

Town of East Hampton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 22, 2022  
Town Hall Council Chambers and Zoom

**MINUTES**

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

**Not Present:** Pete Brown 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. Goff, seconded by Ms. Walck, to adopt the agenda adding Update on Middle School Roof under Old Business and Police Private Duty Fees under New Business. Voted (5-0)

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of February 8, 2022, as written. Voted (5-0)

**Public Remarks**

Mike Piergalini, 16 Fern Lane, commented on Fern Lane. He would like several questions answered before an ordinance is prepared. The first question is who/what part of staff approved Byron Road and Poe Road. The next question is shortly after he moved onto Fern Lane in 2001 the road was paved – who authorized and who paved the road. He would also like an answer to the question of the acceptance of Fern Lane as part of the Historic District when it was formed.

Pam Hatfield, 37 Fern Lane, commented that she can confirm that Fern Lane was paved over at least twice since 1994.

Mr. Philhower noted that Byron Road and Poe Road are still on the private road listing and are not town roads.

**Presentations**

**Recognition for Cathy Sirois**

Ms. Walck, on behalf of the Town Council, thanked Cathy Sirois for the work she does for the Town Council and the Town.

**Introduction of New Police Officer Brandy Lenois**

Police Chief Dennis Woessner introduced one of the new police officers, Brandy Lenois. Officer Lenois provided a brief background.

## **Bids & Contracts**

None

## **Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation**

None

## **Continued Business**

### **Sub-Committee Reports & Updates**

Mr. Reich reported the High School Athletic Fields Committee will meet on Thursday to discuss upcoming work on the project for the spring.

Ms. Walck attended the Housing Authority Meeting where they discussed the property near Chatham Acres for possible expansion.

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

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the current status of the review of Fern Lane. He referenced an ordinance that Glastonbury has adopted that contains a list of private streets on which the Town will provide a certain level of maintenance at the Town's discretion. He is in the process of having a similar ordinance drafted for East Hampton. A listing of private roads that the Town currently does some maintenance on will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. The draft ordinance should be presented at the next meeting.

### **Update on Middle School Roof Project**

Mr. Cox reported that shortly after the resolution to appropriate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Middle School Roof Project, the State notified the Superintendent of Schools that the use of ARPA funds would render the project ineligible for State reimbursement. Mr. Cox has reached out to the State Representative and Senator regarding the issue noting there is no exclusion in the ARPA requirements. Several other towns have also received this notification for their school projects. In speaking with Norm Needleman, he agreed there should be no exclusion. Mr. Reich recommended contacting the offices of Joe Courtney, Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy. Mr. Cox will continue to research this issue.

## **New Business**

### **Consideration of the RFP for the Air Line Trail Access Road Construction**

Parks & Recreation Director Jeremy Hall provided an overview of the RFP for the Air Line Trail Access Road Construction. This project is the first phase of the gap closure on the Air Line Trail behind Public Works and the WPCA. This phase of the project will cost approximately \$60,000 with the State covering \$40,000 and the Town covering \$20,000, which is in this year's approved Capital budget. The final phase of the project will be managed by the Army Corps of Engineers due to the wetlands in the area where a boardwalk would be built over the wetlands. DEEP and DOT are working on the funding sources for that final phase.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve the RFP for the Air Line Trail Access Road Construction as presented. Voted (5-0)

### **Update on Police Private Duty Fees**

Mr. Philhower noted that when reviewing the budget, he found a shortfall in some of the fees, particularly the vehicle use fee for private duty police jobs. He feels the current fee is too low and should be raised. He feels the setting of fees should be done by the Town Council, not individual departments. He would like a policy drawn up that any fees going forward will be set by the Town Council. This policy will be on the agenda in March.

### **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.

### **Appointments**

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Ms. Walck, to appoint Victoria Minor to the Brownfields Redevelopment Agency. Voted (5-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Ms. Walck, to reappoint Carol Lane and Melissa Pionzio to the Arts & Culture Commission. Voted (5-0)

### **Tax Refunds**

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$14,811.07. Voted (5-0)

### **Public Remarks**

None

### **Communications, Correspondence & Announcement**

None

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Brown, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. Voted (5-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois  
Recording Clerk