

October 24, 2013

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen Richard O. Carey and Anthony J. Bedini.

Public: Nick Solley, Chris Charles.

Call to Order:

First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the October 10, 2013 meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

Communications:

* Joe Mustich re: Depot Garage “Pocket Park”:

email – stating his hope that if and when any tax payer funds are requested from the not-for-profit group that purchased the old Texaco Station at 1 Green Hill Rd, that there be a full and open discussion. Mr. Mustich is concerned that the Conservation Commission wants to use \$50,000 of its budget for this “pocket park” – stating that the not-for-profit should raise their own funds. Mark Lyon explained that to his knowledge the Conservation Commission “looked into” using some Open Space funds, however he and they do not believe this would be allowed under the Ordinance which set up that fund. If the not-for-profit groups does request any Town Funds, the questions and decision would need to go to a Special Town Meeting for a vote by the townspeople.

Appointments/Resignations:

* Historic District Commission:

Mark Lyon reported he had received a phone call from William Smith, a member of the HDC, expressing his desire to resign from the Commission. Mark has asked that Mr. Smith state this in writing.

First Selectman’s Report: Mark Lyon reported the following:

* Thank you, Painter Ridge Farm, for the donation of fall fruit, vegetables, gourds, etc. on display in the foyer of the Town Hall. Help yourself!!

* Solarize Connecticut Initiative:

Mark has attended meetings regarding this initiative. The Town’s first step will be to appoint “Solar Ambassadors” who will be trained and receive information to distribute to the Town’s individuals and organizations. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Filing by the Town for intervenor status with the CT Siting Council re: cell tower application on Town Property by Homeland Towers.

A Notice of Public Hearing has been received from the CT Siting Council regarding this application. It is scheduled for December 3, 2013 at Bryan Memorial Town Hall beginning at 3:00 p.m. and continued at 7:00. The 3:00 p.m. hearing session will provide the applicant, parties, and intervenors an opportunity to cross-examine positions. The 7:00 p.m. session will be reserved for the public to make brief statements into the record. Cross-examination of parties and intervenors will resume, if necessary, after all statements have been heard. The question is whether the Town wants to file as a "Party" or as an "Intervenor". There seems to be a fine line between the two - both statuses will allow the Town to participate, ask questions, cross examine, etc. The choice needs to be filed by November 26th. After discussion, the Selectmen decided to review with the Town's Attorney from Murtha Cullina as to which may be the better choice and will decide at the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

* Regional Hazardous Mitigation Plan:

The Town of Washington, through the Northwest CT Council of Governments, is in the process of establishing a Hazardous Mitigation Plan. Grants may be applied for through this for such things as repair, drainage to areas that continually flood, demolition of buildings, etc. NWCCOG is working with Malone and MacBroom on this plan (they have extensive experience in this area and have worked with numerous Towns). A Press Release will be sent to area newspapers requesting "Citizens and Town officials for their input on which storms and other natural hazards have effected their homes, businesses, or towns and ideas on how future damage can be prevented. This input can be provided either by attending a public meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cornwall Town Hall or be taking an online survey" which will be accessed on the Town's website.

Visitors:

* Chris Charles inquired about the 1)Solarize Connecticut program and the State's selecting larger companies as opposed to the smaller local companies to install solar systems. Mark Lyon explained that Allgreenit has been selected as the company to work with Roxbury and Washington. Representatives from this company will determine if particular sites are adequate and will assist in getting funding for the installation. Chris also inquired about the 2)Depot Advisory Committee – has it met yet, what's happening? Mark explained that the Request for Qualifications for the Bryan Plaza project needs to be done first. Chris expressed his feeling that whatever engineering company may be selected should be aware of all that eventually may need to be done in the Plaza – presently and in the future. Once the engineering company is selected, a meeting will be held with them and the Advisory Committee. Chris also re-iterated his feeling that, after the Town voted against supporting the Washington Community Housing Trusts request for funding for the Vincent property, the Selectmen should reach out to the Trust and offer to "work together" to make the housing project work. He stated he was not against the project, but the funding methods. He has

spoken to two members of the Trust expressing his feelings and they have been grateful. The Selectmen felt it was not their responsibility to reach out to the Housing Trust but stated they are more than interested and willing to listen to future ideas.

* Tony Bedini asked the Selectmen to discuss a matter involving the Land Use Office. Several years ago Clifford Woodruff had filed a complaint with the Land Use Office regarding an issue he was having with a neighbor and the way he felt it had been handled by the Enforcement Officer, Mike Ajello. At the time, the Board of Selectmen agreed to have Janet Hill, Land Use Coordinator, handle all matters with Mr. Woodruff (eliminating Mr. Ajello from the enforcement process). Mr. Bedini explained that the matter has come up again and he asked the BoS to reconsider their earlier decision. It is his feeling that Mike should be allowed to do the job he was hired to do – if a problem arises, those involved should work through it. Mark Lyon and Dick Carey agreed.

* Nick Solley agreed with this decision by the Selectmen -not as Zoning Chairman, but as his personal opinion – and that Mike should work without differences to applicants and work in a professional manner and in the best interest of the Town. Nick also mentioned he had been contacted by Susan Payne, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, to look into the Moore property – its upkeep, etc. Nick has hired someone to go to the property and cut back the open areas. He asked the Selectmen to consider whose responsibility the monitoring and upkeep of Town property should - Buildings and Property, Highway Department? Tony Bedini asked Nick to submit a report in writing as to what he feels should be done on an annual basis and submit to the Selectmen to be considered at budget time.

Adjournment:

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 6:12p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

By Tony Bedini, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary