

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Newtown Municipal Center
Chamber Meeting Room
Tuesday, February 17, 2015

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Newtown was held at the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT, on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. The meeting was called to order by Town Clerk Debbie Aurelia Halstead at 7:16 pm. after which she read the warning of the meeting.

In attendance were First Selectman E. Patricia Llodra, Selectman William F.L. Rodgers, and Selectman James O Gaston, Sr., 7 members of the public and 4 member of the press.

Selectman Rodgers nominated First Selectman Patricia Llodra as moderator, 2nd by Selectman Gaston.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Llodra said we are here tonight to discuss that the house on 36 Yogananda Street be demolished. Mrs. Llodra explained that the process started several weeks ago. The Board of Selectmen had reviewed the input from the victims' families and neighbors on Yogananda Street and that general residential area for the best way that we could honor them considering what happened to those families in particular on December 14, 2012. The consensus of opinions was that the best action that could be taken at this time is to demolish the house and let the property return to a natural state at least in the short term. That recommendation was brought to the Board of Selectman. Subsequently informational discussions were conducted with the Board of Finance, then the Legislative council for action purposes directing the Board of Selectman to hold a Special Town Meeting to hear response from community members.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Phil Carroll of 1 Fieldstone Drive has spoken to many residents who live in that area supported the decision by the residents and Town officials to demolish the residence and leave it as open space.

Bob Merola of 22 Ashford Lane also has spoken with residents also with the consensus of demolishing the house and will support the motion to do so when made.

Eric Paradis of 85 Riverside Road added that no building materials are to be made available for purchase at auction sites. Selectman Llodra assured the audience that there will be nothing left to channel in that direction.

Mr. Merola made a motion to "Authorize the Board of Selectman to proceed with the action of the demolition of the house located on 36 Yongananda Street. Seconded by Mr. Paradis.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Llodra stated that future talks with the Board of Selectman and Legislative Council will take place to create language regarding the deed for that property to ensure that if there is any development of that property and it is sold, all the proceeds will go to the victims of the families, they will be the beneficiaries. This is not an asset of the Town.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

Hearing no other business Selectman Rodgers made a motion to adjourn the meeting 2nd by Selectman Gaston. **UNANIMOUS.**

Meeting adjourned 7:25pm.

Debbie Aurelia Halstead,
Town Clerk , CCTC, CMC