

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 3, 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: Diane Miller and Dawn Adiletta

1. Call to Order: First Selectman Jay Swan called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

2. Approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2020 Regular Board of Selectmen’s Meeting:

Selectman Greg Kline said that Agenda Item #7 should be **Public Comments** not **Other from Committee**.

Selectman Chandler Paquette made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 19, 2020 Regular Meeting as amended. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Consider and Vote on Revised Housing Rehabilitation Program Guidelines:

Mr. Swan explained that the Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Program is a program that allows low- or medium-income Woodstock residents to apply for a loan to help with rehabilitation projects at their home. The funds for this program will come from previous loans being repaid when the home is sold or refinanced or by people paying monthly installments. This program was originally administered by another company that no longer administers it and by the Treasurer’s Office that tracked payments and payoff amounts. Currently there is a waiting list for the program.

Mr. Swan and Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick met with Mary Bromm who administers the program for the Town of Killingly and other local Towns. Ms. Bromm has offered to administer the program for the Town of Woodstock. Both Mr. Swan and Ms. Fitzpatrick feel comfortable with Ms. Bromm handling this program for the Town of Woodstock.

Mr. Paquette and Mr. Kline have read the program guidelines and the two revisions received today, which they received via email from the Selectmen’s Office.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to accept the revised Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Program Guidelines. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Tax Rebates: Mr. Kline made a motion to accept the following tax rebates of \$518.42, 65.78 and 84.13 to be paid to Ford Credit for vehicles sold, one in September 2019 and two sold in July 2020. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Correspondence and Announcements:

The following letters of resignation have been received:

Judith Gries has resigned from the Beautification Committee effective November 20, 2020, after serving on the committee in various positions since 2000. She will continue to volunteer with the tree identification project on the Woodstock Hill Common as a Friend of the Beautification Committee.

Timothy Monahan is resigning his position on the Historic District Commission effective June 1, 2021. He submitted his resignation at such an early date to allow the Commission the time to find a replacement member.

David Mullen has resigned from the Crystal Pond Park Commission effective immediately.

Peter Ellsworth has resigned his position from the Water Pollution Control Authority effective December 31, 2020. He has been involved with the WPCA since the 1990's in various positions on the Commission.

Correspondence has been received from Doug Gillette of Day Pitney who represents the Town in bonding issues to inform the Town that a colleague of Mr. Gillette's has been hired by the Yale School of Forestry which owns property in Woodstock. Day Pitney has requested the Town to sign a waiver stating that the Town does not believe that this represents a conflict of interest. Mr. Swan signed the waiver and returned it to Day Pitney.

The State of Connecticut Department of Transportation sent the Town notice that the DOT will be working on sections of Route 171 in Woodstock in the future. The State has advised the Town that if the Town has any utilities or structures in the area that work is being done that the Town is responsible for making those structures safe. Highway Foreman John Navarro has also been informed.

The Maplecrest Farm Development Rights purchase will be decided at the December 17, 2020 Regular Board of Selectmen's meeting. Instead of holding a Public Hearing before the meeting it has been decided to have a Public Comments section at the beginning of the meeting to allow people to submit questions up to a half hour before the beginning of the meeting. These questions will be read during the meeting and answered by Open Space Land Acquisition Commission Chair Dawn Adiletta. Another Public Comments section will be held before the vote where questions will be submitted using the Zoom Chat option.

Also, at this meeting a resolution to make horses and ponies tax exempt will be brought forward for a vote. Assessor Emily Carlone will be present to answer questions.

Half page advertisements will be placed in the Shoppers Guide, running for three consecutive weeks, announcing the change in fees at the Transfer Station. Advertising the change in the Transfer Station from a calendar year to a fiscal year will begin after the bulk of the 2021 Transfer Stickers have been sold. The Board discussed stapling a notice onto the 2021 Transfer Station regulations announcing the change.

Two errors were spotted in the 2021 Transfer Station Regulations. One is that the Senior Citizens fee was listed as \$96.00 when it should be \$95.00. The other was with the minimum bulky waste fee. The minimum fee is \$15.00, but the fee for 15-30 gallons bulky waste was different. It was decided to make both \$15.00

Recreation Director Anthony Pezzetti is organizing a House Decorating contest. Woodstock residents who wish to participate will register with the Recreation Department, have their homes registered on a map and be asked to keep the lights on from 4:30pm-8:00pm. The Board of Selectmen have been nominated to be judges and there will be a People's Choice award. Mr. Pezzetti is working with New England Awards and Trophies to come up with a trophy to be displayed at the Town Hall.

The virtual Gingerbread House may be cancelled due to the lack of registrations.

Mr. Pezzetti is working with the American Legion to have a tree lighting ceremony to be held at Roseland Park, to kick off the Holiday Light contest at 4:30pm.

Chandler Paquette thanked Mr. Pezzetti for coming up with festive ideas to brighten the holidays for the Town during the Pandemic.

The Woodstock Business Association will be holding a food drive on December 13, 2020, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at Roseland Park, to benefit TEEG.

Woodstock's COVID rate is still at the Red level. It is hoped that the vaccine will be in the area in three weeks. Frontline workers and Nursing Homes will receive the vaccine first.

6. Public Comment: None.

7. Other from Committee:

Mr. Paquette urged the need to find volunteers to join Boards and Commissions in need of volunteers. Mr. Swan agreed. A list of Boards and Commissions vacancies will be placed on the Town website and Facebook page. The list will be shared with the Republican Town Committee and the Democratic Town Committee.

Mr. Kline asked if Frank Olah has been appointed to the Economic Development Commission. Mr. Swan answered that the Board of Selectmen is waiting to receive the letter of resignation from the Commission member who has moved out of Town.

Mr. Kline announced that there will be ribbon cutting tomorrow at noon at the Rusty Relic. He will attend and he urged the other Board members to try to attend.

Mr. Kline informed the Board that the Democratic Town Committee will be holding a Boot Drive this weekend, at the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department, weather permitting. All boots will be donated to TEEG and be distributed to Woodstock children. Any leftover boots will be donated to other area Towns.

Mr. Kline stated that the Russ Dowd, President of the Woodstock Fire Protection Association sent out a press release detailing safety measures for the holiday season.

8. Adjournment: Mr. Kline made a motion to adjourn at 4:58pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Recording Secretary

To view the video of this meeting click on the following link <https://youtu.be/jCP39knAwek>