

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
Town Hall Council Chambers and Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Mark Philhower, Vice Chairman Tim Feegel, Council Members Pete Brown, Brandon Goff, Eric Peterson (via Zoom), 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 Mr. Goff, seconded by Ms. Walck, to adopt the agenda with the change to move Item 8a to 6a and rename Item 6a to 6b. Voted (7-0)

Public Hearing for an Ordinance Amending Chapter 33 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding the Economic Development Commission to Include a Purpose and Mission Statement

Matthew Reich, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, provided an overview of the amendment to the EDC Ordinance adding a mission statement and purpose.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to close the Public Hearing. 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 November 23, 2021 as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Pam Hatfield, 37 Fern Lane, commented that a permanent solution is needed for Fern Lane. They would like assurance that the town will maintain the road and calls for pothole repair/patching will be responded to. Please consider accepting Fern Lane without a burden on the residents. She provided a brief history of Fern Lane.

Mike Piergalini, 16 Fern Lane, feels that by the establishment of the historic district that the town has already accepted Fern Lane. He read some passages from the Historic District manual and noted the inclusion of Fern Lane on the Mail-A-Map.

William DeMore, 3 Fern Lane, commented that the town has recognized some action with Cobalt Lodge for gated access to Fern Lane with no permission from the Fern Lane residents. He would like a more permanent solution.

Sylvia DeMore, 3 Fern Lane, commented that the road was maintained until the prior Town Manager was hired. A private way sign was also put up at that time.

Mr. Cox provided an email from Michelle Levy regarding Fern Lane. The email will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Proclamation for Sergeant Tim Dowty

The Council members presented a proclamation to Sergeant Tim Dowty congratulating him on his upcoming retirement from the East Hampton Police Department and thanked him for his many years of service to the Town.

Presentations

Clean Energy Task Force Presentation on Sustainable CT

Paul Wisniewski and Russ Kaplan from the Clean Energy Task Force provided a presentation on the town registering for Sustainable CT. The presentation will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. If the town chooses to join Sustainable CT a resolution must be passed. The Council will consider this at a future meeting.

Bids & Contracts

Review & Potential Approval of the Scope and Costs for Phase I of the Water System Evaluation & Design Project with Environmental Partners in the Not to Exceed Amount of \$47,600

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the proposal from Environmental Partners for the Preliminary Engineering Report Preparation. This is the first phase of work on the Water System Evaluation and Design. The funding source for this portion of the project is a grant received from the State of CT Department of Public Health Drinking Water Division.

A motion was made by Mr. Feegel, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve the scope and costs for Phase I of the Water System Evaluation & Design Project with Environmental Partners in the not to exceed amount of \$47,600. Voted (7-0)

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation

Review & Possible Approval of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 33 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding the Economic Development Commission to Include a Purpose and Mission Statement

The amended ordinance will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Brown, to adopt the amended ordinance as presented for the Economic Development Commission. Voted (7-0)

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Mr. Reich reported that the High School Athletic Fields Building Committee met on December 2nd. The sod is completed on the baseball field. The irrigation is complete. A new drain will be installed in the spring. Also, in the spring the track and tennis courts will be resurfaced. The project should be complete by June.

Mr. Brown reported that the Water Sub-Committee met to review the contract for the water system evaluation from Environmental Partners to be recommended to Council.

Mr. Brown reported that the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Sub-Committee met to review the list of projects that were provided for possible allocation of funds from the approximately \$3.7 million to be received by the Town. The sub-committee will prioritize the listing of possibilities for Council consideration. Mr. Philhower noted that he will become the Chairman of the ARP Sub-Committee replacing Mr. Brown.

Ms. Walck attended the Commission on Aging meeting where the results of the survey are being reviewed and prepared for a presentation to the Council.

New Business

Review & Possible Approval of Police Department General Orders

- **General Order 3.6 Pursuit Policy**
- **General Order 5.23 Use of Body Worn & Dashboard Cameras**

Police Chief Dennis Woessner provided an overview of General Order 3.6 and General Order 5.23 for approval.

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve Police Department General Order 3.6 Pursuit Policy and Police Department General Order 5.23 Use of Body Worn & Dashboard Cameras as presented. Voted (7-0)

Discussion of a Petition Received Regarding Accepting the Private Road Fern Lane into Town Ownership

Mr. Cox provided an overview of a memo regarding Fern Lane and a petition received from the residents there requesting the Town accept Fern Lane as a town road and to take over maintenance. The full memo and petition will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. Chairman Philhower asked for a cost breakdown for the next meeting. He would also like the information related to Cobalt Lodge's access to Fern Lane and asked for the conditions where Poe Road and Byron Road were accepted and the conditions of how Meeks Point became a town road. This item will be on the next agenda.

Motion to Register for Benefits Under the Opioid Lawsuit Settlement

Mr. Cox provided an overview of a memo related to the Town opting in to the Opioid Settlement. The cutoff date to register for the settlement is January 2, 2022. Ms. Walck asked the Town Manager to research the cost of the opioid crisis on the Town.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to authorize the Town Manager to register the Town for the opioid settlement. Voted (7-0)

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 the Parks & Recreation Survey is underway. Mr. Goff reported a possible issue that no email is requested on the survey and people could complete the survey multiple times. Mr. Cox will check with Parks & Recreation on this. Mr. Cox also reported that the Police Department is in the second phase of cameras with cameras being installed in the vehicles. Lastly Mr. Cox noted that the Senior Center received a 100% funded grant for a new senior van.

Appointments

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Brown, to appoint the following residents to the boards listed:

Marlene Geary – Economic Development Commission – term ending December 31, 2024

Nico Guerrera – Conservation-Lake Commission Alternate – term ending June 30, 2022

Jordan Higgins – Economic Development Commission – term ending December 31, 2023

Barbara Moore – CT Office of Tourism – term ending May 31, 2024

Voted (7-0)

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1,689.87. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Pam Hatfield, 37 Fern Lane, thanked the Council for their consideration in accepting Fern Lane. She noted it is unreasonable to expect the residents on the road to bring the road up to standards before it can be accepted.

Theresa Fishman, 13 Fern Lane, commented that it is interesting to hear how other private roads were accepted such as Poe and Byron.

Chairman Philhower noted the Fern Lane item will be on the next agenda.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcement

November Board & Commission Summary

The November Board and Commission Summary was provided to Council members.

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. Reich, seconded by Mr. Brown, to enter Executive Session at 7:43pm with the Town Manager invited into the session. Voted (7-0)

Executive Session ended at 8:24pm.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Brown, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk