

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 18, 2020 – 4:00PM**

In accordance with Governor Lamont’s Executive Order and social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC, members of the Board of Selectmen participated in the meeting via ZOOM online.

MINUTES

PRESENT: John Swan, Gregory Kline and Chandler Paquette.

OTHERS PRESENT: Crystal Adams, Diane Miller, and Jeff Gordon

1. Call to Order: First Selectman John Swan called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

2. Approve the Minutes of the June 18, 2020 Regular Board of Selectmen’s Meeting:

Selectman Greg Kline wanted to make clear in the minutes that the Registrar of Voters have said that the Secretary of the State will send out applications to all registered Connecticut voters for the Presidential Preference Primary, and if the voter wishes to vote absentee the voter returns the ballot and an absentee ballot will be issued to the voter.

Selectman Chandler Paquette made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Discuss Open Space Project, the Preservation of Maple Crest Farm: Dawn Adiletta, chair of the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee stated that the proposal is to buy the development rights from Maplecree Farm LLC. in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

This property was formerly owned by the Frink family and is now owned by Timothy, Wendy, Lucas and Angela Young, who are continuing to use the historical name of the farm for this property. Ms. Adiletta stated that the Frink family has retained part of the property, which includes the farmhouse and the barn. This is not part of the proposal. The property owned by the Young family is approximately 140 acres and has road frontage along Route 169 and abuts the Young’s property on Child Hill Road. Approximately 60% percent of the property contains prime agricultural soil. The approximate price for the development rights is \$229,000.00, and \$65,000.00 would be the Town’s share of the purchase price. This money is in the Open Space account and therefore would not incur a tax increase. This proposal must be approved by the Board of Finance, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Conservation Commission. Ms. Adiletta will also present this to the Agricultural Commission as a courtesy. After these Boards and Commissions give their approval the Board of Selectmen will need to set a Town Meeting, and because the Town’s contribution towards the Development Rights is less than \$100,000.00 this does not have to go to Referendum.

Ms. Adiletta stated that in normal times the Commission would have a display at Celebrate Agriculture. However, since the event is going to be held virtually this year the Open Space Commission will produce a video detailing the proposal that will be available for viewing for a month. Ms. Adiletta hopes that this will be viewed by more people than would have seen it if Celebrate Agriculture were held as usual.

There was discussion on what protocols would be in place to hold a Town Meeting due to the COVID-19 situation. Because the protocols change so frequently it was decided to wait until the Open Space has gotten its approvals from the needed Boards and Commissions before exploring this matter.

4. Consider the Reappointments of Members of the Crystal Pond Park commission for the term of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022

Brian Griffin as Full Member

Paul Oleszewski as a Full Member

David Mullen as a Full Member

Mr. Kline made a motion to reappoint Brian Griffin, Paul Oleszewski and David Mullen as Full Members of the Crystal Pond Park Commission for the terms of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Tax Rebates: None

6. Correspondence and Announcements: Mr. Swan stated that correspondence was received from NEDDH stating that the amount that Woodstock pays has increased from \$5.25 per person to \$5.75 based on Woodstock's increased population from 7,809 to 7,862.

Mr. Kline pointed out in the correspondence that it states that the population has **decreased** not increased, and he wonders if this is a typographical error. Mr. Swan will contact NEDDH to clarify this matter.

Mr. Swan stated that the May 2020 activity report from State Police Barracks Troop D was received as well as correspondence from Master Sergeant Jeffrey McDermott informing the Selectman's Office that two police officers would be assigned to the June 14th Black Lives Matters protest organized by Woodstock Academy students.

Mr. Swan stated that before this event was held, he had been in contact with the Woodstock Academy Security as well as the State Police. The abutters had been notified as well. Mr. Swan stated that this was well attended and that the attendees were very well behaved. The Registrar of Voters set up a table and registered people to vote and handed out voter registration cards to others.

It has been decided to open Pond Factory starting June 26, 2020 with constables present on the weekends. Signs will be posted describing Social Distancing protocols. Because port-o-potties would need to be sanitized after each use there will not be any port-o-potties available this year.

There will also be no picnic tables available for the same reason. There will be arrangements for trash pickup.

The beach at Crystal Pond will be closed to swimmers but open for kayakers. The beach at Crystal Pond is very small and it cannot accommodate the Social Distancing requirements.

Roseland Park has reopened for regular hours.

Bentley Field is reopening on July 6, 2020. The gates will be unlocked at 6:00am and locked at 9:00pm.

8. Other from Committee: Mr. Swan announced that an advertisement for a Full-Time Executive Secretary was placed in the Shopper's Guide. Mr. Swan stated that the job had been offered to the current Executive Secretary Brenda Cotnoir. However, Mr. Swan was very disappointed to announce that Mrs. Cotnoir does not want to leave her other part-time employment and regretfully declined the position.

Mr. Kline stated that he was approached by a colleague regarding the recent protests being held throughout the country in recent weeks. He stated that his colleague urged the citizens of Woodstock, as well as elected officials to speak out against racism. There was discussion on if the Board of Selectmen should make a statement. After much discussion Mr. Kline offered to draft a statement.

8. Public Comments: Diane Miller stated that she has seen Radar Speed signs on town-maintained roads in Pomfret. She thought that Woodstock should have something similar, and that local businesses could sponsor these signs. Mr. Swan stated that he would look into this.

9. Adjournment: Selectman Chandler Paquette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:54pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Recording Secretary

To view the meeting click on the below link
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_xvH6ItbNA&feature=youtu.be

