

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 25, 2022
Town Hall Council Chambers and Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Mark Philhower, Vice Chairman Tim Feegel, Council Members Pete Brown, Brandon Goff, Eric Peterson, Kevin Reich and Alison Walck and Town Manager David Cox

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Philhower called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Reich, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voted (7-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of January 11, 2022, as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Russell Kaplan, 127 Comstock Trail, member of the Clean Energy Task Force, commented in favor of the town joining Sustainable CT. He noted the community matching fund component of the program.

Paul Wisniewski, 25 Fernwood Road, member of the Clean Energy Task Force, spoke in favor of the town joining Sustainable CT.

Marty Podskoch, 43 O'Neill Lane, member of the Clean Energy Task Force, encouraged the Council to have the town join Sustainable CT and the network of organizations that can assist with projects.

Therese Fishman, 13 Fern Lane, commented that she feels that Fern Lane falls outside the provisions for other private roads. She feels the road was accepted when the historic district was established. She is not asking for it to be widened, it should be kept as a historic lane as others in Middle Haddam.

Mike Piergalini, 16 Fern Lane, commented on Fern Lane and noted if the town accepted the road they would be able to use State funds to work on it.

Chairman Philhower commented that the town doesn't have title to the property and cannot take it over without the title. The staff is looking for a process for this issue to be fixed properly and is unsure how long that process will take to complete.

Pam Hatfield, 37 Fern Lane, asked if there is a timeline for a decision on Fern Lane.

Presentations

Presentation from the Commission on Aging on the Older Adult Survey Results

Robert Atherton, Chairman of the Commission on Aging and Dr. Eric Rosenberg, member of the Commission on Aging, provided a presentation on the findings of the Older Adult Survey that was done by the Commission on Aging. The full document will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. Mr. Atherton thanked the Commission on Aging members, the Town Council, the Town Manager and his staff, Chief Woessner for the electronic sign board and Belltown Auto for allowing the sign board to be placed there, the Rivereast and Senior Services Coordinator Jo Ann Ewing. The Commission will discuss sub-committees for the main topics of the survey and will report back to the Council.

Bids & Contracts

None

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation

None

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Mr. Brown reported that the Water Sub-Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, January 26th at 5:30pm.

Ms. Walck attended the Housing Authority meeting where she asked about the distribution of COVID test kits. She attended the Commission on Aging meeting where the survey presentation was discussed, and she also attended the Board of Finance meeting where the fund balance and budget process was discussed.

Chairman Philhower reported there will be a Capital Meeting on Tuesday, February 1 at 6:30pm.

Update and Discussion on Accepting the Private Road Fern Lane into Town Ownership

Mr. Philhower noted that he and Mr. Cox are still working on a solution for this issue, but no decision has been made yet. This item will remain on the agenda.

Discussion and Consideration of Actions Regarding Joining Sustainable CT

Ms. Walck and Mr. Goff noted their concerns about joining Sustainable CT. Mr. Cox indicated that we could have some members from Sustainable CT present directly to the Town. Mr. Reich noted the large amount of work needed to complete some of the tasks to obtain the bronze and silver stars. He doesn't want to see the town with no accomplishments a few years down the road. Marty Podskoch, a member of the Clean Energy Task Force, spoke in favor of Sustainable CT and how they can help the town. Mr. Cox will work to schedule someone from Sustainable CT to attend a meeting.

New Business

None

Town Manager Report

Mr. Cox provided an overview of his written report which will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. In addition to the written report, Mr. Cox reported that a cyber security

incident occurred in early December. On December 1st the Town became aware of suspicious activity in the network. Files had been copied from the Town and Board of Education. After review of the files, it was learned the information included protected information regarding employees and vendors. The Town is not aware of any use or sale of the information. Letters will be sent to all individuals involved letting them know of the issue and offering a 2-year credit monitoring service paid for by the Town. The Board of Education sent letters to some parents regarding the breach.

Appointments

None

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$7,152.74. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Pam Hatfield, 37 Fern Lane, commented that there are 2 separate parcels in the land records, an early section and a later parcel.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcement

None

Executive Session

Motion to Recess to Executive Session to Discuss Matters Concerning Security Strategy or Deployment of Security Devices Regarding Cybersecurity

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Ms. Walck, to enter Executive Session at 7:55pm with Town Manager David Cox and Finance Director Jeff Jylkka invited into the session. Voted (7-0)

Executive Session ended at 8:42pm.

Adjournment – No action will be taken following Executive Session – Council will adjourn immediately after the session.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:42pm. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk