

MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026 ~ 5:30 P.M.
IN-PERSON AT BANTAM ANNEX, 80 DOYLE RD, BANTAM, CT AND
REMOTE MEETING BY LIVE INTERNET VIDEO STREAM AND TELEPHONE

Call to Order First Selectman Denise Raap called the hybrid meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Selectmen present were Dan Morosani, John Bongiorno, Jodiann Tenney, Jeff Zullo, and First Selectman Denise Raap.

Approval of Minutes:

- a) **Board of Selectmen, regular meeting, 06/16/2026 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes of 06/16/2026. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed. D. Morosani abstained.
- b) **Board of Selectmen, joint meeting, 06/16/2026 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen joint meeting minutes of 06/16/2026. J. Tenney seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed. D. Morosani abstained.

Public Requests/Comments none

Selectmen's Requests D. Morosani requested an update regarding the intersection of Routes 254 and 118. D. Raap reported that the Connecticut Department of Transportation stated it would be another month. She also noted that at the corner of Cathole Road and Route 202, CTDOT requested the property owner move back recently planted trees, as they created a poor sightline when pulling out of Cathole Road.

Motion: J. Tenney motioned to move agenda items Resignations item a and Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments item a to after Executive Session. J. Zullo seconded the motion. **Discussion:** J. Tenney announced her resignation, stating that it has been a pleasure serving on the Board. She explained that a recent job opportunity would prevent her from arriving home early enough to continue in the role. D. Raap noted that agenda items were adjusted due to State Statute 9-222, which requires that a new Board of Selectmen member cannot be appointed until after the resignation is effective; therefore, J. Tenney will resign at the conclusion of this meeting so the Board may appoint Anne Dranginis. J. Zullo thanked J. Tenney for her five years of service, noting that the Board has been a strong team, that she has been an excellent team member, and that her hard work has been greatly appreciated. **Vote:** all members voted aye and the motion passed.

Motion: J. Bongiorno motioned to add under Interviews, Appointments, & Reappointments Jenn McCoy to be interviewed for the Advanced Technology Committee as an alternate member with a term ending 04/2028. J. Zullo seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

First Selectman's Update Report D. Raap thanked the Department of Public Works for sending assistance to the Town of Harwinton at the request of Harwinton First Selectman Michael Criss. A crew of four DPW employees brought a chipper and chainsaws to help with cleanup following the July 4 storm. She noted that they may continue efforts through much of the week due to the severe damage.

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

b) **Interview Jenn McCoy for the Advanced Technology Committee as an alternate member with a term ending 04/2028. Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to appoint Jenn McCoy to the Advanced Technology Commission as an alternate member with a term ending 04/2028. D. Morosani seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: On TownofLitchfieldct.gov website

Region 20 Update D. Raap reported that the DPW assisted Region 20 by removing trees to make room for the new parking lot at Lakeview High School. She highlighted that DPW Director Raz Alexe has been instrumental in helping Region 20 navigate the process required to complete the project. D. Raap also noted she received an email from a concerned resident requesting a meeting regarding students crossing Route 202. She stated she is unsure what actions the Town can take but will meet with the resident, adding that a crosswalk and stop light are not options. J. Bongiorno noted this topic will be discussed with Region 20 Superintendent Dr. Villar at their Thursday meeting and stated that if there are enough parking spaces at Lakeview High School, students should not need to park across the street. J. Zullo requested an update on the other three towns in Region 20 and the formation of the financial review committee. D. Raap stated she will follow up with those towns.

Advanced Tech Update J. Bongiorno updated the BOS, noting that they are close to finalizing the Artificial Intelligence Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, and Cell Phone Policy. He also reported that once users log in to the free Wi-Fi on the Town Green, they should not need to log in again.

WPCA Liaison Update D. Raap noted that all documents have been signed for the online payment process and stated she is unsure of the reason for the delay on their end.

Sustainable Litchfield Update none

Vacancies: The list of current appointed vacancies with term expirations is as follows:

Advanced Technology Commission: 1 alternate member 04/2028

Beautification Commission: 2 regular members 1-02/2029, 1-02/2027; 3 alternate members 02/2028

Board of Ethics: 1 alternate members 06/2029

Cable TV Advisory Council: 1 member 06/2025

Conservation Commission: 1 regular member 12/2028, 1 alternate member 12/2028

Economic Development Commission: 1 alternate member 06/2027

Inland Wetlands Commission: 2 alternate members 06/2027

Litchfield Arts Council: 2 regular members 08/2027

Litchfield Prevention Council: 1 regular member 06/2026, 3 alternate members 1-06/2026, 1-06/2027, 1-06/2028

Milton Historic District Commission: 1 regulars 01/2030; 3 alternate members 2-01/2027, 1-01/2028

Park & Recreation Commission: 1 regular member 06/2030, 1 alternate member 06/2030

Pension Commission: 1 regular member 02/2028, 2 alternate member 1-03/2028, 1-03/2030

Sandy Beach Commission: 1 regular member 12/2028

Sustainable Litchfield Committee: 1 alternate members 03/2028

Veterans' Advisory Committee: 1 regular member 08/2026; 1 alternate member 08/2027

Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA): 1 alternate member 01/2031

Western CT Coalition, CAC #22: 1 member 05/2027

Zoning Board of Appeals: 3 alternate members 03/2027

Tax Refunds none

Transfers none

Old Business

- a) **Homestead for Connecticut** D. Raap noted that concerns were raised by the Assessor's Office regarding the proposed exemption, explaining that an additional temporary employee may be needed to help process applications. J. Zullo stated that he believes this is a great exemption for

Litchfield's primary residents and suggested that the Assessor's concerns be reviewed by Town Counsel along with the applicable statutes to determine whether they are addressed. He added that this should be completed by October so the exemption could be implemented for the next tax year. D. Morosani expressed concern for families who rent and live in Town full-time, noting they would not benefit from the exemption and that any increase in property taxes could be passed on to them. J. Tenney emphasized the importance of communication, noting that primary residents who do not apply could see their taxes increase if the exemption is implemented. D. Morosani requested an estimate of how many residents might qualify, observing that if a large percentage does, those who do not could see a significant increase in taxes. D. Raap stated that it would be difficult to determine without applications but will ask the Assessor if an estimate can be provided.

- b) **Bantam Lake Ordinance Discussion** D. Raap noted that the Town of Morris passed an ordinance regulating wake boats and similar vessels, as well as water-skiing, wakeboarding, and wake surfing on Bantam Lake. She stated that the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is reviewing the ordinance and that Town Counsel has drafted a version specific to Litchfield. The BOS invited Litchfield resident James Fischer to speak regarding his submitted correspondence. J. Fischer stated that enhanced wakes created by these boats require meaningful regulation and expressed concern about whether the Morris ordinance provides sufficient clarity, protection, and enforceability. He emphasized that Bantam Lake is a shared resource and that any ordinance should address risks to all areas of the lake. He also noted that enforcement is difficult without trained personnel on the water and highlighted the importance of mapping, signage, education, and funding, adding that the State enforces only State laws. J. Fischer concluded that he was not asking the Board to reject the ordinance but urged a careful review, consideration of the forthcoming CTDEEP wake-boat study, and development of balanced, enforceable protections suitable for Bantam Lake, particularly for North Bay. J. Tenney asked why Morris did not simply ban wake boats; J. Fischer explained that wake boating is the fastest-growing water sport and that participants often contribute significantly to their communities. He added that Bantam Lake could serve as an example of a balanced approach, though North Bay is not deep enough for such activity. D. Morosani asked whether the Town could allow electors to vote on prohibiting wake boats on the Litchfield-controlled portion of Bantam Lake. D. Raap noted that in another town where wake boats were banned, a resident issued a \$10,000 check in advance to cover fines for continued use. J. Bongiorno expressed an additional concern that individuals with significant resources who participate in this sport could elevate the issue to the State level, which might restrict towns from regulating wake-boat use. D. Raap added that a bill addressing this matter was proposed in the last legislative session and came close to passing. She also noted her understanding that the Bantam Lake Authority only handles jams. J. Fischer clarified that, under State statute, the BLA is responsible for invasive plant management, bloom management, jams, water levels, buoys, safety zones, and law enforcement on the lake. He added that enforcement has become difficult due to State requirements for body cameras and training, which are challenging for lake authorities to meet. Park and Recreation Director Michael Lyn Cappello noted that there have been incidents where police were called but advised that local officers can only handle land-based issues, not water-related matters.
- c) **Speed Cameras Discussion** D. Raap asked the Board if they would like to place the speed-camera question on the November ballot. The Board agreed and discussed specifying the proposed locations, the two school zones and the intersection of Routes 254 and 118, and whether electors want cameras installed in Town. D. Raap noted that CTDOT has offered to attend and answer questions at a public hearing regarding speed cameras. J. Zullo requested data from other towns that currently have speed cameras or have them join the meeting to discuss their experience.

- d) **Bantam Annex Ballot Discussion** J. Bongiorno recommended inviting Town Counsel to discuss the wording for a ballot question regarding the Bantam Annex. D. Raap stated she will invite them to the 08/04/2026 meeting.

New Business

- a) **10/06/2026 Board of Selectmen Meeting Reschedule - Proposed Date 09/29/2026 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to reschedule the regular meeting on 10/06/2026 to 09/29/2026. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

Correspondence

- a) **Litchfield Democratic Town Committee Recommendations to fill Board of Selectmen Vacancy**, see Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments item a.
- b) **James Fischer - Concerns Regarding a Complementary Ordinance for Water-Skiing, Wake Boarding, and Wake Surfing on Bantam Lake**, see Old Business item b.
- c) **Capital Improvement Request - Borough of Litchfield**, J. Zullo stated that following the last joint meeting, he spoke with Burgess Wolf Boehme regarding the sidewalks. He explained to W. Boehme that the Town of Litchfield has a capital request process and noted that the Town benefits from the use of the sidewalks. J. Bongiorno pointed out that the Town of Litchfield performs all plowing and maintains Community Field without receiving any funding from the Borough of Litchfield. D. Raap suggested that this topic be discussed at the next joint meeting with the Borough of Litchfield.
- d) **Karen Bartomioli - Park & Recreation**, J. Zullo noted that in his 15 years as a Selectman, this individual has never attended any BOS meeting he was present for. He emphasized that the BOS is always accommodating to anyone who attends and speaks during public comment. M. Cappello addressed the correspondence, stating that her office ensures everyone is treated fairly and equally, whether a Litchfield resident or non-resident. She also clarified that the Town Beach is open to both residents and non-residents. The Board thanked M. Cappello and the Parks & Recreation crew for their work on the Fourth of July fireworks event.

Executive Session none

Resignations

- a) **Jodiann Tenney from the Board of Selectmen, effective 07/07/2026 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to accept Jodiann Tenney's resignation from the Board of Selectmen. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed. J. Tenney abstained.

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

- a) **Appoint Anne Dranginis to the Board of Selectmen, see LDTC Correspondence Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to appoint Anne Dranginis to the Board of Selectmen to serve out the balance of J. Tenney's term, effective 07/08/2026. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

Adjournment Motion: J. Zullo motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

Denise Raap, First Selectman