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 15, 2008
Colchester Town Hall**

**Meeting Room 1 – Immediately Following Conclusion of Board of Selectmen Public
Hearing which Begins at 7:00 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Linda Hodge, Stan Soby, Greg Cordova (joined at 7:14 p.m.), John Malsbenden

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rosemary Coyle

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Caplet, Adam Turner, Don Herbert, Ryan Blessing, Bill Offinoski, Jim Stavola, Dave Martin, Jess McMinn, Paul Giudice, Betty Wagner, Mark Decker, Dot Mrowka, Lynne Stephenson, and other citizens.

1. **Call to Order:** First Selectman L. Hodge called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** S. Soby moved to add as new #13 "Discussion and Possible Action on Draft Proposal for Streamflow Monitoring", as a new #14 "Discussion and Possible Action on CT WARN" and renumber remaining items consecutively starting with #15, and add a new #27 "Executive Session – Strategy for Collective Bargaining – MEUI Local #506, Public Works", seconded by J. Malsbenden. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
3. **Approve Minutes of the May 1, 2008 Special Joint Board of Selectmen and Sewer & Water Commission Meeting Minutes:** J. Malsbenden moved to approve the May 1, 2008 special joint Board of Selectmen and Sewer & Water Commission meeting minutes as presented, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
4. **Approve Minutes of the May 1, 2008 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes:** J. Malsbenden moved to approve the May 1, 2008 regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
5. **Approve Minutes of the May 8, 2008 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes:** S. Soby moved to approve the May 8, 2008 special meeting minutes as presented, seconded by J. Malsbenden. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
6. **Citizen's Comments:** Dorothy Mrowka spoke in opposition to the speed humps on Elm Street. Lynn Stephenson asked for clarification on the agenda item regarding the parking lot. Dave Martin asked for confirmation on the land in question for the parking lot and location of the tree. First Selectman L. Hodge noted that the item on the agenda with regards to the tree and parking lot was purposed to discuss the decision as to whether the tree should be cut down, not to address a decision on work to be done to the parking lot.

7. Boards and Commissions – Interviews and/or Possible Appointments and Resignations

- a. **Business Development Task Force (member): Jeffrey D. Blumberger (interviewed on 5/1/08):** J. Malsbenden moved to appoint Jeffrey D. Blumberger as a member of the Business Development Task Force, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- b. **Business Development Task Force (member): Matthew Maglro (to be interviewed):** Matthew Maglro was not present to be interviewed.

8. Budget Transfers

- a. **Health – Membership Fee:** S. Soby moved to approve the budget transfer from “Health – Other Purchased Supplies (14201 - 42340)” to “Health - Dues and subscriptions (14201 - 43258)” in the amount of \$500.⁰⁰, to “Invoice is an unforeseen expense and insufficient funds are in the line item to pay the invoice. Take funds from other purchased supplies – no larvicide is planned to be purchased this year”, seconded by J. Malsbenden. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
 - b. **Town Clerk – Print Wheel:** J. Malsbenden moved to approve the budget transfer from “Town Clerk - Copier (11501 - 42233)” to “Town Clerk – Equipment Repair (11501 – 46224)” in the amount of \$400.⁰⁰, to “Our automatic volume and page needed a new print wheel because the volumes only went as high as 999. In order to progress to volume 1000 a new slot had to be created. We have sent out the Town Seal for repairs as the impression is no longer distinguishable. They will remove the die and place in new housing”, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
 - c. **Town Clerk – Training:** S. Soby moved to approve the budget transfer from “Town Clerk – Dues and Subscriptions (11501 – 43258)” to “Town Clerk – Travel, Training & Meetings (11501 – 43213)” in the amount of \$50.⁰⁰, to “Asst. Town Clerk signing up for school, spring session (vitals), towards certification. Cost has increased to \$140.00, needs to be transferred to Travel as balance of that account is down to \$121.00. Have remaining funds after all dues have been paid for this year”, seconded by J. Malsbenden. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
 - d. **First Selectman – Salmon River Watershed Partnership:** J. Malsbenden moved to approve the budget transfer from “First Selectman – Other Reg & Part-time (11201 40102)” to “First Selectman – Dues & Subscriptions (11201 43258)” in the amount of \$1350.⁰⁰, to “support the Salmon River Watershed Partnership by fully funding their request of \$5000. Vacant position for the majority of the year (1st Selectman’s Executive Assistant) this transfer will be combined with remaining funds in the Dues & Subscriptions budget for the current year due to lower membership fees for other organizations. The Fiscal 2008-09 Budget includes an amount of \$2500 for the Partnership”, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 9. Tax Refunds & Rebates:** After review S. Soby moved to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$21.10 to Deborah and Dennis McDonald, \$11.56 to Mark Simone, \$10.00 to Betty and Roland Bruhet, \$20.83 to Susan Smith, \$5.10 to Steven Foley, \$12.68 to William King, seconded by J. Malsbenden. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

- 10. Discussion and Possible Action on Westchester Fire House as Voting Location (Registrars):** Betty Wagner and Dorothy Mrowka presented their concerns to the Board of Selectmen on the issue of the Westchester Fire House as a voting location. Correspondence was received from the Fire Company regarding the parking issue (attachment). When asked if the additional parking could be done with only partial paving of the entire lot by Betty Wagner during discussion, Fire Company member Gary Avery responded in the negative. Following discussion, J. Malsbenden moved to table this item so that additional information could be obtained, seconded by S. Soby. MOTION CARRIED.

Greg Cordova joined the meeting as a voting member during discussion for this item at 7:14 p.m.
- 11. Discussion and Possible Action on Speed Hump Policy:** S. Soby moved to approve the "Town of Colchester Speed Hump Policy" as presented, seconded by J. Malsbenden. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 12. Discussion and Possible Action on Sidewalk Bid Waiver Request:** Mark Decker explained the bid waiver request to the Board of Selectmen. S. Soby moved to approve the bid waiver request as presented, seconded by G. Cordova. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 13. Discussion and Possible Action on Draft Proposal for Streamflow Monitoring:** Mark Decker explained the draft proposal for streamflow monitoring to the Board of Selectmen. J. Malsbenden moved to approve the draft proposal as presented and to authorize the First Selectman to sign any necessary documents, seconded by S. Soby. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 14. Discussion and Possible Action on CT WARN:** S. Soby moved to approve the agreement with CT WARN and to authorize the First Selectman to sign any necessary documents, seconded by G. Cordova. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 15. Discussion and Possible Action on Commuter Lot Expansion:** S. Soby moved that regardless of future action on work to be done to the parking lot, the large, white oak tree that stands in the center of the proposed area for the expansion of the commuter lot on Old Hartford Road was not to be cut down, seconded by J. Malsbenden. During discussion, L. Hodge noted that the town would do some work to maintain the tree in an effort to make it safe for pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Lynne Stephenson spoke as a representative of the Parks & Recreation Commission and noted their concerns about using alternate parking due to pedestrian safety. A citizen suggested that the Cougars would be willing to donate a couple trees to the town if this tree was removed. Following discussion, Greg Cordova abstained. All remaining members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 16. Discussion and Possible Action on Aetna Foundation Grant:** J. Malsbenden moved to approve the Aetna Foundation Grant and to authorize the First Selectman to sign any necessary documents, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 17. Discussion and Possible Action on Electricity Procurement:** J. Malsbenden moved to approve the agreements and to authorize the First Selectman to sign any contract that comes up on the bidding date, seconded by G. Cordova. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

- 18. Discussion and Possible Action on Colchester Healthy Links Grant:** J. Malsbenden moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the documents as presented and any necessary documents relative to the Colchester Healthy Links Grant, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 19. Discussion and Possible Action on Fiscal year 2008 Community Development Block Grant Program Certified Resolution:** S. Soby moved to approve the resolution as required CDBG program and to authorize the First Selectman to sign any necessary documents, seconded by J. Malsbenden. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 20. Discussion and Possible Action on Colchester Police Commission Fundraising/Donation Proposal:** S. Soby moved to approve the Colchester Police Commission Fundraising/Donation Proposal as presented with an amendment to #8, where "First Selectwoman" is changed to "First Selectman", seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 21. Colchester Police Commission Actions Toward Repair of Cruiser Electrical Issues**

 - a. Discussion on Colchester Police Commission Actions Toward Repair of Cruiser Electrical Issues:** Bill Offinoski and First Selectman L. Hodge reported to the Board of Selectmen on the status of the bid process for repair of cruiser electrical issues. The Board of Selectmen discussed this item.
 - b. Possible Action on Colchester Police Commission Actions Toward Repair of Cruiser Electrical Issues (Budget Transfer Request):** J. Malsbenden moved to approve the budget transfer from "Police – Regular Payroll (12101 40101)" to "Police – Vehicle Maintenance (12101 46390)" in the amount of \$10,000.⁰⁰, to "rewire and standardize police car consoles for vehicles #5, 6, 7, and 8. Vacant officer positions", seconded by G. Cordova. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

J. Malsbenden moved to approve the installation contract with Scranton Communications & Electronics, LLC for cruisers "5", "6", "7", and "8" and to authorize the First Selectman to sign any necessary documents, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 22. Discussion and Possible Action on the Colchester Economic Development Commission's Recommendation for Jack Faski's CTIP Application (Colchester Economic Development Commission):** Adam Turner presented to the Board of Selectmen on the Colchester Economic Development Commission's recommendation for Jack Faski's CTIP application. J. Malsbenden moved to approve Jack Faski's CTIP application and to forward it to Town Meeting to take place immediately before the next available Board of Selectmen meeting as per the warning requirements, seconded by S. Soby. Following discussion, all members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 23. Discussion and Possible Action on Elderly Tax Relief Task Force Recommendation for Ordinance Amendment as Recommended by the Board of Finance:** S. Soby moved to approve the "Elderly Tax Relief Task Force Recommendation for Ordinance Amendment" as recommended by the Board of Finance and to forward it to Town Meeting to take place immediately before the next available Board of Selectmen meeting as per the warning requirements, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 24. Citizen's Comments:** None

25. First Selectman's Report: First Selectman L. Hodge reported on the passage of the budget at the first referendum, ongoing progress of the purchasing policy work group, discussions on a future blight legislation, the successful Salmon River Watershed Compact ceremony, the arrival of a new business in the old Eblen's space, and the scheduled ceremony at the state capitol for the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness award.

26. Liaison Reports: The selectmen reported on their respective boards.

27. Executive Session -- Strategy for Collective Bargaining -- MEUI Local #506, Public Works: J. Malsbenden moved to enter into executive session regarding Strategy for Collective Bargaining -- MEUI Local #506, Public Works, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

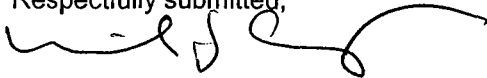
The selectmen entered into executive session at 8:58 p.m. and came out of executive session at 9:07 p.m.

28. Adjourn: G. Cordova moved to adjourn at 9:07 p.m., seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

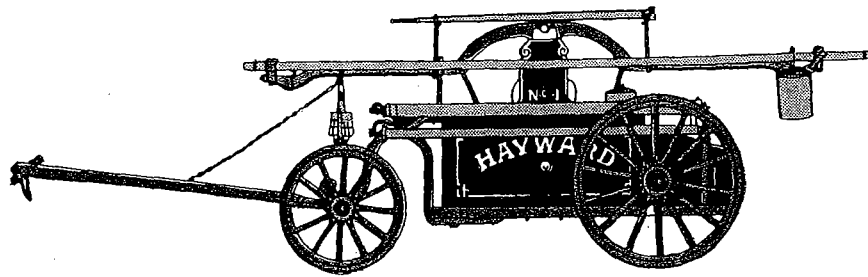
Attachments

1. Letter dated May 10, 2008 from David E. Martin (President of Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company) to the Registrars of Voters, Town of Colchester
2. Letter dated May 12, 2008 from Lynette Dimock (Secretary, Parks & Recreation Commission, Town of Colchester) to the Board of Selectmen, Town of Colchester
3. Letter dated May 15, 2008 from Kevin Kelly (Tree Warden/Highway Supervisor) to the Board of Selectmen, Town of Colchester

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Caplet
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman



Colchester Hayward Vol. Fire Co.

Established in 1854

May 10, 2008

Dorothy A. Mrowka
Betty S. Wagner
Registrars of Voters
127 Norwich Avenue
Colchester, CT 06415

Dear Dorothy and Betty,

On Monday, May 5th, 2008, we met concerning the issue of creating 12 additional parking stalls at the Westchester Company 2 Station to facilitate more parking for the upcoming November election.

On Thursday, May 8th, the monthly meeting of the CHVFC was held and the proposal was discussed. After discussion, we decided that the following would be agreeable:

We would agree to the additional parking area provided that the entire parking area is repaved, with the Town of Colchester financing the project with all necessary permits, approvals, etc. We also feel that additional diagonal spaces might be feasible on the right side of the facility as well. Our reasoning is based on our repeated requests for repaving at the Company 2 station, which by virtue of budgets, has never been achieved.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'David E. Martin'. The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

David E. Martin, President
Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company

Cc: W. Cox, L. Hodge

May 12, 2008

Colchester Board of Selectmen
127 Norwich Avenue
Colchester, CT 06415

Dear Selectmen:

The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to express our support of the expansion of the commuter parking lot on Old Hartford Road. The current parking area that services the field utilized by youth lacrosse and youth football is an area of concern. Since there are not adequate parking spots available in this lot, it is necessary to park on the road and across the street. The lack of a crosswalk combined with a poor line of sight make crossing the street hazardous. The entrance and exit to the parking lot gets congested, adding to the unsafe conditions.

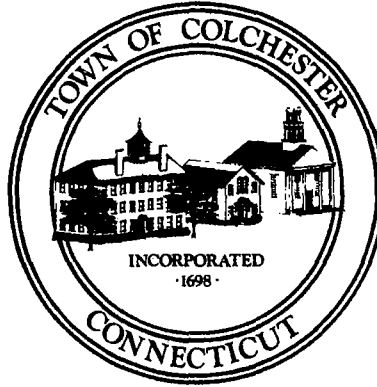
While the parking lot at the Recplex is accessible, it is not a feasible alternative. In the evening the complex is dark and families with young children would be forced to walk to their vehicles without adequate lighting. Also, many times on weekends there is limited parking available at the Recplex when other sporting activities are taking place.

The commission recognizes that the White Oak tree discovered in the proposed parking area needs to be addressed. Regardless of the decision that is made concerning the tree, we feel the expansion plans should continue to move forward. If the decision is to remove the tree, the plan can go on as proposed; otherwise a revised plan incorporating the tree should be implemented.

Expanding the parking lot would be the best option for safety.

Sincerely,

Lynette Dimock
Secretary
Colchester Parks & Recreation Commission



Memo:
Board of Selectman Meeting
5/15/08

RE: Tree in the Commuter Parking Area

I would like to take a moment to offer another view as to the value that trees can offer to our community, and an opinion concerning the work in question. A new parking area next to the commuter lot adjacent to the Highway garage has been proposed. Currently, this lot is overcrowded and is not meeting the parking demands for this popular area. However, there is a very large tree within the proposed site. There have been many discussions regarding the removal of this tree. If the tree remains within the new parking area the lot will hold approximately 40 parking spaces. If the tree is removed the cleared area will allow for an additional 18 parking spaces.

I have taken a measurement of the tree and found it to be approximately 139" in diameter. With this information we can guess that this tree may be anywhere from approximately 70 to 140 years old. Trees of this size are rare, and comparable to those listed in the Connecticut Notable Trees listing. Unfortunately, due to its age, if we remove this tree, we would never be able to replace it in our lifetime.

Clearly, the tree in question is in need of maintenance. It has some large branches dying off and is in need of pruning. It is recommended that maintenance work be performed on the tree to make it safe for pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

Trees in general add to the quality of life in a community. "Social scientists have started to focus on these benefits and have documented for example, increased spending in retail districts and reduced crime in public housing because of trees" (Ricard, Dreyer). Trees help to improve the quality of the air and help to reduce the cost of storm water management. The aesthetic value alone helps to promote a better visual atmosphere within the community.

Trees such as this are a rarity. Exploring other options may be a way to benefit from such a valuable resource. An example may be to plant a lawn area around the base of the tree and include picnic tables to utilize the setting. If the tree should die off in the future it then could easily be removed and the parking could then be expanded. Whatever decision is reached, we should take the time to appreciate and value our

public trees. They are a resource that have helped us grow as a community and should be passed on to future generations so that they may also appreciate their value.

Sincerely,
Kevin Kelly
Tree Warden/ Highway Supervisor
Town of Colchester