

**BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN  
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses on **Tuesday, July 9, 2013** at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT. Warden Gaston called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

**Present:** Warden James Gaston, Senior Burgess Joan Crick, Second Senior Burgess Jay Maher, Burgess Betsy Kenyon, Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean, Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez, Treasurer Paula B. Hughes, Clerk Ann Benore,

**Absent:** Burgess Kim D'Amico, Burgess Anthony Baiad, Burgess Bill Lucas, Tree Warden Rob McCulloch

**Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the June 11, 2013 regular meeting minutes,**  
seconded by Senior Burgess Crick and unanimously approved.

**Public Participation:** Paul and Nicole Morris, 15 Glover Avenue, were welcomed by Warden Gaston to discuss the increasing problem of the growth of bamboo in their neighborhood. Mr. Morris stated that the bamboo was planted on his neighbor's property which is now invading his property. He brought a piece of the bamboo with its roots to show the Board. He explained that the plant's roots grow 4 to 5 inches deep and grows canes that can reach up to 70 feet tall. Mr. Morris has been removing the roots which are growing on his property which is very difficult task. He is asking the Board of Burgesses to look into this problem and pass laws concerning the invasive plant as it affects neighboring properties. Paul Poeltl, 17 Glover Avenue, is also having the same problem and would like to see something done.

Warden Gaston reported that the State of Connecticut did pass a statute effective October 1, 2013, regarding new growth of this invasive plant. However, the law was not made to be retroactive. He stated that towns and boroughs can pass their own ordinances relating to the statute. Warden Gaston asked the Board whether they wanted to get involved in this issue. If so, he suggested meeting with Attorney Don Mitchell, George Benson, and Rob Sibley from the Land Use Department as well as the Health Department. Discussion followed.

The Board decided that they would meet with the above mentioned regarding the issue and the passing of an ordinance to control this situation. Burgess Kenyon also noted that it would be educational for the public if an article in The Newtown Bee was written explaining the invasive problem with the bamboo plant.

**Warden's Report:** Warden Gaston had nothing new to report.

**Tree Warden:** No report due to Rob McCulloch's absence.

**Tax Collector's Report:** Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez will present both May 2013 and June 2013 reports at next month's meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Paula B. Hughes read the report: A deposit of \$3,801.36 was made this month from Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez making a total of \$170,301.86. A transfer of \$10,000.00 was made to cover this month's invoicing. Capital Reserve is \$1,901.39 as of June 30, 2013.

Treasurer Hughes also reported that she spoke with Glenn Nanavaty who agreed with her that it would be useful for the Borough to have an offsite backup for its Treasurer's Reports. The cost would be \$100.00.

**Second Senior Burgess Maher made a motion to appropriate \$100.00 for the purchase of an offsite backup,** seconded by Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

**Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report,** seconded by Senior Burgess Maher and unanimously approved.

**Zoning Officer's Report:** Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean reported that zoning/consulting fees have come in for several projects in the Borough and that progress is continuing with the projects.

**Historic District:** Burgess Kenyon had nothing new to report.

**Sidewalks:** Senior Burgess Maher asked the Board whether there was any thought on a sidewalk project for this year. Warden Gaston said he would like to see the sidewalk completed on Church Hill Road leading up to the flagpole. All agreed that this is one proposal that the Borough should look at, possibly in conjunction with the Town.

**Streets & Parks:** Senior Burgess Maher had nothing to report.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Public Participation:** None.

A regular meeting the Board of Burgesses will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Office at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT

**There being no further business, Senior Burgess Crick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.,** seconded by Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Benore  
Borough Clerk