

Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
September 7, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectman Present: I. Haines; E. Dill; T. Govert

Also Present: D. Angersola; C. Beard; E. Blaschik; T. Sevigny; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski; and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of August 17, 2022

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Gary Wilson, Chairman of the East Haddam Conservation Commission, dated August 29, 2022. Ms. Haines reviewed the letter which expressed the Conservation Commission's unanimous support of the proposed Town purchase of the Kronberg property on North Moodus Road for Open Space.

5. First Selectmen's Report

- A. Company #2 Discussion: Ms. Haines reported that an analysis of Fire Department needs for the next 40 years was completed which concluded that no additional space is needed for apparatus because no additional apparatus is needed. She noted, however, that the Company No. 2 building is structurally compromised, and she recognized Director of Operations Don Angersola who provided an overview of the problems with the building and his recommendations.

Mr. Angersola stated that an engineering analysis had been done of Fire Company #2 and it identified numerous structural, mechanical, and site problems. In addition to significant problems with the building and the roof, the a/c is outdated and the pitch of the parking lot needs to be corrected. He advised that the engineer projected that it will take 12 months to bring the property back into service.

Mr. Angersola reported that the inspecting company estimated it would cost approximately \$200k for design work. He called the Board's attention to a draft RFP in their meeting packets which solicits proposals for "... *architectural/engineering services through schematic design, design development, construction document, and bidding phase, including professional cost estimating services*" and he recommended the Town issue the RFP as soon as it is finalized.

Ms. Haines stated that she is researching several avenues to fund the project, including grants, and completing the design work is the first step in getting it “shovel-ready”. Mr. Angersola responded to several questions from Mr. Dill. It was the consensus of the Board of Selectmen to move the request for funding for the design phase of the project forward for the Board of Finance’s consideration.

6. Public Comment: There was no public comment discussed at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Broadband Discussion: Ms. Govert called the Board’s attention to a draft Resolution to establish a Broadband Feasibility Committee in their meeting packets. She noted that the potential charge for the Committee included in the Resolution had been revised to require the Committee submit a detailed Digital Access Broadband Master Plan to the Town within 120 days of their first meeting rather than 90 days. She advised that six individuals have expressed interest in serving on the Committee.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to enter into executive session at 7:20 p.m. to consider the applications for the Broadband Feasibility Committee. Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen returned to regular session at 7:25 p.m. No motions or decisions were made.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectmen appoint a committee of five (5) persons, effective September 7, 2022, to support EntryPoint Networks, Inc Consultants, in undertaking and completing, within one hundred twenty (120) days of the date of their first meeting, a detailed Digital Access Broadband Master Plan for the Town of East Haddam. Members shall appoint a chairman and secretary at their first meeting. Members shall serve with no compensation. The Committee shall meet on a regular basis and their meetings shall be open to the public.

The Broadband Feasibility Committee will work with EntryPoint Networks, Inc Consultants as the representatives from the Town of East Haddam as they develop a detailed Digital Access Broadband Master Plan. This will include, but is not limited to, community engagement to survey residents and businesses about their needs and interests in regards to community broadband, a market analysis to identify the current landscape of service providers, prices and speeds from carriers operating in East Haddam today, a risk analysis for all project phases, a High-Level Network Design for a Fiber to the Business and Fiber to the Premise Network in consultation with Biarri Networks, various financial and cost breakdowns for various components of the project, recommendations for the funding path for infrastructure, operations and maintenance of the network and service providers and identifying potential federal and state grant opportunities.

The Broadband Feasibility Committee may reach out to the Economic Development Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission and any other Town organization or department, as well as any outside agency or organization that they feel will assist them in their decision-making process.

The Committee shall work with EntryPoint Network, Inc. Consultants to develop a Digital Access Broadband Master Plan and report their findings and make recommendation to the Board of Selectmen, in writing, within the 120 day period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the following persons are appointed to said committee: Thomas Sevigny, Patricia Stricker, Craig Mansfield, Seymour Hays, and Wayne Schulz.

Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

- A. Letter of Endorsement for East Haddam Land Trust Open Space Grant Application – Honey Hill Farm Property – 126 Acres, Honey Hill: Ms. Haines called the Board’s attention to a letter in their meeting packet from Mr. Beard of the East Haddam Land Trust, dated August 23, 2022, requesting the Board of Selectmen “... issue a letter stating its support for the EHLT’s acquisition of the Honey Hill Farm Property”. She recognized Mr. Beard who provided an overview of the property and EHLT’s interest in acquiring the property. He reviewed the list of Town Boards and Commissions who have already signified their support and distributed additional materials to the Board members.

Ms. Govert recused herself from the discussion of this agenda item. Mr. Beard responded to questions and confirmed that there would be no financial investment by the Town for the EHLT to acquire the Honey Hill Farm property.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Haines, that the Board of Selectmen support an application from the East Haddam land Trust to the State of Connecticut’s Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program for funds to purchase the Honey Hill Farm Property, a 126-acre property on Honey Hill Road. Ms. Govert recused herself from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

- B. Grant Acceptance – FY 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant: Ms. Haines called the Board’s attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, dated August 24, 2022, advising that the Town had been awarded an Emergency Management Performance Grant.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept a grant in the amount of \$5,224.50 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, entitled “FY 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant”, and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

- C. Moodus Mud Mobile Café Discussion: Ms. Haines called the Board’s attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from the owners of Moodus Mud Coffee Roasters, LLC, dated August 1, 2022. She noted that they are interested in utilizing the parking area of the former Town Office Building property in the Village for their Mobile Café truck. Ms. Haines said that she had followed-up on the email with several questions and she is waiting for the owners’ response. She stated that she had also spoken with the First Selectman in Portland, which has similar arrangements with food trucks, who agreed to send her a sample of the contract they use. There was a brief discussion among the board and they agreed to keep this item on the agenda for further discussion.

- D. Beer & Wine Service Request – Rathbun Library: Ms. Haines called the Selectmen’s attention to an email from Michael Gilroy, dated August 30, 2022, in their meeting packets advising that the Rathbun Library is hosting an art show opening on Friday, September 16, 2022 and would like to serve beer and wine.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve beer and wine service at the Rathbun Library for the “Art Show Opening” on Friday, September 16, 2022. Unanimous aye.

E. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (HDC)

Historic District Commission

Ms. Haines called the Board’s attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from Chairman Will Brady, dated August 19, 2022, noting the Commission’s recommendation made for reappointments and a term completion.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to reappoint Steven Rossi as a regular member of the Historic District Commission for a five-year term to expire November 20, 2027. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint Karl Stofko and Keith Bunnell as alternate members of the Historic District Commission for three-year terms to expire November 20, 2025. Unanimous aye.

The Board thanked Ms. Rubenbauer for the time she served on the Historic District Commission.

F. Tax Refunds: Ms. Haines called the Board’s attention to four tax refunds.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to award tax refunds in the amounts as presented:

- \$360.02 to Nissan Infinity LT LLC,
- \$293.23 to Vault Trust (Ally Financial),
- \$536.67 to Honda Lease Trust, and
- \$223.89 to Nissan Infinity LT LLC.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: There was no additional public comment discussed at the meeting.

10. Selectmen’s Discussion

A. Liaison Reports: Ms. Govert and Ms. Zemienieski provided information regarding the status of the membership of the Sustainability Committee. It was noted that there is one open position which, for purposes of minority representation requirements, must be filled with a non-Democrat affiliated individual.

B. Other: There was no other Selectmen’s discussion at the meeting.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss Mr. Dill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary