Meeting Minutes

Town of East Haddam
Black Birch Golf Course Feasibility Study Committee
Special Meeting

Date: April 21, 2026
Location: Municipal Office Complex, Meeting Room #3

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, & Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Alan Ponanski at 6:00 PM in Meeting Room #3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Study Committee Members Present:
Alan Ponanski, Steven Longobardi, Mike Morris, Daniel Zimmerman, Jeff Miller (arrived at 6:45 pm)

Study Committee Members Absent:
Donald Lorusso, Jef Wolter

Additional Attendees:
Michael Callahan (resident and member of Banner HOA), Jim Ventres (Town Planner), Crary Brownell (Chair, Planning & Zoning Commission)

2. Approval of Agenda

The Meeting Agenda prepared by Chairman Ponanski was reviewed by the Committee and a motion to approve was made by Miller, seconded by Morris and approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, April 7, 2026 Special Meeting

Minutes were distributed by Secretary Miller and reviewed by the Committee. No corrections or additions were proposed by the Members, but Miller asked that on page 2 "The Chairman returned to Regular Session at 9:00 pm and no motions or decisions were made in Executive Session." This was at the request of Kathleen Klinck. Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes, made by Miller and second by Morris and approved unanimously.

4. Old Business

No old business matters were discussed by the Committee.

5. Public Comment

6. New Business

Chairman Ponanski invited Crary Brownell, Chair of the Planning & Zoning Commission and Jim Ventres, Town Planner, to meet with the Committee and discuss key issues related to the Black Birch golf course and future residential development in Executive Session.

7. Executive Session

The Committee went into Executive Session at 6:10 pm on a motion by Longhobardi, second by Morris, and a unanimous vote. The purpose was to discuss confidential financial information, feasibility studies, engineering inspections and previous discussions with the Black Birch owners with Jim Ventres, Town Planner, and Crary Brownell, Chair of the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Chairman Ponanski returned to Regular Session at 8:00 pm and no motions or decisions were made in Executive Session.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm on a motion by Morris, second by Miller, and a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Miller
Secretary, Black Birch Golf Course Feasibility Study Committee