

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday – August 15, 2019
7:00 PM – Room A**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Michael Alberts, Frank Olah and Chandler Paquette.

OTHERS PRESENT: Judy Buell, Emilie Hebert, Jay Swan, Chris Mayhew, Dawn Adiletta, Lori Farrell, Diane Miller, Rick Torgeson, Jim Trowbridge, Greg Kline, Lee Wesler and WINY reporter

1. Call to Order: First Selectman Michael Alberts called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Alberts led the Board of Selectmen and members of the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approve the Minutes of the August 1, 2019 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting: Selectmen Chandler Paquette made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2019 Regular Board of Selectmen's meeting as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Consider the Crystal Pond Commission's Proposed Timber Harvest: Chairman of the Crystal Pond Park Commission Chris Mayhew, and Chairman of the Conservation Commission reported to the Board of Selectmen that the Conservation Commission had approved the timber harvest plan, with minor recommendations.

Selectmen Frank Olah made a motion to move forward with the Crystal Pond Park timber harvest plan as recommended by the Crystal Pond Park Commission and the Conservation Commission. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5 Board of Selectmen Nomination for Open Space Land Acquisition Committee: Dawn Adiletta, Chairman of the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee stated that the ordinance states that certain boards are supposed to designate a member to the Open Space Land Acquisition. Many of these boards have not sent a representative in many months or may want to send a different representative each month. Ms. Adiletta stated that it is imperative to Committee that the attending representative be a dedicated member. The Board of Selectmen agreed to contact the Commissions to remind those Commissions that they need to appoint a member to the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee.

6. Discussion of Amendment to Conservation Commission Committee: It has been decided to remove the section of the Conservation Commission Committee that states that a paid Town Employee cannot be a member of the Conservation Commission. Town Attorney Richard Roberts is currently working on this. Once Mr. Roberts has submitted this change it will go to Town Meeting for approval, as well as the BINGO Ordinance. This should be done soon.

7. Discussion About Referendum Results: At the August 6, 2019 Referendum the Registrar of Voters decided to count the ballots by hand. Unfortunately, there was an error in the counting, which was corrected the next day. It was the suggestion of the Town Clerk to move away from hand counting ballots from this point forward. Mr. Alberts will talk to the Registrar of Voters about this.

8. Tax Rebates: None.

9. Correspondence and Announcements: Enclosed are the receipts for the month of July 2019 from the Town Clerk's office.

The statistics for the month of July 2019 were received from the State Police Barracks Troop D.

Alta Environmental Corporation sent in the water test results for properties in the vicinity of the Woodstock Elementary School. The results were good. One home needs some new piping. It should cost between \$1200.00 to \$1500.00 to replace the pipes.

TRC has sent in well water tests for homes in the vicinity of Line Master Switch. TRC reported that the water is potable.

An invitation has been received from the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District for a discussion on the Upper Natchaug River Watershed. This will be held on August 29, 2019, at the YMCA Camp Woodstock. Mr. Olah stated that he would try to attend.

The Eunice Cobb Stocking Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will be holding a marker dedication for the Revolutionary War Service of John Morse. This will be held on August 25, 2019 at the Bradford-Marcy Cemetery, at 1:30pm, with a reception to follow.

Celebrate Agriculture will be held on September 21, 2019, at the Woodstock Fairgrounds from 9:00AM to 3:00PM.

The Connecticut Tree Protective group has offered the Town a white oak tree to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Arborist law. It was the consensus of the Board to offer the tree to Roseland Park.

An agreement has been reached with Tina Lajoie with regards to the Zoning Enforcement Official and Wetlands agent job. Since Ms. Lajoie will be hired by the Town as an independent contractor she would not fall under the Town's liability insurance. Ms. Lajoie is currently looking into getting her own liability insurance. Ms. Lajoie will be meeting with Mr. D'Amato at the end of August to familiarize herself with issues that Mr. D'Amato has been handling. Her first day will be September 3, 2019.

The current Town of Woodstock website has valuable information on the Bradford-Marcy Cemetery, and it may be difficult to transfer this information for the old website to the new

website. Human Resources Director Crystal Adams is currently working on this. The new website will also have to become ADA accessible.

Town Attorney Richard Roberts is currently working on a BINGO ordinance. Mr. Alberts had the following questions for Mr. Roberts.

The first question is that State law says the BINGO ordinance requires that 5% of the electors are required to vote for this. Does this mean that 5% of the electors need to be on a petition to bring this ordinance to a Town Meeting vote. Mr. Roberts thought that the Board of Selectmen could bring this to a vote without going through this hurdle.

The second question was with regards to the interpretation of what a non-profit is. Meadowside Campground in a non-stock corporation. Mr. Roberts thought that as a broad interpretation that a non-stock corporation may fall under the non-profit definition.

Lori Farrell, a member of Meadowside Campground stated that she had reached out to Preston with regards to their BINGO ordinance. She was informed that the Town of Preston had not gone through this process to get their BINGO ordinance in place. She is disappointed that the Town Attorney has not had any positive feedback on this issue.

Mr. Alberts stated that Mr. Roberts wanted to draft a simple ordinance, and he will ask Mr. Roberts to look at the Preston ordinance. Mr. Alberts stated that he too would like to move forward with this.

10. Citizens Comments:

Jim Trowbridge thanked the Board of Selectmen for approving the timber harvest at the Crystal Pond Park. Both Mr. Olah and Mr. Paquette expressed their concern for the health and safety of the forest and were pleased to vote in favor of the plan.

Dawn Adiletta stated that the previous timber harvest plan for Town owned property went to Town Meeting for approval. She wondered why this one did not have to go to Town Meeting. None of the Board of Selectmen could remember why that was.

Mr. Kline questioned the surplus from last fiscal year's budget. Mr. Alberts explained that the final surplus dollar figure would be available from the Treasurer in September. At that point the Board of Selectmen would make a recommendation to the Board of Finance on what CNR projects some of these funds could be used for. Mr. Alberts further explained that many line items were underspent and that many of the new hires did not require health insurance, which saved the Town money.

11. Other From Committee:

Mr. Olah asked for an update on the payroll issue. Mr. Alberts stated that timecards were being used again, and that things were running smoothly. New payroll companies may be researched in the future.

Mr. Olah asked for an update on the QV911 situation. Mr. Alberts stated that he would be meeting with the QV staff and the fire chiefs next week.

Mr. Olah asked about security measures being taken during the Woodstock Fair. Mr. Alberts stated that the Woodstock Agriculture Society has an emergency plan in place and they do practice drills. The State Police are in of charge security at the Woodstock Fair.

Mr. Paquette stated that he had been approached about a possible timber harvest at the closed landfill site. MR. Alberts will look into this and report back to Mr. Paquette

12. Adjournment: Mr. Paquette made a motion to adjourn at 7:47pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**