

**BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses on **Tuesday, October 13, 2015** in the Borough Office at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT. Warden Gaston called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Present: Warden James Gaston, Senior Burgess Joan Crick, Second Senior Burgess Jay Maher, Burgess Betsy Kenyon, Burgess Anthony Baiad, Burgess Bill Lucas, Burgess Chris Gardner, Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez, Treasurer Paula Brinkman, Clerk Ann LoBosco, Tree Warden Rob McCulloch

Absent: Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean

Also Present: 3 members of the public

Burgess Lucas made a motion to accept the Special Meeting minutes of September 8, 2015, seconded by Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

Burgess Gardner made a motion to accept the Regular Meeting minutes of September 8, 2015, seconded by Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

Public Participation: Paul and Nicole Morris (15 Glover Avenue) and Paul Poeltl (17 Glover Avenue) requested an update on the bamboo situation. Warden Gaston asked Tree Warden Rob McCulloch to present his report since he has done the research and has information to provide them.

Tree Warden: Rob McCulloch presented his report (Att. A). After extensive research, two methods of controlling Running Bamboo were explained. Method (A) requires digging out the bamboo and any and all roots in the surrounding area. The digging would have to be 4 to 6 feet in depth to remove the rhizome stems. This process is effective but very costly. Method (B) would require the use of chemicals (a combination of Round Up and Garlon). This mixture when done properly will penetrate the root system and kill the rhizome roots and effectively contain any further growth. This mixture is environmentally friendly and is cost effective. Rob recommended using Method (B) and sending letters to property owners at 3, 4 and 6 Lorraine Drive stating they are in violation of the Bamboo Ordinance and need to make the stated remedies within an allowable period of time (before winter) or face enforcement and fines as stated in the Ordinance.

Warden's Report: Warden Gaston had several things to report. Newtown Hook & Ladder held their annual fundraising Firehouse Ride; sponsors of the event will be recognized on plaques placed in the new firehouse. Warden Gaston did pledge a \$2,500.00 sponsorship from the Borough and would like the Board to retroactively approve the donation.

Burgess Kenyon made a motion to approve the \$2,500.00 sponsorship for the Annual Firehouse Ride for Newtown Hook & Ladder, seconded by Second Senior Burgess Jay Maher and unanimously approved.

He reported that the street lights on Church Hill Road at the new sidewalk have been adjusted to be significantly dimmer.

In Zoning Officer St. Jean's absence, he reported that Economic Development has requested to hold their Farmer's Market in the Inn at Newtown's parking lot next year. Currently the weekly event is held at Fairfield Hills and they are looking for more space and exposure. Warden Gaston is concerned whether it would be considered mixed use of a commercial business. He will speak with Jean St. Jean about the request.

Tax Collector's Report: Tax Collector Enriquez reported the following for August 2015: Total Taxes Due for the List of 2014: \$187,871.54; Current Taxes: \$174,004.31; Back Taxes: \$1,226.15; Interest: \$484.40; Liens & Fees: \$193.98. Total Submitted to Treasurer to Date: \$172,150.00. Current Taxes Collected: \$174,004.31 representing 92.2%.

She also reported the following for September 2015: Total Taxes Due for the List of 2014: \$187,871.54; Current Taxes: \$176,354.37; Back Taxes: \$1,262.14; Interest: \$562.75; Liens & Fees: \$216.00. Total Submitted to Treasurer to Date: \$172,150.00. Current Taxes Collected: \$176,354.37 representing 92.9%.

Burgess Gardner made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for August 2015, seconded by Second Senior Burgess Maher and unanimously approved.

Burgess Lucas made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for September 2015, seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Paula Brinkman read the September 2015 report: No deposits were made from Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez making a total of \$172,150.00. A deposit of \$12,000.00 will be made to cover this month's invoicing. Capital Reserve is \$1,903.53 as of August 31, 2015. The 2 Yr. CD Account will mature on October 24, 2015 and Treasurer Brinkman presented several options. Discussion followed and it was decided to purchase a 1 Yr. CD Account with an interest rate of 0.65%. She also reported that she will be writing 2 checks to the Town of Newtown to cover the cost of the lighting fixtures on the new sidewalk on Church Hill Road/Main Street – a check in the amount of \$1,903.53 was written from the Capital Reserve Account (closing it out) and \$31,846.47 from the Operating Account (approval occurred at the August 2015 meeting).

Burgess Baiad made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for September 2015, seconded by Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

Zoning Officer's Report: No report due to Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean's absence.

Historic District: Burgess Kenyon had nothing new to report.

Sidewalks: Second Senior Burgess Maher has been approached by Bob Geckle (35 Queen Street) about whether the Borough would pay for sidewalk repairs or new sidewalks along Main Street in front of the library. Discussion followed and it was decided to gather more information and discuss at next month's meeting. Bruce Walczak (12 Glover Avenue) also asked Mr. Maher if the sidewalks in front of the Middle School could be repaired. Warden Gaston stated that he will be contacting Superintendent Erardi about the matter.

Streets & Parks: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Burgess Baiad asked Rob McCulloch to look at the limb hanging near the intersection of Diamond Drive and Mt. Pleasant Road and determine whether it needs to come down. Burgess Gardner said that a street light is out near Smoke Rise Ridge/The Old Road; Senior Burgess Crick will contact Eversource about the matter.

Public Participation: None.

A regular meeting the Board of Burgesses will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Office in Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT

There being no further business, Burgess Lucas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m., seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. LoBosco
Borough Clerk

A.H. A

Board of Burgesses,

Borough of Newtown, Newtown Ct.

Under direction from the Board as acting Tree Warden I was asked to look into complaints and concerns by residents living on Glover Ave about an invasive species commonly known as Running Bamboo (*Pyhllostachys*). On September 9th of 2015 I met with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Morris and Mr. Paul Poetle formally of Glover Ave. to tour and view complaints received to the Board of Burgesses within their property's regarding Running Bamboo spreading from an adjoining property located at number 3 Lorraine Dr. Upon the meeting and walking the properties I have found the following.

The initial complaint by the Morris's and Poetle's was that the Running Bamboo which is growing at number 3 Lorraine Dr. was encroaching, seeding and starting to grow onto their property's. I found the complaints to be accurate and true. I also found Running Bamboo growing at numbers 4 and 6 Lorraine Dr. with the biggest impact being at numbers 3 and 4 Lorraine Dr. where the Bamboo is most prominent. In a letter dated August 3rd of 2015 a letter was sent to Mr. Peter Caracciolo of 3 Lorraine Dr. by the Board of Burgesses advising he is in violation of the Borough Bamboo Ordinance. I would recommend to the Board that advisement letters be sent to the property owners at numbers 4 and 6 Lorraine Dr as well. All three property owners are in violation of the Boroughs Bamboo Ordinance adopted and placed into effect on August 4th of 2014.

After a lengthy investigation on how to control and effectively kill Running Bamboo I have found and come to the following conclusions. I had contacted CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection also known as DEEP and had lengthy conversations with Legislation Liaison Officer Liz McAuliffe who provided with me with information and laws on the State level in regards to Running Bamboo. Liz then referred to a colleague of hers Diane Jorsy in the CT State Pesticide Division whom also provided me with information on how to effectively remove and or kill Running Bamboo using two methods.

Method (A) would be to dig out the affected areas where the Bamboo is growing and evidence of any and all roots in the surrounding areas. The digging would have to be 4 to 6 feet in depth to effectively remove the rhizome stems from which the Bamboo shoot will rise from. This process is effective but very costly.

Method (B) would be the use of pesticides. First and foremost let me clarify these are not restricted use pesticides. By definition there is a huge difference. The chemicals recommended to effectively kill the Bamboo were Glyphosate commonly known as "Round Up" added with another commonly used chemical called Garlon. Round Up with a 5% concentrated mix and Garlon #4 is what the State Pesticide Div. considers the most effective way to date in killing Running Bamboo. The chemical mixture when done properly will penetrate into the root system and kill the rhizome roots and effectively contain any further spreading. This mixture is environmentally friendly but should not be sprayed directly into water. This method being the most cost effective but might require several applications.

After acquiring the above knowledge I would like to make the following recommendations to the Board of Burgesses.

- 1) Letters be sent to all three property owners at numbers 3, 4 and 6 Lorraine Dr. advising them if not done so already of the Borough Bamboo Ordinance stating they are in violation and need to make the following remedies within an allowable period of time or face enforcement and fines as stated in the Borough Bamboo Ordinance.

#3 Lorraine Dr, Peter Caracciolo

#4 Lorraine Dr, Bank owned by Wells Fargo

Property Preservation Dept. 1-877-617-5274

Code Violations Dept. 1-866-512-0757

#6 Lorraine Dr, Fabian Soderstorm

- 2) The letter should possibly state the following. The most effective time to treat and kill Running Bamboo is in the late fall months or early spring using method (B) as stated above, using Round Up and Garlon. The Running Bamboo should be cut as low to the ground as possible. The Running Bamboo cannot under any circumstances be cut and discarded into the woods, mulched or discarded into the trash. It must be removed and brought to a landfill that has an invasive species container and or brought to a local incinerator to be burned. The burning of Bamboo should not be done on site. After the Bamboo is cut it must be sprayed that day by an individual who possess a Pesticide License specifically a Custom Grounds License to ensure the proper chemical mix, the proper application and the safe delivery method. It should also be made clear that the cutting, removal and spraying will all be done under the supervision of the Borough Tree Warden. In the letter I would like to recommend the use of Alan Potter of Newtown Arbor Services who possess a Custom Grounds Pesticide License and whom the Borough uses exclusively for any tree or tree disease issues. The home owner has the right to hire anyone they want as long as such company or person furnishes the Borough of Newtown with a certificate and license number belonging to them and their Custom Grounds License. It should also include the periodic inspection by the Borough Tree Warden of the affected area and if more applications of chemicals is necessary and report directly to the Board of Burgesses.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert McCulloch

Borough Tree Warden

Borough of Newtown
 Newtown, CT
 Monthly Treasurer's Report
 For month ending September 30, 2015

Beginning Balance (September 1, 2015) \$464,108.10

OPERATING ACCOUNT (#673)

Income (Deposits)	Date	Description	Amount
			\$0.00

Interest income (Sept. 30, 2015) \$19.18

Total Income \$19.18

Expenses (checks written)	Date	Payable To	Description	Amount
				\$0.00

Total Expenses \$0.00

Ending Cash Balance (Sept. 30, 2015) \$464,127.28

Outstanding Checks	Payable To	Description	Amount
			\$0.00
	Total Outstanding Checks		\$0.00

RECONCILED BANK BALANCE September 30, 2015 \$464,127.28

CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT (#200)

Beginning Balance (September 1, 2015) \$1,903.45

Interest income (September 30, 2015) \$0.08

Ending Cash Balance (September 30, 2015) \$1,903.53

<u>2 Yr. CD ACCT. (#814)</u>		matures 10/24/15	\$73,616.97
Interest income (Sept.30, 2015)	interest .35%		\$21.18
TOTAL			\$73,638.15

Respectfully submitted on October 13, 2015

Paula Brinkman, Treasurer

Paula Brinkman

