

**BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses on **Tuesday, July 8, 2014** in the Borough Office at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT. Warden Gaston called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

Present: Warden James Gaston, Senior Burgess Joan Crick, Second Senior Burgess Jay Maher, Burgess Betsy Kenyon, Burgess Bill Lucas, Burgess Chris Gardner (8:09), Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez, Treasurer Paula Brinkman, Clerk Ann Benore

Absent: Burgess Anthony Baiad, Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean, Tree Warden Rob McCulloch

Also Present: 3 members of the public

Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the June 10, 2014 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Burgess Lucas and unanimously approved.

Public Participation: Sherry Bermingham, 42 Main Street, expressed concern about the increase in traffic on Main Street as well as the blight issues. She feels that it may cause a problem attracting people to the area. She also stated that there is a concrete barrier and an empty oil drum in the lower parking lot of Edmond Town Hall which appear to have been dumped there. She is concerned that they may fall into the wetlands. Warden Gaston explained that they are located on private property owned by Edmond Town Hall. He will speak to Jim Juliano, Chairman of Board of Managers, regarding the matter. Warden Gaston stated that he is not sure what the solution is to the increased traffic. As far as the blight, he said there is a new blight ordinance in effect and those matters are being addressed.

Warden Gaston presented two sets of documents regarding the invasive bamboo ordinance. One is the original draft and the other is the edited draft reflecting issues that have been discussed (see attachment). He read through the documents and pointed out the changes on the edited version. Mary Gaudet-Wilson, 12 Whippoorwill Hill Road, thanked the Board for its diligence in addressing the bamboo issue. She did suggest that Section 5(F) should reference the state statute which provides that any municipality may define nuisances.

Burgess Keyon made a motion to accept the Invasive Bamboo Ordinance with the addition of referencing the State's General Statutes Section 7-148(c)(7)(E) in Section 5(F), seconded by Senior Burgess Crick and unanimously approved.

Warden's Report: Warden Gaston reported that he has been reading about towns in the area setting up electric car charging stations. There is grant money available for the projects. He feels that having charging stations would be good for commercial development. He sent letters/emails to the Economic Development Department, the Board of Selectmen, and the Sustainable Energy Commission regarding the idea. So far he has received positive feedback. He suggested placing one on Church Hill Road near the new development at Lexington Gardens.

Burgess Gardner stated the developer, Hugh Sullivan, is also developing the movie theater project in Southbury which includes two charging stations. Discussion followed.

Tree Warden: Warden Gaston read the report in Rob McCulloch's absence: The State has another tree marked for removal on Main Street near the Inn at Newtown. Scheduled trees to be removed are at 36 and 41 West Street and 26 Queen Street as well as the dead tree on Johnnycake Lane near the ambulance garage.

Tax Collector's Report: Tax Collector Enriquez reported the following for June 2014: Total Taxes Due for the List of 2012: \$192,172.81; Current Taxes: \$188,218.01; Back Taxes: \$7,240.43; Interest: \$6,170.11; Lien Fees: \$1,158.50; Write-Offs: \$54.98; Refunds: (\$4,515.65). Total Submitted to Treasurer to Date: \$202,777.05. Current Taxes Collected: \$188,218.01.

Burgess Lucas made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for June 2014, seconded by Burgess Gardner and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Paula Brinkman read the report: A deposit of \$2,000.00 was made from Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez and making a total of \$202,498.41. A transfer of \$45,000.00 was made for this month's invoicing. Capital Reserve is \$1,902.34 as of June 30, 2014.

Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for May 2014, seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

Zoning Officer's Report: Warden Gaston reported that Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean said that all projects are moving along including Dr. Beck who is in compliance

Historic District: Burgess Kenyon reported that there will be a public hearing in 2 weeks for improvements at 33 Main Street. She also reported that the family that purchased 54 Main Street and began renovations did not realize the property was in the Historic District. They replaced the roof with the addition of two skylights, which is not approved in the Historic District. A cease and desist order was presented and the renovations were stopped. Within the 45-day minimum, the issue was resolved. The District asked for an itemized list of all the work which has been done and is in place. Going forward, the owner will go to the Historic District with any other renovations. Burgess Kenyon and Warden Gaston suggested better communication with realtors when homes in the District are sold as well as insuring that records are up to date in Town Clerk's Office with respect to the Historic District.

Sidewalks: Senior Burgess Maher spoke to George Benson regarding sidewalk work on Church Hill Road and the contractor has been selected and posted bond. Warden Gaston reported that the Board of Selectmen did approve the appropriation of funds for the project.

Streets & Parks: None.

Old Business: Burgess Kenyon reported that she went to A Sign Depot and asked them to recommend a size for the Historic District signs. She will bring a cardboard model to present to the Board for approval.

New Business: Warden Gaston presented the resume for Pat Antal who was recommended to be a Member of Borough Zoning Board of Appeals.

Second Senior Burgess Maher made a motion to appoint Pat Antal as a Member of the Borough Zoning Board of Appeals, seconded by Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

Treasurer Brinkman spoke to Kathy Quinn of the Sustainable Energy Commission and they are replacing bulbs at the flagpole and the monument with LED lights.

Public Participation: None.

A regular meeting the Board of Burgesses will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Office in Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT

There being no further business, Burgess Kenyon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Second Senior Burgess Maher and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Benore
Borough Clerk