Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
March 20, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; T. Bourgoin; E. Dill
Also Present: D. Angersola; D, Dill; R. Swol; 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: Ms. Haines stated she would like to amend the agenda to add the Historic District to New Business item 8F.

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of February 21, 2024, Special Meeting of February 24, 2024, Special Meeting of February 29, 2024 and Special Meeting of March 2, 2024.

   Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 21, 2024 as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Haines, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 24, 2024 as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 29, 2024 as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Haines, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 2, 2024 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Ms. Haines reviewed the following correspondence:

   - Laurel White – wrote regarding her concerns about the Town's plans to close the Dog Park. She noted recent improvements to the efforts of patrons to maintain the park and asked the First Selectman not to close the park.

   - Margie Roberts – wrote to express her concern about the removal of a number of trees on Cherry Swamp Road.

   - Robert Smith – wrote to express his concern about the Director of Public Works' proposal to use a Sennobogan for tree removal in Town and asked the Board of Selectmen to reject the plan. He also noted that several healthy sugar maple trees were removed on Honey Hill Road.

Ms. Haines stated she would refer the letters of concern about tree removal to Public Works Director Velez and noted that the issue of the dog park is being addressed. She responded to questions from the Board.

5. First Selectmen's Report: Ms. Haines provided the following report:

   - Swing Bridge Closings – as of April 1st, the bridge will be closed from 8:00 p.m. Sundays through 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays for six consecutive weeks.

   - Swing Bridge Openings – as of April 1st, the bridge will be open for boat traffic on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m. Openings will also occur on Mondays through Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m..

   - The state is implementing a "coupon program" for East Haddam and Haddam businesses to help offset lost revenue resulting from the work on the Swing Bridge. Business can either contact the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce or Ms. Haines for more information.

6. Public Comment: The following public comment was discussed at the meeting:

   - Deputy Fire Chief Swol – expressed his concern about the Selectmen's comments regarding the Fire Department's recruitment program at their March 2nd meeting. He stated that he feels it is "poor messaging" and "demeaned" the Fire Department. In response to a question from Ms. Haines, he reviewed the department's training program.

     Ms. Bourgoin stated it was not her intention to demean or degrade the Fire Department and she apologized to Mr. Swol if he felt her comments did so.

7. Unfinished Business

   A. RFP Award – Moodus Center Master Plan: Ms. Haines stated that a subcommittee of the Economic Development Commission and Planning & Zoning Commission had recommended awarding the contract to develop a master plan for the Moodus Center to SLR International Corp. She provided additional background information.

      Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to award the contract for the development of a Master Plan for Moodus Center to SLR International Corporation, in an amount not to exceed $75,000.00. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

   A. 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant Resolution: Ms. Haines advised that the Town submits for this grant each year and it requires an authorizing resolution from the Board of Selectmen for the chief executive officer to sign the application.

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

      RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Irene M. Haines, as First Selectman of the Town of East Haddam is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents. Unanimous aye.

B. Call for Town Meeting: Ms. Haines advised that items approved at previous meetings need to be moved forward to a Town Meeting.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the following call for Town Meeting:

The Electors and citizens of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut qualified to vote in Town Meeting are hereby warned and notified that a Special Town Meeting will be held in the Municipal Office Complex, Meeting Room 1 & 2 located on 1 Plains Road in Moodus, Connecticut on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., for the following purposes, to wit:

**Item 1:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to adopt the following resolution:

> RESOLVED: That an American Rescue Plan Act Grant for Senior Centers in the amount of $24,150.00 is hereby accepted upon the terms and conditions set forth in a certain Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Fiscal Local Recovery Fund ("CSLFRF") Beneficiary Agreement between the Town of East Haddam and the State of Connecticut, Department of Aging and Disability Services for the purpose of HVAC upgrades and replacement at the East Haddam Senior Center (account 33055011-58820-G2401). IN ADDITION, the First Selectman, Irene M. Haines, is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, contracts and execute all documents necessary to said grant in the name and on behalf of the Town of East Haddam for the fulfillment of the American Rescue Plan Act Grant for Senior Centers with the State of Connecticut, Department of Aging and Disability Services.

**Item 2:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to accept a grant in the amount of $5,000.00 from the Ann T. D'Addario Family Foundation Fund, Edmund T. and Barbara S. Delaney Fund and William McCann and Best Cleaners Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County for the purpose of supporting their website renovation project (revenue account 33050-43000 G2501 and expense account 22055011-58820-G2501).

**Item 3:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to authorize the First Selectman to execute a three-year contract from January 2025 through January 2028 on behalf of the Town of East Haddam with First Point Power for electricity supply at a rate of $0.1083/per kWh.

**Item 4:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to adopt the following resolution:

> RESOLVED: Pursuant to Chapter 130, of the Connecticut General Statutes, and the "Town of East Haddam Ordinance to Create the East Haddam Redevelopment Agency for the Development of the Former Town Office and Garage Property and Certain Surrounding Properties" the Board of Selectmen hereby appoints Cameron Hendry, elector of the Town of

East Haddam, to the Town of East Haddam Redevelopment Agency, to serve and fill a vacant term expiring August 31, 2026, and subject to approval of a Town Meeting.

Unanimous aye.

C. Tree Warden Appointment: Ms. Haines noted that Steven Hedler was the former Tree Warden but is no longer employed by the Town. She stated that current Public Works Director Michele Velez has completed all the necessary training to become the Tree Warden for the Town of East Haddam.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to appoint Michele Velez as Tree Warden for the Town of East Haddam. Unanimous aye.

D. Beer & Wine Approval – Rathbun Library: Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to an email in their meeting packets from Library Director Evelyn Morgen, dated March 12, 2024 advising that the Rathbun Library is hosting an art show opening on Friday, April 5, 2024 and would like to serve beer and wine at the event.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to approve beer and wine service at the Rathbun Library for the "Art Show Opening" on Friday, April 5, 2024. Unanimous aye.

E. Beer & Wine Approval – East Haddam Senior Center: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a request from Brad Parker, Senior Center Director, for permission to host a wine and craft beer tasting at the Senior Center.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve and permit the Senior Center to host a wine and craft beer tasting event at the Senior Center on May 10, 2024 at 6:00pm. Unanimous aye.

F. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (REC, HDC)

**Recreation Commission**

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Recreation Commission Chairman Michael Davis noting his resignation from the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Michael Davis from the Recreation Commission. Unanimous aye.

**Historic District Commission**

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter from the Historic District Commission advising that the Commission recommended an alternate member appointment.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to appoint Jack Lovejoy to fill a vacant alternate position on the Historic District Commission, with a term to expire November 20, 2025. Unanimous aye.

G. Tax Refunds: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to one tax refund.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to award a tax refund in the amount presented:

- $197.64 to Toyota Lease Trust

Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion

    A. Liaison Reports: None

    B. Other: Ms. Bourgoin commented on Mr. Smith's correspondence regarding the removal of a number of trees on Honey Hill Road and noted that, as a consequence, she has noticed an increase in the drain off from Route 82. She stated that she would like to verify Public Work's tree removal criteria and Ms. Haines encouraged her to reach out to Director Velez.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to adjourn the meeting 7:46 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary