

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 11, 2022
Town Hall Council Chambers and Zoom

MINUTES

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

Not Present: Vice Chairman Tim Feegel and Eric Peterson

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. Reich, seconded by Ms. Walck, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voted (5-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Walck, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of December 14, 2021, as written. Voted (5-0)

Public Remarks

Karen Asetta, 5 Fern Lane, commented that it is unfair for the town to expect the homeowners on Fern Lane to act as the developers. They are looking for a mutually acceptable solution to the road issue.

Pam Hatfield, 37 Fern Lane, commented that the primary concern is maintenance for Fern Lane. They want at least the same maintenance as they have received in the past.

Bob Atherton, Main Street, commented on the outstanding job done by the CERT team, police and employees in handing out the COVID test kits and masks. It was very well done.

Mike Piergalini, 16 Fern Lane, commented that Fern Lane needs to be addressed. They expect at least road maintenance. He feels the asphalt estimate that was given at the last meeting was very high. He referred to the Historic District and subdivision regulations.

Presentations

None

Bids & Contracts

None

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation

Proclamation for Po Fong of Po's Rice and Spice

The Council members presented a proclamation to Po Fong of Po's Rice and Spice for her ongoing support of the Town's older population and the Senior Center during the pandemic. Ms. Walck thanked Po. Her remarks will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Mr. Philhower reported that the Capital Committee has met once and will meet again on January 18. The ARP Sub-Committee will be meeting again on January 18.

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.

New Business

Easements for Eversource Lines on Gildersleeve Drive and DPW/WPCA Properties

Eversource is asking for two easements to facilitate removal of their poles and wires from the wetland area of the Airline Trail near Gildersleeve Drive to allow the construction of a boardwalk through the area and an access drive to their facilities north of Gildersleeve Drive. Mr. Cox provided an overview of the map of the area.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve the easements and authorize their execution and filing. Voted (5-0)

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 Town held two events for the distribution of COVID test kits and one included the distribution of N95 masks. The Town also provided kits to the Housing Authority, Senior Center, Food Bank, first responders, daycares, town staff and the Board of Education. Approximately 19,400 masks were distributed with about 20,000 still available for residents and businesses. The schools also received test kits and masks separately. Mr. Cox thanked Emergency Management Director Rich Klotzbier, the CERT team and the Lions club for their assistance with the distributions.

Appointments

Appointment of a Poet Laureate

The Town Council had tasked the Arts & Culture Commission to solicit applicants for the Poet Laureate position. The position has been vacant since the original Poet Laureate, Hugo DeSarro, passed away. The Arts & Culture Commission interviewed three potential candidates and recommended Stan Lindh.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Goff, to appoint Stan Lindh as the Poet Laureate for the Town of East Hampton with a term of two years. Voted (5-0)

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Ms. Walck, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$11,003.22. Voted (5-0)

Public Remarks

Pam Hatfield, 37 Fern Lane, commented on the list of private roads from 2014 indicating she thought some roads worse than Fern Lane had been accepted as town roads. She said potholes and maintenance need to be done. She doesn't agree with the Town Manager's suggestion that the residents should pay. All roads in Middle Haddam are narrow. She asks for a permanent resolution to the issue.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcement**December Board & Commission Summary**

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

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Goff, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm. Voted (5-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk