



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

**Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 19, 2012
Colchester Town Hall**

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2012 APR 20 PM 8:02
NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK
Nancy A. Bray

Meeting Room 1 – Immediately Following Commission Chairmen Meeting at 7:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Gregg Schuster, Selectman James Ford, Selectman Stan Soby, and Selectman Rosemary Coyle

MEMBERS ABSENT: Selectman Greg Cordova

OTHERS PRESENT: Gina Santos, Adam Turner, Dot Mrowka, Jenny Contois, Nancy Bray, Walter Cox, Ron Goldstein, Robert Tarlov, Steven Schuster and other citizens

1. Call to Order

First Selectman G. Schuster called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.

2. Additions to Agenda

S. Soby moved to add to the agenda item #9, "Discussion and Possible Action on Farm Preservation," and renumber accordingly, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approve Minutes of the April 5, 2012 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting

R. Coyle moved to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2012 regular Board of Selectmen meeting, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Citizen's Comments

None

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

a. Moved to follow item #9

G. Schuster recused himself from the discussion on 5b and turned the chair over to Selectman Soby

b. Fair Rent Commission. Discussion and Possible member appointment for a three-year term to expire 04/30/15. Steven A Schuster was interviewed on 04/05/2012.

R. Coyle moved to appoint Steven A. Schuster as a member of the Fair Rent Commission for a three-year term to expire 04/30/15, seconded by J. Ford. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Selectman Soby turned the chair back to First Selectman Schuster

c. Planning & Zoning Commission. Discussion and Possible member appointment for a three-year term to expire 12/31/14. Christopher Bakaj was interviewed on 04/05/2012.

S. Soby moved to appoint Christopher Bakaj as a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission for a three-year term to expire 12/31/14, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

d. Conservation Commission. Alternate appointment for a three-year term to expire 10/31/15. Mike Trocchi to be interviewed.

Mike Trocchi was absent.

6. Budget Transfers

None

7. Tax Refunds

R. Coyle moved to approve the tax refunds of \$5.09 to Richard & Shirley Barber, \$48.00 to Hugh Campbell, \$58.32 to Michael Doody, Jr., \$1,106.38 to Monica & Lisa Everett, \$59.35 to Oscar & Lucia Ferland, \$74.97 to GAIA Colchester LLC, \$11.01 to Walter & Rita Herman, \$98.88 to Nutmeg Gravel & Excavating, \$4,404.40 to Nutmeg Housing Devlp Corp., \$9.82 to Teresa Ortiz, \$50.83 to Gregory & Andrea Rankowitz, \$9.95 to Steven & Lisa Sicard, \$1,395.73 to Ann Smyk, and \$219.47 to VW Credit Leasing LTD, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Presentation of Eagle Scout Project by Kyle McCormick

Kyle McCormick presented his project which was the trail improvement of the Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands. Kyle created a project plan and listed the goals. He received approval and started working on the project in July 2011. With the assistance of other Boy Scout troops the goals were accomplished. Kyle thanked Jay Gigliotti, Tim Angell, Greg Plunkett, Sean O'Leary and First Selectman G. Schuster for their assistance with this project.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Farm Preservation

Discussion was had regarding potential acquisitions and how these acquisitions would be handled. J. Ford suggested looking into outside funding to support this particular acquisition and how should to approach this in the future. Liz Gilman addressed the board regarding her concerns with the future of the farm and how important she believes funding is for it to remain a farm. The liaison of the CT Farm Bureau addressed his concerns.

5a. Fair Rent Commission. Member re-appointment for a three-year term to expire 04/30/2015. Jack Faski to be interviewed.

Jack Faski was interviewed. R. Coyle moved to re-appoint Jack Faski to the Fair Rent Commission for a three-year term to expire 04/30/2015, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Fire Prevention & Safety Grant – Residential Smoke Alarm Program

Chief Cox stated the importance of smoke alarms. The goal is to target specific age groups (i.e. senior citizens and families with young children). These particular smoke alarms have the ability to detect smoldering, high heat flame alarms and are voice activated to alert people of fires. With approval of the grant they would be allowed to purchase 1250 smoke alarms and distribute them to the specific age groups. Chief Cox also stated the fire department would take on the responsibility to assist in training people on how to use the smoke alarms properly and also assist with installation. R. Coyle moved to give Chief Cox permission to apply for the Fire Prevention & Safety Grant, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Local Option Property Tax Relief Task Force

First Selectman G Schuster stated the confusion was over the wording in the ordinance about forming this task force every 5 years. The confusion was what is grand list 2012? R. Coyle researched and concluded this should be done next year.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Old Firehouse Lease

The board members received a copy of the lease which the language has been agreed upon between the town and the firehouse. S. Soby suggested one change that should be made to the lease. First Selectman G. Schuster will make the appropriate changes.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Memorandum of Agreement with Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3)

The members of the board received a packet prior to tonight's meeting with the updates to the memorandum of agreement. Cindy Praisner gave a brief overview. R. Coyle moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3), seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Continuation of the Discovery Initiative Grant (C3)

Shelly Flynn gave a brief overview of how the grant works. R. Coyle moved to authorize the First Selectmen to sign the Continuation of the Discovery Initiative Grant for a two year application, S. Soby seconded. Unanimously approved, MOTION CARRIED.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Personnel Policy

a. Section II, pages 7 – 14 (2nd Reading)

Discussion was had and changes were recommended. First Selectman G. Schuster will make appropriate changes.

16. Citizen's Comments

None

17. First Selectman's Report

First Selectman G. Schuster stated the construction will begin shortly on the grant funded sidewalk on Lebanon Avenue and Main Street. There was a great presentation had regarding FOIA.

18. Liaison Report

J. Ford attended two meetings one with the Historic District Commission and attended the combined meeting of the Open Space and Conservation Committee.

19. Executive Session to Discuss Land Acquisition

S. Soby moved to enter into executive session to discuss land acquisition and to invite the town planner and the chair of the Board of Finance, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Entered into executive session at 8:46 p.m.
Exited from executive session at 9:19 p.m.

20. Executive Session to Discuss Litigation and Pending Claims

S. Soby moved to enter into executive session to discuss litigation and pending claims and to invite the town planner, seconded by J. Ford. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Entered into executive session at 9:20 p.m.
Exited from executive session at 9:33 p.m.

21. Executive Session to Discuss Negotiations with Colchester Police Local 2693T, AFSCME Council #15

S. Soby moved to enter into executive session to discuss negotiations with Colchester Police local 2693T AFSCME Council #15, seconded by J. Ford. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Entered into executive session at 9:34 p.m.
Exited from executive session at 9:45 p.m.

22. Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matter

R. Coyle moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matter, seconded by J. Ford. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Entered into executive session at 9:46 p.m.
Exited from executive session at 10:00 p.m.

23. Adjourn

R. Coyle moved to adjourn at 10:00 p.m., seconded by J. Ford. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,



Gina Santos
Clerk