



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Gregg Schuster, First Selectman

Board of Selectmen Minutes

Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 15, 2013

Colchester Town Hall – Immediately Following Town Meeting at 7:00 PM

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Derrik Kennedy, Nancy Bray, Patty Watts, Maggie Cosgrove, Adam Turner, Dot Mrowka, Rob Tarlov, Brad Bernier, Ryan Blessing, Melissa Roberto, and other citizens.

1. Call to Order

First Selectman G. Schuster called the meeting to order at 7:51 p.m.

2. Additions to the Agenda

S. Soby moved to add a new #8 to the agenda, entitled, "Discussion and Possible Action on Blight Ordinance Task Force," remove #15c, and renumber accordingly; seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approve Minutes of the August 1, 2013 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting

R. Coyle moved to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2013 Regular Board of Selectmen meeting, seconded by G. Cordova. G. Cordova abstained. All others approved. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Citizen's Comments

D. Martin and J. Knapp commented on Deputy Fire Chief job description and appointment of Deputy Chief by the Town.

D. Wasniewski, L. Curtis, and A. Zimmerman commented in support of appointing candidate Christopher Bourque to the Agriculture Commission.

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

a. Fire Department Task Force. Clifford Bartiss, Jr. to be interviewed.

Clifford Bartiss, Jr. was interviewed.

b. Agriculture Commission. Member Appointment to fill a vacancy to expire 11/30/2014. Christopher Bourque to be interviewed.

Christopher Bourque was interviewed. S. Soby moved to appoint Christopher Bourque as a member to the Agriculture Commission to fill a vacancy to expire 11/30/2014, seconded by R. Coyle. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Budget Transfers

None.

7. Tax Refunds & Rebates

None.

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COLCHESTER, CT
2013 AUG 19 2:40
NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Blight Ordinance Task Force

R. Coyle moved to form a task force with seven members, at the next regular Board of Selectmen meeting to discuss and act on charges of the task force, and to interview candidates concurrently with task force establishment; seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Execution of Grant Contract with Senior Resources Agency on Aging

R. Coyle moved to approve the FY 2013-2014 Making Memories Grant and BE IT RESOLVED that Gregg Schuster, First Selectman of the Town of Colchester, is empowered to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of Colchester with Eastern Connecticut Agency on Aging, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Life and AD&D Insurance Carrier Contract

S. Soby moved to approve the proposed insurance renewal for Life/AD&D insurance with The Hartford effective September 1, 2013 and authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents related to the renewal, seconded by G. Cordova. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Deputy Fire Chief of Operations Job Description

No action taken.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Personnel Policies

Discussion on Hiring & Dismissal Policy. No action taken.

13. Citizen's Comments

K. McKenna commented on availability of deputy chief job description to the public.

14. First Selectman's Report

First Selectman G. Schuster reported that the Resident Trooper Supervisor has received his transfer orders and will be reporting to the Town shortly, the Fire Department Task Force has been meeting regularly, this afternoon there was a retirement lunch honoring Mary Jane Slade, there will be a special Board of Selectmen meeting in August to possibly act on the heavy rescue truck contract, and the September 5 Board of Selectmen meeting will be cancelled due to being schedule on Rosh Hashanah.

15. Liaison Report

R. Coyle reported that the Commission on Aging is working on updating their ordinance and the renters rebate program, they have a website that can be accessed through the Town website, the hallway of the senior center will be painted, pictures of historic buildings in Town are being hung up in the senior center, an open house and the holiday fair will be coming up within the next couple months, the front door and shutters of the center have been painted red, and interviews are ongoing for the program coordinator.

R. Coyle further reported that the Building Committee will be holding two public presentations on the WJJMS-Community/Senior Center Project on 9/3 & 9/9 at Town Hall with a brochure being developed for distribution.

S. Soby reported that the Historical Society held an event on Tuesday night which is part of a new permanent exhibit, which is very impressive.

16. Executive Session

- a. Negotiations for Property Rights Acquisition**
- b. Personnel Issue Regarding Town Hall Employee**
- c. Hardship Withdrawal from Retirement Account**

G. Cordova moved to enter into executive session to discuss negotiations for property rights acquisition and to invite Adam Turner, a personnel issue regarding town hall employee, and a hardship withdrawal from retirement account, seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved.
MOTION CARRIED.

The Board of Selectmen entered into executive session at 8:25 p.m.

A. Turner exited from executive session at 8:41 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen exited from executive session at 9:52 p.m.

17. Adjourn

G. Cordova moved to adjourn at 9:53 p.m., seconded by S. Soby. Unanimously approved.
MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Derrick M. Kennedy
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman

Attachments:

- Letter from David Wasniewski
- Letter from Kevin McManus

12th august 2013

Town of Colchester CT Board of Selectmen,

I wanted to thank you for voting to appoint Allan Zimmerman to the Agricultural commission as a full commission member. I believe he will prove to be an asset to our Agricultural Commissions and community on many levels, bringing with him years of agricultural and organizational experience from a region of the country where they have been much more successful in preserving the economic vitality of agriculture which in turn functionally preserves their farms, both small and large.

It is my understanding that an interview for appointment to fill at least one vacancy is on the agenda for this upcoming BOS meeting scheduled for the 15th of August 2013 at 7:00 pm on Thursday evening. Please contact me if this is not the case.

I would appreciate your seriously considering this request;

In addition to interviewing an Agricultural Commission full member candidate and applicant, Christopher Bourque, that is known to both the BOS and the Agricultural Commission as a proven contributor to both our Town and Agricultural Commission's agendas, that you also move to expedite a vote for the appointment of Christopher Bourque to our Agricultural commission at this very same meeting for the following reasons:

1. My time being limited, to devote the necessary amount of attention to the Agricultural Commission without a full commission in place to support me as the acting chairman, to support future officers and to share the work load necessary to make the Agricultural Commission effective.
2. As with most charter commissions we started out as a full commission that almost immediately experienced a loss of charter members that were not easily or efficiently replaced, partially because of process and partially because of a lack of willing candidates and recruits. To date we have lost four charter members and replaced one, leaving us with three positions to fill. This has most definitely handicapped our Agricultural commission.
3. This leaves us in a difficult position during a very busy time of year and vulnerable to meetings where a quorum cannot be formed in order to function as a commission effectively.
4. Despite our handicaps we have been able to accomplish a lot with much more of struggle than necessary and we are looking forward to getting more accomplished with the support and participation of the BOS, all other commissions & boards and most importantly with the eager support of the citizens of Colchester.
5. Along with many more steps forward up on the scoreboard we have experienced some steps backwards that we must now act on decisively to correct as we look to the future and to the importance of citizen participation in our Town of Colchester and in our Agricultural Commission's agendas via vital education, involvement and planning to preserve our rural community and agricultural economy and heritage.

This list provides you with just a few of many important reasons why we need to move quickly to interview and appoint a new commission member at the next BOS meeting, so that we *then can move promptly forward to recruit and appoint a full and functional commission*. This will make it possible to move beyond a stagnant and handicapped situation and back towards being an Agricultural Commission that is capable, once again, of being highly functional and supported by a full compliment of commissioners and subcommittees and most importantly by our Town of Colchester as whole.

Sincerely,
David Wasniewski
Acting Chairman
Town of Colchester Agricultural Commission

Kevin McManus
31 Oak Ridge Dr
Colchester, CT 06415
August 15, 2013

First Selectman Gregg Schuster
Selectman Stan Soby
Selectman James Ford
Selectman Rosemary Coyle

Dear Selectman:

I am writing you this letter, as I am unable to attend tonight's meeting, due to working the evening shift tonight.

This is in reference to item #10, Fire Department Deputy Chief Position on tonight's agenda.

I am not in favor of approval of this position tonight.

The Town has recently convened a Fire Department Task force, to review and make recommendations on how the Department and Company can move forward for the betterment of everyone. I do not believe this position has come before them, nor have they made any recommendations at this point. Approval of this position would be counterproductive to the Task Force's goals in the near future.

The Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company, for nearly 160 years, has been able to promote, vote, and appoint fire officers from within the organization. Achievable requirements have been put into place by both the Company and Department, to assure trained and experienced individuals are eligible for these positions. By removal of the Deputy Chief Position from the Company's roster of officers, the Company would lose its ability to promote and participate from within.

Please take the time to reconsider acting on this position, until the Company membership and the Task Force can be involved.

Sincerely,

Kevin McMcManus