

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

November 2, 2021

REGULAR MEETING

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MINUTES – APPROVED 11-16-2021

In Person

Board of Selectmen Attendance: First Selectman Paula Cofrancesco, Selectman Donald Shea, and Selectman Elizabeth Appel.

Also, in attendance: Finance Director Tom Ellis and Town Counsel Barbara Schellenberg

Visitors: Sharon Huxley

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Paula Cofrancesco called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

First Selectman Cofrancesco called for a motion to approve the October 5, 2021. Selectman Shea moved and Selectman Appel seconded. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval.**

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION – TAX REFUNDS.

First Selectman Cofrancesco asked for a motion to approve the Tax Refunds for a total of \$673.43: Barletta, Jeannie M.- \$89.36; Boufford, Kathy K.-\$11.56; Boufford, Ronald P.-\$15.18; Harsche, Stephen & Elizabeth-\$46.73; and VW Credit Leasing LTD.-\$510.60. Selectman Appel moved and Selectman Shea seconded. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval.**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – HOPP BROOK/BEACON FALLS DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE

First Selectman Cofrancesco informed the Board that the Hopp Brook/Beacon Falls development continues to be monitored. Town Counsel, Barbara Schellenberg, noted they will also be monitoring the progress and would communicate any decisions from the upcoming trial on Nov. 12.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN - UPDATE

First Selectman Cofrancesco communicated to the Board there was no update at this time on the final draft of the Affordable Housing Plan. The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet next week to develop and discuss the POCD and that should help facilitate next steps.

No action taken at this meeting

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – STATUS OF AIRPORT HANGAR - UPDATE

First Selectmen Cofrancesco informed the Board that approximately 130 Airport refund letters were mailed on October 1, 2021. At this time, 65 refunds have been sent out and about 12-15 bricks have been requested to be returned. First Selectman Cofrancesco reminded the Board that refund request letters must be received by December 29, 2021, to be eligible for a refund. Additionally, First Selectman Cofrancesco mentioned a detailed record and account is being kept of all refunds and can be available to the Board for their review.

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DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – SIMPSON PROPERTY - UPDATE

First Selectman Cofrancesco communicated to the Board that the Audubon Society and DEEP are finalizing their paperwork required for funding and the closing is in the final stages.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – TEXTILE RECYCLABLE COLLECTION - UPDATE

First Selectman Cofrancesco communicated to the Board that DEEP has grant money available for pilot programs which may be administered and coordinated through SCRCOG. At this time, DEEP is only requesting an expression of interest. First Selectman Cofrancesco informed the Board a letter of interest was submitted, and she is now waiting for updates from DEEP.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION – REVITALIZATION OF BETHANY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION - UPDATE

First Selectman Cofrancesco communicated that she met with former Commissioner, Tommy Cavaliere for more information regarding the Bethany Economic Development Commission and to help draft a statement for the December Bethany Bulletin looking for individuals interested in being on the Commission. Selectman Appel will provide additional text and language for a statement and email it to First Selectman Cofrancesco.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION – WEBSITE AND IT - UPDATE

First Selectman Cofrancesco informed the Board that Fran Doba is working with Qscend to finalize the website. The process is moving along.

Additionally, work crews have been upgrading IT hardware to prepare the building for setting up the new site. The Board then discussed the best way to support and staff current and future IT needs. First Selectman Cofrancesco will contact Matt Bruder from the Bethany Community School and Shaun DeRosa at Amity to obtain information and ideas for technological support regarding how they conduct virtual meetings.

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION

1. Selectman Shea motioned to amend the meeting agenda to add a discussion on the Charter Commission. Selectman Appel seconded. Voting in favor: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel.
Unanimous Approval.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION CHARTER COMMITTEE

Selectmen Shea asked the Board to resume conversations surrounding the Charter Committee and informed the Board that three (3) of the original five (5) committee members are willing to return to their roles. Selectman Shea has been asked to participate on the Committee and has spoken with Town Counsel, Vincent Marino, to confirm there is no conflict of interest. The Board discussed the next steps for establishing the full committee and important deadlines.

2. Selectman Shea motioned to amend the meeting agenda to add a discussion on the Recycling Center Hours. Selectman Appel seconded. Voting in favor: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval**

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RECYCLING CENTER DISCUSSION

Selectman Shea asked for clarification regarding the new/additional hours for the Bethany Recycling Center. First Selectman Cofrancesco confirmed the expansion of hours from three (3) days to five (5) days a week and that the recycling center will be open Tuesday-Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 p.m. First Selectman Cofrancesco asked for a motion to adjourn. Selectman Shea moved, seconded by Selectman Appel to adjourn the regular meeting. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval.**

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Callery
Town Meeting Clerk