

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF WESTBROOK  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, June 8, 2021  
Via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Bishop called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectman Bishop, Selectman Hall and Selectman Fuchs, Becki Renshaw, Tyler Foss, Great Blue, John Palermo, Don Izzo, Emergency Management Director, Eric O’Connell, Harbor News, Courtney Burks, Senior Center Director, Chris Ehlert, Chairman Energy Committee/BOF member, Donna Castracane, Director of Finance, Tony Cozza, BOF member, and Emilia Otte, CT Examiner.

WESTBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH – Neighborhood Assistance Application

The Public Hearing on the Westbrook Congregational Church’s NAA application ended at 1:49 p.m. No comments from the public were received.

Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve the Form NAA-01 as submitted by the Westbrook Congregational Church, authorize First Selectman Bishop to sign all appropriate documentation and to forward the application to a Town Meeting for further action. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM GREAT BLUE – Community Center Survey

A copy of the Community Center Survey Report, developed by Great Blue, was included in the BOS packet, posted on the Town’s website and “screen shared”. Mr. Foss, Great Blue, provided an overview of the report, including recommendations, and was available to address questions/concerns posed by BOS members.

Ms. Burks reported that a Community Center, if developed, would not “compete” with Senior Center programs and her constituents are interested in the potential for additional programs; i.e. adult education space, support groups, etc.

Mr. Annino commented that the survey results are similar to the findings of the Woodard & Curran report of approximately 10 years ago. A Community Center, if developed, would improve the quality of life for Westbrook residents.

Mr. Izzo requested that Emergency Management be included in discussions relative to a potential Community Center.

Mr. Bishop reported that the Community Center survey was developed by Ad Hoc Committee members Rich Annino, Courtney Burks, David Maiden, Paul Winch and Noel Bishop (Chair).

Mr. Bishop made a motion that the Ad Hoc Committee (members listed above), review information developed by Great Blue, and provide recommendations to the BOS no later than 8/10/21. Said recommendations are to include action steps, potential project costs, location of proposed Community Center, on-going maintenance costs, a business plan to include projected revenues and operating costs.

Additional individuals/entities will be involved as appropriate. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Mr. Bishop made a motion to accept the resignation of Deb Rie from the Town Center Revitalization Committee and EDC. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bishop made a motion to accept the resignation of Matthew Schenck as a ZBA alternate. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TRANSFERS/APPROPRIATIONS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hall made a motion to approve the minutes from the 5/27/21 BOS meeting, as amended. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Page 2 – note that “Rte. 148” should be changed to “Rte. 145”.

UPDATE FROM ENERGY COMMITTEE

Mr. Ehlert reported:

- At this time, the Energy Committee does not wish to move forward with an additional solar array until the status of the Mulvey Roof is determined.
- The Virtual Net Metering project has been beneficial to the town (financially).
- Savings have been realized relative to the streetlight purchase. It is anticipated that the rebate funds will be received by the Town in the near future.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

The BOS agreed to a Special BOS meeting, on Wednesday, 6/16 @6:30 (in conjunction with the Regular BOF meeting) to discuss the Mulvey Roof and the status of the gas tank located at the Town Garage. This meeting will be a “hybrid” in-person/ZOOM meeting.

Additional information relative to traffic data at Rtes. 145 and 153 will be forwarded to Selectman Fuchs.

The posting for the full-time police officer (evening shift) expires on 6/22/21. An additional police officer resignation is anticipated in the upcoming weeks. At the 6/24 meeting, the BOS will discuss the next steps relative to police staffing.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bishop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest,

Suzanne Helchowski  
Executive Asst.

Noel Bishop  
First Selectman