

MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 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 5:30 p.m. Selectmen present were Dan Morosani, John Bongiorno, Anne Dranginis, Jeff Zullo, and First Selectman Denise Raap.

Approval of Minutes:

- A) **Board of Selectman, regular meeting, 8/18/2026 Motion:** D. Morosani motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes of 8/18/2026. A. Dranginis seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

Public Requests/Comments Ari Mergenthaler, a Litchfield resident, expressed concern regarding the potential gifting of the Litchfield Greenway to the Town, citing the associated legal liability and financial burden. A. Mergenthaler noted that, during the creation of the project, it was originally represented that the Greenway would not become a financial burden on taxpayers.

David Peiffer offered his services as a liaison to the Board of Selectmen regarding the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) proposed project. He also commented on the CTDOT presentation, stating that he believes the traffic data presented is inaccurate based on data he collected from his home.

Wolf Boehme, a Litchfield resident and Burgess of the Borough of Litchfield, requested the consideration of the Board of Selectmen to partner with the Borough of Litchfield in funding the reconstruction of sidewalks in the center of Town.

Bill Buckley, resident of Litchfield, offered his services to volunteer as a liaison to the Board of Selectmen for the CTDOT proposed project. He followed by expressing his support for the request for sidewalk funding made by W. Boehme.

Selectmen's Requests: Motion: J. Bongiorno motioned to add an agenda item under New Business regarding a proposed legislative bill about school use and property tax. D. Morosani seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed.

First Selectman's Update Report D. Raap reported Litchfield will begin the voluntary Pay As You Throw Program in November of 2026. Trash is not currently being accepted until then. She noted that the Executive Administrator position is still vacant and will be posted until September 14th and she will continue filling in for that role until someone is hired. D. Raap announced that on September 12th the 5th Connecticut Regiment will be holding a reenactment event from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at The Green also featuring a parade around noon. The Eversource pole replacement project on Beach Street is estimated to be finished around November 1st. D. Raap reported that the CTDOT recently installed a new directional sign on Rt. 254, Harwinton misspelled as "Harwington"; they have since been notified and the correction is in process. She announced the start of interviews for the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCAD). There will be a total of four firms interviewed for the work. D. Raap announced a Proclamation for National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week which takes place from September 13 - September 19, 2026.

Resignations none

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments none

CTDOT Presentation Marissa Pfaffinger with The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) gave a presentation on Traffic Analysis Demonstration regarding the evaluation of potential improvements to the Litchfield Green. The CTDOT reviewed traffic data collection and modeling methods, traffic volumes, intersection operations, seasonal variations, and the process for evaluating potential improvements. The Board of Selectmen discussed concerns regarding traffic data, including seasonal traffic patterns and the need for updated counts if the project proceeds to the formal design phase. The Board also discussed public feedback and parking in the center of Town. The CTDOT reported that comments from 35 public hearing respondents are being considered as the project is refined. The Board unanimously agreed that preserving center-of-town parking is a priority and directed that future design work retain as much parking as practicable. The Board also emphasized the importance of preserving the historic character of the Green. The Board agreed to place the CTDOT presentation and related project discussion on the agenda for the September 15th meeting to determine the appropriate course of action.

Waste Zero-Waste Reduction Committee Presentation The Board received a presentation from Jerry Geci with the Litchfield Waste Reduction Committee, Mark Dancy and Tory McBrien-Vranken with Waste Zero, and Jennifer Weymouth with the CTDEEP regarding the Town's Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) grant and proposed voluntary unit-based pricing (UBP) and food scrap programs at the recycling center. The Board of Selectmen discussed the voluntary nature of the program, potential waste reduction and cost savings, and the use of the one-year pilot to evaluate participation, costs, and waste diversion. The Board also discussed coordination with USA Hauling & Recycling regarding residential hauling options and the collection of program data during the pilot period. The Board emphasized that the program is voluntary and limited to a one-year pilot. **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to proceed with implementation of the voluntary food scrap composting and UBP pilot program at the transfer station, with a reevaluation after one year. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

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

Region 20 Update none

Advanced Tech Update J. Bongiorno stated that the committee has thoroughly vetted and approved a new municipal Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and a comprehensive Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy which will be further discussed at the September 15th Board of Selectmen regular meeting. The committee is also currently working on drafting a Request for Proposals (RFP) to transition all town municipal locations, including the volunteer firehouses, onto a single, unified fiber-optic network.

WPCA Liaison Update D. Raap reported that the WPCA is finalizing the annual sewer bills and they are scheduled to be mailed out to residents soon.

Sustainable Litchfield Update none

Interlocal EMS Update none

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

Advanced Technology Commission: 2 alternate members 04/2028

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

Board of Ethics: 1 regular member 06/2029; 1 alternate members 06/2029
Cable TV Advisory Council: 1 member 6/2027
Conservation Commission: 2 alternate members 12/2028
Economic Development Commission: 1 alternate member 06/2027
Inland Wetlands Commission: 2 alternate members 06/2027
Litchfield Arts Council: 4 regular members 08/2027
Litchfield Prevention Council: 2 regular members 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: 2 alternate members 03/2028
Veterans' Advisory Committee: 1 regular member 08/2026; 1 alternate member 08/2027
Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA): 2 alternate members 01/2031
Western CT Coalition, CAC #22: 1 member 05/2027
Zoning Board of Appeals: 3 alternate members 03/2027

Tax Refunds

- A) **16 Tax Refunds, totaling \$2,201.87 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve the sixteen tax refunds totaling \$2,201.87. A. Dranginis seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Transfers none

Old Business

- a) **Frontier Contract Discussion** J. Bongiorno stated The Frontier Services Agreement was signed on September 7, 2023. The five-year agreement provides locked-in pricing for three municipal sites. The Town will coordinate with Public Works Director, Raz Alexe to install fiber-optic cable to Community Field in conjunction with ongoing open-trench work to maximize efficiency and reduce costs. Due to the long-term financial commitment, the agreement requires approval by the Board of Finance and Town Meeting. **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve the contract as recommended and to forward it to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for final approval. D. Morosani seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed.

New Business

- A) **Bantam Annex Public Hearing Call** D. Raap introduced a draft for the Bantam Annex Public Hearing Call. The Board agreed that a joint discussion with Bantam zoning officials should occur prior to authorizing the final public hearing call. A meeting with Bantam zoning officials is scheduled for September 9th. **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to table consideration of the Bantam Annex public hearing call until its September 15th meeting. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed.
- B) **Forman School** J. Bongiorno discussed a draft legislative proposal concerning educational tax exemptions in Connecticut. The proposal, which was circulated to Senator Steven Harding, and State Representatives Karen Reddington Hughes and John Piscopo, received positive feedback. Representative John Piscopo requested that the Board formally approve the proposed language so that it may be presented to the State Legislature as a town-supported proposal. The proposed legislation includes a local-option provision allowing municipalities that are satisfied with existing voluntary arrangements with private schools to remain exempt from the bill's provisions. The proposal also establishes tuition thresholds for the application of tax-exemption restrictions. The Board discussed the potential economic impact of private preparatory schools on

the community, including employment, lodging, and local business activity, as well as concerns regarding private schools acquiring residential properties for school-related use and removing those properties from the municipal tax rolls. J. Zullo requested that the proposed legislation be forwarded to Town Attorney Ryback for legal review and requested that the Tax Assessor compile an inventory of real estate owned by local private schools, including assessed values. The matter will be placed on the agenda for the next Board of Selectmen meeting for further discussion.

Correspondence none

Executive Session none

Adjournment Motion: J. Zullo motioned to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed.



Denise Raap, First Selectman