

Woodstock Board of Selectmen Minutes

Thursday, May 18, 2023

7:00 pm

Regular Meeting

Town Hall, Room A

1. Call to order: First Selectman Jay Swan called meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

- a. **Present:** First Selectman Jay Swan & Selectwoman Kate MacDonald
- b. **Others Present:** Charlene Perkins Cutler, Ray & Pam Morgan, WVFA Chief Eric Young, Jessica Weaver Boose, Philippa Paquette, Recording Secretary Amy Monahan
- c. Jay Swan made a ***Motion** to amend agenda to include request from the Arboretum to be added to the agenda. ***Seconded** by Kate McDonald. ***The motion passed unanimously.**
- d. Selectman Chandler Paquette is excused.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. May 4, 2023 Regular Meeting
 - i. Kate McDonald made a ***Motion** to approve the Minutes from the May 4, 2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting. ***Seconded** by Jay Swan. ***The Motion Passed Unanimously.**

3. Public Comments

- a. Eric Young is present with requested bid/estimates for ambulance pricing. He noted that actual bids are lasting 30 days and he currently has some general numbers. The bid from last year was \$265,000 and this year is \$321,789 with a decrease in truck size. He noted that 4-wheel drive is required for this area and E-models do not retain trade in value. Eric also noted that delivery times are now running 2 years out. Jay Swan would like Eric to gather some additional information and plan for a special meeting including Karen Fitzpatrick and Chan Paquette in the next few weeks.

4. Tax Rebates

- a. None

5. Arboretum

- a. Philippa Paquette had sent a package to the BOS for review. She noted that the summertime results in no volunteers at the Arboretum with students out of school. She is looking to hire 6 hours per week for weeding and gardening tasks. She is requesting permission to hire and advertise the position from the Town. Salaries for the hours would be minimum wage and would come out of Arboretum funding.
 - i. Kate McDonald made a ***Motion** to approve request to hire employee(s) for summer maintenance at the Palmer Arboretum as presented. ***Seconded** by Jay Swan. ***The motion passed unanimously.**
- b. Philippa Paquette shared that the Arboretum has a request to hold a wedding ceremony in the gardens. The request proposes the attendance of 20 people for a wedding ceremony only. There will be no food or reception and they party would take out insurance to cover the event.
 - i. Jay Swan made a ***Motion** to approve the use of the Palmer Arboretum for the wedding ceremony as presented. ***Seconded** by Kate McDonald. ***The motion passed unanimously.**

6. Tax Abatement for Qualifying Farms

- a. A file with information about current qualified farms for tax abatements has been distributed to the Board of Selectmen for review.
- b. Kate McDonald made a ***Motion** to approve Qualifying Farms for Tax Abatement as presented. ***Seconded** by Jay Swan. ***The motion passed unanimously.**

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7. Board/Commission Appointments

- a. Jay Swan asked the board to consider the reappointment of John Cimochoowski as a Member of the Water Pollution Control Authority for the term of June 20, 2023 through June 19, 2028
 - i. Kate McDonald made a ***Motion** to reappoint John Cimochoowski as a Member of the Water Pollution Control Authority for the term of June 20, 2023 through June 19, 2028. ***Seconded** by Jay Swan. ***The motion passed unanimously.**

8. Correspondence and Announcements

- a. Jay Swan announced that the FY 23-24 Budget passed at referendum on May 9, 2023 and that the reinstatement of Prop 46 failed (824 in favor and 1108 opposed) with only 29.9% of eligible voters participating at the polls.
- b. Artwork from the Art in the Arboretum event will be displayed in town hall after may 20th
- c. The Memorial Day Road Race, Parade and Cemetery Ceremonies are set. A full schedule of events for the day can be found at <https://www.woodstockct.gov/home/news/memorial-day-parade>
- d. The Recreation Department is organizing and promoting its 11th Annual TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE on Saturday, June 17th from 8:00 a.m. – Afternoon. All Woodstock residents, businesses, and organizations may participate. A \$20 registration fee will place your location on the tag sale map which will be available for the public to purchase. Maps will be available for purchase outside the Town Hall on Thursday, June 15th from 6-8pm. Maps will also be available the morning of Saturday, June 17th (rain date June 18th) at the Town Hall from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Cost to purchase a map is \$5. If you only have a few items to sell, you can reserve a spot at the Woodstock Town Hall to sell your treasures on Saturday, June 17th from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for \$15! Must provide own table.
- e. The Twilight Concert Series will include the following bands for 2023. All concerts will be held at Roseland Cottage at 7 pm and are free of charge.
 - i. Dynamite Rhythm, June 23rd
 - ii. Patty Tuite & Band, July 21st
 - iii. Flamingo, August 11th
- f. Recreation department has many upcoming programs and events. Information about recreation programs and events can be found on the Town Website at <https://www.woodstockct.gov/recreation-department/pages/recreation-programs> or you can sign up for the monthly recreation newsletter at <https://www.woodstockct.gov/recreation-department>

9. Public Comments

- a. It was discussed that the number of eligible voters consisted of both registered voters and anyone who owns property of more than \$1000.00 on the tax roles for the budget referendum.

10. Adjournment

- a. Kate MacDonald made a ***Motion** to adjourn. ***Seconded** by Jay Swan. ***The motion passed unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Amy Monahan, Recording Secretary. DISCLAIMER: These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Please refer to next month's meeting for approval/amendments.