

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

June 11, 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, (Zoom), Dexter S. Kinsella (Zoom)

OTHERS: Michael Leonard; Joyce Mowrey; Cindy Barrett; Paul Collins; Audrey Blondin; Dawn Wilkes

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 4, 2024: In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, the **motion** was made to approve the minutes of June 4, 2024. Voted unanimous.

3. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – June 13, 2024

In a **motion** made by Scott Olson, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the total warrant in the amount of \$114,518.46. Payroll in the amount of \$27,414.10 and the warrant in the amount of \$87,104.36. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: CT Precast (basins) – \$9,260; Tipping fees – \$14,380.52; Crack Filling - \$38,982.00; Oddo Print Shop - \$4,859.00.

4. First Selectman's Report:

Todd Carusillo attended a Solid Waste meeting recently: Starting July 1st, “tipping fees” are increasing to \$131 per ton. We, as a town have to, must think about, food diversions; composting, increasing recycling. Todd had a conversation with Mark Daley from MIRA; there’s 55 million in MIRA’s account for remediation of the transfer station throughout the state. Todd worries that if USA Hauling takes over, small operations will be forced out of business; MIRA is subsidizing their price of \$188/ton with remediation monies to bring down the costs to the towns. Todd hopes Goshen residents will support the sale of the transfer station in Torrington over to NWCOG. *Efforts must begin to have residents recycle – Please **no metal by-products into your container**, put it in your recycling container.* Perhaps Goshen should look into joining with Litchfield and Cornwall with efforts to food diversions systems, hold down the tipping fees.

Todd hopes everyone votes “yes” to move the STEAP grant for 190 Sharon Turnpike over to 38 Torrington Road (location of Goshen Public Works), item No. 1 on the “Call” for the vote on Monday, June 17th. The equipment we purchase cannot continue to remain outdoors forcing taxpayers to replace said equipment every 10-15 years due to rust, old and shot – very expensive. (Garret Harlow will submit an assessment for this, after the survey of the property is conducted.) Protecting our equipment will save taxes.

5 Correspondence:

Todd received a letter from Josephine Jones asking if Goshen has a noise ordinance. Todd will investigate this. In the interim, Todd ask that residents shut off the loud speakers after midnight.

Region 6 – Todd was told that the school’s graduation ceremonies will feature fireworks at Fairgrounds where the ceremonies will take place. Todd has contacted the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal accordingly to ensure that all safety and legal procedures are in place.

Scott Olson reminded everyone of the Special Town Meeting, Monday June 17, 2024, at 8:00 p.m.
A question to move the STEAP grant to 38 Torrington Road. Very important to the Town.

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Dexter Kinsella asked about the follow-up with the Janet Hooper's request for Human Services. A letter was to be sent to surrounding towns to garner information. Todd will be meeting with Mayor Elinor Carbone this upcoming Thursday. The survey will be expedited.

6 Old Business: None

6a. Appointments: None

7 New Business: None

8. Other Business: None

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

Micheal Leonard stated he attended the concert put on by the Recreation Department. He said it was really a great show and urged people to attend upcoming concerts. With reference to the petition question, "let's lay it to rest, keep it open space".

Dawn Wilkes spoke in reference to the vacant lot on 190 Sharon Turnpike, currently in the RA 2 zone. She stated three homes can be built there. Let's keep it for the future and preserved for wet lands, at least until a final decision from POCD.

Audrey Blondin asked if the Public Works can take a look at Sherbrook Dr. and East Hyerdale. Due to the sites along the roads there with high, overgrown grass it has become a site for a very dangerous car crash. The driving along there has become treacherous. Todd will get Public Works to look at that area to see what can be done there.

Joyce Mowrey, representing the Goshen Land Trust and Chair of the Goshen Sustainable Team. She is requesting the Board of Selectmen create a Task Force chaired by the P&Z with representatives from town commissions, private sector and non-profit groups, with the Land Trust, Housing Trust, Goshen Business Circle and others should have seats at the table. Her second request is to have the Town hire an experienced consultant to harvest input from residents for the BOS, the P&Z, so that POCD is truly reflective of the Goshen residents.

Pat Reilly asked, that he was not clear on the petition question on the Town Meeting ballot (Monday, June 17, 2024 at 8:00 p.m.) He stated, he is voting no to the petition question, but yes for **the "moving of the grant"** from 190 Sharon Turnpike over to 35 Torrington Road; this question does not include a building on 35 Torrington Road.

Paul Collins will support both Dawn and Joyce. The property at 190 Sharon Turnpike is a valuable asset. I agree with Joyce to have the support of the POCD as to what would be the best development of the property.

Cindy Barrett reported the recent Household Hazardous Waste day in Falls Village was a great success. The next HHW Day will be October 19th in Torrington at the Water Control Property off of South Main Street

Josephine Jones thanks both Dawn and Joyce for their comments. The concert last night was fabulous. We need more families to attend.

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Marissa Wright urges people to get out and vote this Monday night. Vote “yes” to move the STEAP Grant. This will enable the property at 190 Sharon Turnpike to be protected – from floods, protect wildlife, protect our resources in town. It is critical that all come out to vote, protect our resources for the future.

10. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectively submitted:

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman’s Aide

*Joyce Mowrey
54 Four Winds Road
Goshen, CT 06756*

This is a copy of my public comments for tonight's (6/11/24) Board of Selectmen meeting. Please include them as a part of the minutes.

Good Evening. My name is Joyce Mowrey and I live at 54 Four Winds Road.

As you know I represent the Goshen Land Trust for the Conservation/Housing Collaborative Grant which includes 8 small towns of Litchfield County. I am here as a resident who has the experience of reviewing and talking to our neighboring towns regarding their Plans of Conservation and Development, as a director of the Goshen Land Trust, and as chair of the Goshen Sustainable Team.

Goshen has an amazing opportunity before us, the revision of our Plan of Conservation & Development and Affordable Housing Plan. I am here to request two things and to offer one.

First, I request that the Board of Selectmen create a Task Force chaired by the P&Z and made up of representatives of town commissions and departments as well as from the private (non-profit) groups of our town. The Land Trust, Housing Trust, Goshen Business Circle, and others should have seats at the table.

The second request is that the town hire an experienced consultant who knows how to harvest the input of residents, organize that input and to present it to you, the P&Z, and the task force so that our POCD is truly reflective of the who of Goshen. I have spoken to several towns involved with the conservation/housing grant on how they did this work and the towns with the most robust POCDs that were customized to their town's needs were created by many voices. A consultant who is neutral and has experience with POCD's could do that work for us.

What can I offer? Sustainable CT can help offset the cost of a consultant up to \$15,000. Using their Community Match Fund program, we could set up a matched crowd funded project quickly. It's an easy online donation system and raised 3.8 million dollars for towns across CT to help with various projects. You can check out their current projects and successes on their website sustainablect.org. If you are interested, I would be happy to assist.

Creating a viable POCD that truly plans for Goshen's future is a lot of work. Please consider my requests for a task force and consultant. And, I would be happy to be of assistance with funding.

Thank you,
Joyce Mowrey