

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

June 18, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

This meeting held in-person and recorded via Zoom.us and is available as a recording

PRESENT: Todd M. Carusillo, Scott Olson, Dexter S. Kinsella (Zoom)

OTHERS: Michael Leonard; Joyce Mowrey; Cindy Barrett; Paul Collins; Audrey Blondin; Dawn Wilkes
Jeff Damiano; Henrietta Horvay; Robin Christopher; Beausoliel; Bernie Harrington; Janet
Hooper; Krista Rizzo; Shilo Garceau; Lucy Hussman;

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

1. Call to order: Todd M. Carusillo called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of June 11, 2024: In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, the **motion** was made to approve the minutes of June 11, 2024. Voted unanimous.

3. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – June 20, 2024

In a **motion** made by Scott Olson, seconded by Todd Carusillo, (Dexter S. Kinsella abstained), it was **voted** to approve the total warrant in the amount of \$1,322,551.29 Payroll in the amount of \$13,931.72 and the warrant in the amount of \$1,308,619.57. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: Legal Fees (190 Sharon Turnpike) - \$6,738.95; Dime Oil - \$1,887.79; Region 20 - \$1,264,970.00; USA Waste - \$9,541.00

4. First Selectman's Report:

I thank all of you who came out to vote last night. The grant money for 190 Sharon Turnpike shall be turned over to 38 Torrington Road.

The area is now under a heat wave. The Town Hall has Air Conditioning, if anyone needs to avail themselves of relief of the extreme heat may do so.

A Hybrid Special Town Meeting for the Town of Goshen will be held at the Goshen Center School Gymnasium, on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. (Elect one member for the Board of Education Regional School District 20.)

Announcement of the resignation of Antonio Damiano from the position of Fire Commissioner. "We all thank you for your fine years of service." His replacement, Felix Sambucco, will serve as Assistant Fire Chief. He is a 26-yr veteran; has served with the Waterbury Fire Dept. Felix will be a fine asset to Goshen.

5. Correspondence:

The Woodridge Lake Property Owners Association would like to move forward to finalization of the agreement initiated previously. At that time, there was minor discrepancy on the balance owed. Scott Olson will recuse himself inasmuch as he is an active member of WLPOA. Dexter Kinsella suggests a Special BOS meeting this Friday for his attendance.

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6 Old Business: None

6a. Appointments: (Alternate Board of Fire Commission – RTC endorses – Bump out one week)

7. New Business:

In a **motion** made by Scott Olson, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to add to this agenda under 7. New Business, item 7a. Hybrid Special Town Meeting.

7a. Hybrid Special Town Meeting – Goshen Center School Gymnasium, Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. Copy Attached. This Special Town Meeting was read aloud by First Selectman Todd M. Carusillo. In a motion By Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was voted to accept the call of the Hybrid Special Town Meeting. Voted unanimous.

7b. Appointment for Alternate to Board of Fire Company. In a motion by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson it was voted to appoint Felix Sambucco as Alternate to the Board of Fire Company. Voted unanimous.

8. Other Business:

8a. Joyce Mowrey:

Ms. Joyce Mowrey read highlights from *Trails for All – Accessible Trails in Goshen, CT – Report to the Goshen Board of Selectmen – June 18, 2024.*

This report gave updated information on Town of Goshen Storywalk Trail; The Goshen Land Trust John Ross Accessible Loop Trail. In addition, *Points/Request for the Goshen Board of Selectmen* was also included in her report. The Goshen Land Trust has received confirmation of being awarded \$89,744 CT DEEP Trails Grant for two assessable trails in Goshen: StoryWalk Trail at Camp Cochipianne and GLT John Ross Trail on Pie Hill Road. In addition, Goshen Land Trust has received an \$11,444 AARP Community Challenge Grant for the John Ross Accessible Trail.

9. Public Comment: (Two (2) minutes per person):

Judi Armstrong stated it was nice to attend a meeting where something nice is happening..

Audrey Blondin thanked Joyce Mowrey for her fine report on Goshen Trails. She added that at the intersection of Sherbrook Drive and East Hyderdale there is blockage of view by the trees and again speeding cars was a dangerous factor. A petition should be back in circulation in July. Dexter Kinsella stated we needed a legal opinion. Todd Carusullo consulted with Chip Roraback who advised there is no urgency. This can be put on "call" again in July. The BOE issue must be first put out of the way.

Krista Rizzo stated the BOE question can be placed on June 27th?; the BOE vote must be made before June 30th. Ballots in hat – 1st, 2nd – then blank for write-in.

Cindy Barrett voiced her concern regarding the special meeting last night. Is the Fire Code Occupancy being followed? In the Cafeteria there were 536 people standing. There are four exits. Regulations were available.

Janet Hooper regarding the write-in ballots were disqualified. Special ballots printed out; check off box.

Thank you Joyce Mowrey. Can the BOS get back to thinking about an Ethics Council as discussed previously. Todd Carusillo replied that we will pick this up again in July.

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Felix Sambucco congratulations on the grants. On another front, his son registered to vote for last night's election, but was unable to vote; his registration was not processed at that time. He was told his registration will be complete by the next voting opportunity.

The start time is 8:00 p.m. for voting. Back in the day, Goshen was an agricultural town (farmers had to finish their vital farming jobs). Scott Olson informed everyone that the 8:00 p.m. time is a town ordinance (Clint Thorn). There are many now who feels that the time of 7:00 p.m. can be more favorable to most residents. He feels many towns in Connecticut are in favor of the 7:00 p.m. start time.

Henrietta Horvay in clarification of the 8:00 p.m. start time, remember the BOS meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Perhaps instead of only two (2) sections for registration, four (4) would be much more feasible. Have printed ballots, spelling of candidates name, etc.

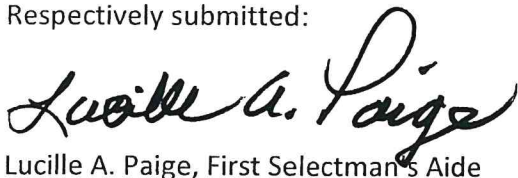
Joyce Mowrey the information signs on the walls need to be hung higher on the walls for better viewing.

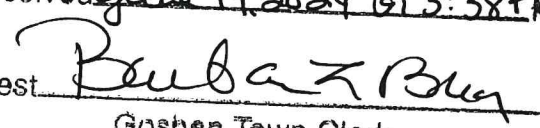
Robin Christopher feels the ballot should have proper space for "write-in". Todd Carusillo stated they must have it. Dexter Kinsella asked if write-ins are allowed. Our legal advisor Town Attorney will provide clarification.

10. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectively submitted:


Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide

Received June 19, 2024 @ 3:38 PM -
Attest 
Goshen Town Clerk

WARNING
HYBRID SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF GOSHEN

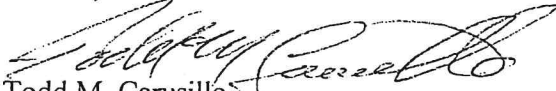
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86848768418>

Zoom is viewing only
Voting will be held in person ONLY

We, the Selectmen of the Town of Goshen, hereby give warning to persons legally entitled to vote thereat that the at a Special Town Meeting will be held in the Goshen Center School Gymnasium in said Town of Goshen on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. Elect one member of the Board of Education of Regional School District #20 from the town of Goshen for the term to commence July 1, 2024 until June 30, 2028.

Dated at Goshen, Connecticut, this 18th day of June, 2024


Todd M. Carusillo

Dexter S. Kinsella

Scott Olson


BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**Trails for All
Accessible Trails in Goshen, CT
Report to the Goshen Board of Selectmen
June 18, 2024**

On June 3rd the Goshen Land Trust received confirmation that we had been awarded an \$89,744 CT DEEP Trails Grant for two accessible trails in Goshen. One will be a new and improved StoryWalk® Trail at Camp Cochipianee and the other will be at the GLT John Ross Trail on Pie Hill Road.

In addition, the Goshen Land Trust has received an \$11,444 AARP Community Challenge Grant for the John Ross Accessible Trail. So, we have a total of \$101,188 for the two projects.

We have already received the AARP grant funds. They are designated to purchase and install benches, cable guide for sight challenged walkers, and signage for the John Ross Accessible Trail Loop.

Town of Goshen StoryWalk® Trail

The StoryWalk® Trail at Camp Cochipianee will be located approximately where the original trail has been with considerable modifications/improvements.



The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. Hikers enjoy reading a featured story printed and displayed (two pages per sign) along a designated route. There is no charge for using the StoryWalk® name, but Ms. Ferguson requests recognition.

The CT DEEP Trails Grant will renovate the parking lot east of the outhouses to provide handicap parking a short distance from the pond. The 36" wide stonedust trail will start at the parking lot and follow the current path to the water's edge where a 6' by 12' deck with benches will be constructed at the edge of the pond for fishing, bird watching, or contemplating life.



Backtracking slightly from the deck visitors will follow the trail in a loop with eight (8) benches dispersed along the trail which will try to maintain a 0% to 5% slope with one area possibly up to 12%, which follows the US Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines of no more than 30% of the total trail at that slope. There will be eighteen low profile single pedestal signs (see photo), made to allow for the book to be changed during the year. This is a joint project of the Goshen Land Trust, Goshen Recreation Department, the Goshen Public Children's Librarian who will select the books, and the Friends of the Library who will fund the books chosen for display.

The Goshen Land Trust John Ross Accessible Loop Trail

The **John Ross Accessible Loop Trail** will also have a small handicap accessible parking lot on Pie Hill Road where the current trail begins eventually meeting the town trail further south. The loop will be about one third mile long going from hemlock forest, marsh edge to meadow and back to hemlock forest. The western half of the loop trail will have a cable system for sight challenged hikers and Braille signage. The trail head signs and four interpretive nature signs on the trail will provide QR codes to maps, an online scavenger hunt, and focus on the importance of marsh/water purification, hemlock forests, and the history of glaciers and flora/fauna of the area.

The signage, benches and post/cable system for this trail has been generously funded by an AARP Community Challenge grant. The Land Trust will use this trail for educational purposes using volunteer Steward Guides to provide lessons to school age groups as well as providing adult education in invasive plant control, wildflower identification, and bird watching. Community outreach program commence once the trail is open to provide tours for senior groups of Goshen, Torrington, and other nearby towns as well as school field trips. The trail will be open dawn to dusk to all.



Points/Requests for the Board of Selectmen:

1. Permits may be needed for the dock at Camp Coch and board walk at John Ross Trail. We would appreciate any support you might offer to acquire those in a timely manner.
2. An Advisory Committee is being formed to review and then implement the plan for the trails. We request that the Recreation Director, Library Director and Public Works Director be available, from time to time, to provide information for the project at Camp Coch.
3. If there are any materials that the Town may have to assist with the trail and parking lot creation/repair it would be greatly appreciated and would go towards our 20% responsibility to the project.
4. The Town should plan for the continued maintenance of the StoryWalk® Trail at Camp Coch. The plan includes recruiting trail steward volunteers, however in the future there may be repairs needed beyond their abilities.
5. Create an accessible way for residents to access the pavilion at Camp Coch, preferably using what will be a handicap accessible parking lot that is a part of this grant.