

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 17, 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 (4:30pm) and Chandler Paquette.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dawn Adiletta, Charlene Perkins Cutler, Diane Miller, Rich Roberts, WINY and approximately ten others.

1. Call to Order: First Selectmen Jay Swan called the meeting to order at 4:06pm.

2. Approve the Minutes of the December 3, 2020 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting: Selectman Chandler Paquette made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 Regular Board of Selectmen's meeting as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Consider the Reappointment of Stan Swanson as a Full Member of the Historic District Commission for the Term January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025: Mr. Paquette made a motion to approve the reappointment of Stan Swanson as a full member to the Historic District Commission for the term of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Consider the Reappointment of Paul Miller as an Alternate Member of the Agricultural Committee for the Term January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022: Mr. Paquette made a motion to approve the reappoint of Paul Miller as an Alternate Member of the Agricultural Committee for the Term of January 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Set 2021 Regular board of Selectmen Meeting Dates: For the Calendar Year of 2021 and January 2022 the Board of Selectmen will meet at 4:00pm on the first Thursday and the third Thursday of the month. Due to COVID-19 all meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.

Ms. Swan stated that if the Board of Selectmen can meet in person in the future the Board can vote to return the third Thursday meeting back to 7:00pm.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to adopt the January 2021 through January 2022 Board of Selectmen's Schedule of Meetings as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Open Bids Received for the Public Works Department Auction Items: Mr. Swan stated that two bids were received, both on December 14, 2020.

First bid is from Chandler Paquette for a 2003 Sterling L7500 Dump truck, for \$1801.00 contingent on paperwork stating that the truck can be registered in the State of Connecticut.

Mr. Swan made a motion to accept the bid from Chandler Paquette of \$1801.00 for a 2003 Sterling 17500 dump truck contingent on paperwork stating that it can be registered in Connecticut: **In Favor:** Jay Swan. **Opposed:** None. **Abstentions:** Chandler Paquette. **Motion passed.**

The second bid is from Chandler Paquette for a 1968 18-foot equipment trailer for \$250.00 contingent on paperwork stating that the trailer can be registered in the State of Connecticut.

Mr. Swan made a motion to accept the bid from Chandler Paquette of \$250.00 for a 1968 18-foot equipment trailer contingent on paperwork stating that the trailer can be registered in the State of Connecticut. **In Favor:** Jay Swan. **Opposed:** None. **Abstentions:** Chandler Paquette.

7. Under Executive Orders 7S.7 and 7CC.1: To discuss and vote upon a resolution appropriating an amount not to exceed \$65,000 from the Woodstock Agricultural Land Preservation and Land Acquisition Fund toward the purchase price and associated costs of development rights to an approximately 140 acre parcel of land in the Town of Woodstock, Connecticut, currently owned by Timothy D. Young, Wendy E. Young, Lucas T. Young, and Angela M. Young, located on the general northeasterly side of Norwich Worcester Turnpike (aka CT Route 169), known as Maplecrest Farm, as the Town's contribution toward the purchase of the development rights to said parcel. The Town's contribution toward the purchase price shall be in addition to funding for the purchase to be supplied by the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture. As required by the above-referenced Executive Orders, the Board of Finance approved this appropriation and expenditure at its September 8, 2020 meeting

Crystal Adams, the Zoom host, stated that no emails regarding this resolution have been received.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to approve the resolutions as read by the First Selectman. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- 8. Under Executive Order 7JJ.4 and under the authority of General Statutes Section 12-81gg: To discuss and vote upon adopting the following ordinance regarding horse and pony property tax exemption.**

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK, CONNECTICUT

Horse and Pony Property Tax Exemption Ordinance

Pursuant to the authority of General Statutes 12-81gg and notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (68) of section 12-81 of the general statutes and section 12-91 of the general statutes, the Town of Woodstock hereby provides that horses and ponies of any value stabled in the Town of Woodstock shall be exempt from property taxation. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote agricultural use of land and other resources and in particular the stabling, training, instructing, and riding of horse and ponies. This ordinance shall be effective with the Grand List

dated October 1, 2020 and shall be applicable to assessment years commencing on or after said date.

Mr. Swan explained that in the past when horse and ponies were used for transportation Towns taxed them as Towns do motor vehicles now. Since ponies and horses are no longer used for transportation this ordinance will make horses and ponies tax exempt like other farm animals.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to approve the above resolution as read by the First Selectman.
Motion passed unanimously.

9. Tax Rebates: Mr. Paquette made a motion to accept the following tax rebates:

To Woodstock Academy in the amounts of \$78.89, \$220.50, 201.64 and \$238.39 for tax exempt vehicles, and

To Financial Service Vehicle Trust in the amount of \$544.15 for a vehicle sold in September 2019.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Correspondence and Announcements:

A letter was received from Jeffrey Gordon giving his support for the purchase of the Maplecrest Farm development rights. He reminded the Board that the Planning and Zoning Commission approved this at an earlier meeting. He thanked the members of the Open Space Land Acquisition Commission for the good work that the Commission does for the community.

A letter from Jeffrey Gordon was received giving his support for the Horse and Pony Property Tax Exemption.

In both letters he thanked the Board of Selectmen for using its authority to pass these two resolutions by utilizing the Governor's Executive Order 7JJ.4. and keeping the Town of Woodstock citizens and the Woodstock Town Hall staff safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The November report from State Police Troop D was received.

A thank you letter from TEEG was received thanking the residents of Town of Woodstock for its donation of food.

Another thank you letter from TEEG was received thanking the residents of the Town of Woodstock for its cash donations to the Woodstock Fuel Fund.

A letter was received from Lynn Weaver declining his reappointment to the Woodstock Agricultural Commission. Mr. Weaver and his wife plan to move from Woodstock in the future to be closer to family. Mr. Swan thanked Mr. Weaver for his hard work on the commission and for his dedication to the "Celebrate Agriculture" event.

A letter was received from Jean McClellan declining her reappointment to the Historic Properties Commission.

A letter from John Bartolomei declining his reappointment to the Historic Properties Commission.

A letter was received from Stephanie Anthony resigning from the Economic Development Commission as she is no longer a resident of the Town of Woodstock.

Stuart Peaslee sent in his letter of resignation from the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency due to the lack of time due to professional obligations.

Marian Hallowell has resigned from the Beautification Committee.

11. Public Comments: Dawn Adiletta thanked the Board of Selectmen for the Board's dedication towards and for approving the purchase of the development rights of Maplecrest Farm before the end of 2020. She also thanked the other members of the Open Space Land Acquisition Commission for its dedication and hard work.

12. Other from Committee: Mr. Paquette stated that while he was judging the Christmas Light Display Contest that he often had difficulty locating a home due to the homes not having reflective house numbers on mailboxes. He stated that he had concerns that if there was a 911 call emergency personnel would have a difficult time locating the residence. It was the consensus of the Board to post a notice on the Town's website and Facebook page urging Town residents to have their house numbers prominently displayed.

Mr. Paquette the Board of Selectmen's representative to the Open Space Land Acquisition Commission stated that he is pleased that another piece of topnotch property has been preserved from future development. He thanked Dawn Adiletta for her dedication to preserving open space in Woodstock. While the whole committee is dedicated to this Ms. Adiletta is the one who meets with the property owners, spends countless of hours in meetings on the State level, attends the site walks, and attends to countless other details that need to be accomplished to purchase the development rights on a piece of property. If it were not for her a lot of these properties would not be preserved. Mr. Swan and Mr. Kline agreed and added their heartfelt thanks to her and the rest of the commission.

13. Adjournment: Mr. Swan made a motion to adjourn at 4:43pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted
Christine G. French
Recording Clerk

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