

September 2, 2020

Noel Bishop
First Selectman
Town of Westbrook
866 Boston Post Road
Westbrook, CT 06498

Dear Noel:

You have asked for our guidance regarding the resignation of the Chairman of the Board of Finance and the process for filling the current vacancy.

Section 7-343 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides that a vacancy on the Board of Finance shall be filled by the remaining members of the Board at a special meeting called by the Chairman for that purpose and who shall be appointed by a majority vote of the remaining members. Pursuant to Section 7-107, unless otherwise provided by law, if a Board or Commission which has the authority to fill a vacancy fails to do so within 30 days after the vacancy occurs, the Board of Selectman or the chief executive authority **may** appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy until the next municipal election. Since the statute utilizes the term "may", the decision by the Board of Selectmen, or the chief executive authority, to fill the position is discretionary. If thirty days has passed since the Board of Finance vacancy became effective, the Board of Selectmen could, if it so chose, fill the vacancy on its own which individual would serve until the next municipal election.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Duncan J. Forsyth
Duncan J. Forsyth



Westbrook Republican Town Committee

On Saturday August 8, 2020, the WRTC Executive Committee nominated

PAUL WINCH

for the vacant seat on the Board of Finance (BOF). Traditionally, board vacancies are filled by the Party which held the seat vacated, in this instance, by Paul Connolly, a Republican.

Paul has lived in Westbrook for 15 years. Currently, he is Chairman of the Westbrook Foundation and is a municipally elected Trustee on the Westbrook Library Board. Paul also has served on Westbrook Little League Board, Co-President of Westbrook Athletic Boosters and Treasurer of Shoreline Buddy Baseball. Our committee has determined that Mr. Winch has the professional experience and local public service, which are commensurate with the qualifications for successful service on the BOF.

The WRTC understands that the statutes governing BOF vacancies are clear. The BOF is solely responsible for filling board seats vacated during an individual's term of office. Please contact me via email, to confirm when BOF schedules a meeting to seat a new member to replace Mr. Connolly.

Sincerely,
Lee McNamar
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee McNamar". The signature is written in a cursive style.

PO Box 1125 · Westbrook, CT 06498

Paid for by the Westbrook Republican Town Committee, Paul Winch, Treasurer