

Present: First Selectman Beth Heller, Deputy First Selectman Mica Cardozo, Joe Crisco, Joe Dey, David Lober and Teri Schatz.

Present for staff: Town Attorney Gerald Weiner, Finance Director and Administrative Officer Tony Genovese, Communications Director and Grants Writer Sheila McCreven and Assistant Administrative Officer Betsy Yagla.

The April 10 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by First Selectman Beth Heller at 5 p.m.

Presentation of Citation

First Selectman Heller and the Board presented a citation to Massaro Community Farm's Farmer Steve Munno on being named the 2019 Outstanding Farmer of the Year.

Beecher Road School – Bob Gilbert

Woodbridge Superintendent Bob Gilbert delivered his monthly report to the Board. School enrollment is holding steady and there has been an increase in the district's deficit from \$304,000 to \$309,000.

First Selectman's Report

First Selectman Heller provided her report to the Board:

"On our Agenda tonight, I've asked Adam Parsons to share with us the plan for landscaping and management work that has been authorized in both this Fiscal year's budget and next year's budget that begins July, so we have a better understanding of what will be done at the former-Country Club Property. It's important to place this in context of all the other town-owned parcels that Adam and his fellow workers are maintaining on behalf of the Town of Woodbridge.

I attended several events in the community: On March 17 I attended the Thomas Darling House Open Hearth event and took a tour of the grounds as well

On March 18th, I convened a meeting of relevant department heads here at Town Hall to discuss our input for the West Rock Tunnel project's Letter of Record that the Selectmen heard about at our March meeting. Staff from Public Works, Police, Inland/Wetlands office, and my staff went through some detailed spreadsheets, capturing concerns that we have now sent back to the consultant hired by New Haven. That draft letter is still a work in progress and I will keep you informed.

In the evening on March 18th I attended the monthly Board of Fire Commissioners meeting – keeping a close eye on the budget there and will note that we are celebrating their 90th year in operation!

Also on March 18, I received the annual donation check from Beth Wood Baseball League, presented by their president Dwight Rowland. This funding helps cover the cost of clay to maintain Town ball fields and other enhancements to our athletic areas.

March 20th was a big day – we hosted a meeting with Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, her staff members, two representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers, and an array of Town Hall staff as well to discuss our concerns about flooding in the area around the West River in Woodbridge. We then took a tour of some affected properties and met with residents and business owners at the Bradley Road crossing of the West River to hear community concerns. All this activity culminated in a letter to the Army Corps, which now sets in motion our official request for their assistance to help us receive federal assistance with a hoped-for project to mitigate flood hazards in this area. Again, I will keep everyone posted on updates.

On March 21, I attended the Board of Finance meeting at which they made their final budget recommendation. This document now goes to the Preliminary Budget Hearing, on April 22nd at 7:30 pm in the Center Gym – you may have noticed the signs that have gone up at our key intersections around town to remind the public. A mailer is going out to all households with the budget summary documents, and further information is available at the Town Website, as always.

On March 27th I attended the monthly SCRCOG Meeting, as well as attending our Special Joint Meeting with the Board of Finance that evening regarding Beecher. We will have an update on that, at the end of our meeting tonight.

In addition, I have scheduled a meeting with representatives from Blum Shapiro to discuss some ideas about how they might assist the Town with a Strategic Planning process, similar to the material that I shared with you at the March meeting. Due to their availability around some project work they are just wrapping up, we will look to have them present to the Board of Selectmen at our May meeting.

Looking forward, tomorrow evening I will meet with a group of residents who are concerned about tree and brush clearing under the power lines owned by Eversource in our Town. I am continuing to do all I can to assist these homeowners to have their concerns addressed by Eversource.”

Liaison Reports

Ms. Schatz reported that Beecher Road School’s budget was reduced and Amity Regional High School graduation will be on June 14.

Mr. Crisco reported that Town Plan and Zoning continues to review zoning regulations and make updates. At the Police Commission they discussed National Drug Take Back Day which is April 27.

Mr. Cardozo reported that the long-time chair of the Recreation Commission, Stan Gedansky, plans to retire at the end of his term. Recreation programs' enrollment is increasing. At the Economic Development Commission they discussed the CERC report and plan to do a review and SWOT analysis of the report and present their findings to the Board.

Dr. Lober reported that the Library continues to work on updating the policy manual and is exploring a new website. Human Services is applying for several grants.

Administrative Officer/Director of Finance's Report

Mr. Genovese shared his monthly report with the Board.

Funding Requests:

First Selectman Heller made a motion to approve Line Item Transfer 1819-18 in the amount of \$3420 for two chairs at Police Dispatch. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Mr. Crisco made a motion to approve Line Item Transfer 1819-19 in the amount of \$3,000 as a donation from Bethwood Baseball. Mr. Dey seconded the motion. All in favor; the motion passed.

First Selectman Heller made a motion to approve Line Item Transfer 1819-20 in the amount of \$15,726 for unanticipated site costs for the site work and scale installation. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Assistant Administrative Officer's Report

Ms. Schatz made a motion to approve the Woodbridge Dog Park Cooperative's dog walk event on June 1. Mr. Cardozo seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Going forward medical in the amount of \$5,000 will be added to General Liability insurance requirement the event application.

Ms. Yagla reported to the Board on the economic development survey she has been conducting in the business district.

Communication Director and Grant Writer's Report

Ms. McCreven reported on several communications initiatives and grants that she is working on, including: follow-up from the recent Army Corps of Engineers visit and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's letter of support; Sustainability Committee and CUPOP activities she is coordinating, including the testing of drinking water at schools and quarterly reports on energy usage in Town buildings; expansion of the Town's email list; and grant submissions she is writing for the Human Services Department (5310 Program for 8-seat vehicle), and helping to coordinate between the Town and the Historical Society (DECD Good to Great program). In addition she was asked by Human

Services Director Mary Ellen LaRocca to share with the Selectmen details of the annual Greater NH Transit District Matching Grant for consideration and action.

Mr. Crisco made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to execute the grant assignment certification for the matching grant pending the outcome of the annual Town Meeting. Ms. Schatz seconded the motion. All in favor; the motion passed.

Public Comment

The following people spoke against development at the former Country Club of Woodbridge: Cheryl Lipson, David Vogel, Adrienne Micci Smith and Walden Dillaway

Phyllis Genel commented that the Town should be maintaining the former Country Club of Woodbridge property.

Adam Parsons – Update on spring mowing

Mr. Parsons explained that last season the former Country Club of Woodbridge was hayed once and the grass around the cart paths was mowed several times. Two years ago the area was hayed twice. This year he plans to hay it once and mow around the paths several times.

There are also many tree limbs down from winter storms and 35 dead trees. It will cost \$7,000 to take down the trees (but not remove them).

Mr. Parsons will attend the next Board meeting with a written plan for the short- and medium-term maintenance and costs.

Town Counsel's Report

- a. Attorney Weiner discussed Durga Prasad's request for the Town to become trustee for the Shanti Rose Garden he created and maintains at the community garden using a \$50,000 life insurance policy.

Instead of a trust, the Board discussed the possibility of creating a Town-managed fund to cover the garden's costs.

First Selectman Heller moved that the Town will take over the responsibility to maintain the Shanti Rose Garden after Dr. Prasad's death as long as the costs are funded and the community gardens still exist. Mr. Dey seconded the motion. All in favor; the motion passed.

- b. Attorney Weiner discussed the request to extend the Massaro Community Farm lease. The lease currently extends to November 2029 and the farm has requested a lease through 2059. Attorney Weiner suggested a lease with four five-year terms.

First Selectman Heller made a motion to grant that negotiation of the lease extension include four five-year terms through November 2049. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor.

- c. Attorney Weiner discussed the request to grant an easement to Jim Urbano in order to maintain a sliver of Town-owned land adjacent to his property.

It was noted that this area of Town is under consideration for zoning changes by Town Plan and Zoning and since this issue would need an 8-24 review by TPZ the Board should wait for TPZ's decision before considering whether or not to send the issue for an 8-24 review.

- d. Attorney Weiner discussed the bonding legislation update. He shared the proposed bill language with the Board and said the issue is expected to go be voted on the next few weeks.

Town Clerk's Report

First Selectman Heller moved to acknowledge receipt of the Town Clerk's Report. Mr. Dey seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Minutes

First Selectman Heller made a motion to approve the Nov. 29 2018 meeting minutes. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

First Selectman Heller made a motion to approve the December 5, 2018 meeting minutes. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

First Selectman Heller made a motion to approve the Jan. 22, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Mr. Crisco made a motion to approve the Jan. 24, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Cardozo seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

First Selectman Heller made a motion to approve the Jan. 29 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

First Selectman Heller made a motion to approve the March 13, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

First Selectman Heller made a motion to approve the special joint meeting minutes of March 27, 2019. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Adopt State Affirmations for 2019

First Selectman Heller made a motion to approve and adopt the state affirmations – ADA Municipal Grievance Procedure, ADA Notice, Conflict of Interest Policy, Fair Housing Policy Statement, Fair Housing Resolution and the Compliance with Title VI of

the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for 2019. Mr. Crisco seconded. Ms. Schatz asked a question regarding Title VI and if it should be Title VII instead. Ms. Heller made a friendly amendment to her motion to adopt with correction as needed to the Title VI document. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion and the amendment passed.

Call Annual Town Meeting

First Selectman Heller moved to call the Annual Town Meeting for May 20 2019 at 7:30 p.m. to act on the 2019-2020 budget as recommended by the Board of Finance and any other matter to come before the meeting. Ms. Schatz seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Sign Call of Biennial Election for May 6

The Board members signed the call of the election.

Beecher Road School Facility – Update

First Selectman Heller made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to CGS Section 1-200 (6) (B) and invite in Andy Esposito, Jim Saisa, Al Pullo, Sheila McCreven, Jerry Weiner and Anthony Genovese. Mr. Cardozo seconded the motion. All in favor; the motion passed.

Ms. Heller called a brief recess and subsequently the Executive Session began at 7:27 p.m. and ended at 7:57 pm. Ms. Heller announced that no motions were made and no votes taken in Executive session.

Ms. Heller made a motion to add “Action as appropriate regarding Beecher Road School Facility Update” to the agenda. Mr. Crisco seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Mr. Cardozo made a motion to authorize the work approved at the Joint Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance meeting of March 27, 2019 to begin April 15, 2019 during school recess in order to minimize disruption to school activity. Ms. Heller seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Mr. Dey made a motion to waive the bid requirements and award contracts to Van Zelm Engineering and United Control Solutions to complete the work approved at the Joint Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance meeting of March 27, 2019. Dr. Lober seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Adjournment

Ms. Heller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dey seconded. All in favor; the motion passed. The meeting concluded at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Yagla, protem