MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 ~ 1:00 P.M. IN-PERSON AT THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, 2800 BERLIN TPK, NEWINGTON, CT

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Denise Raap at 1:06pm with the following Selectmen in attendance: D. Raap, A. Dranginis, D. Morosani, J. Zullo

Also in attendance: From Litchfield: R. Alexe, E. Fabbri, W. Buckley (arrived at 1:24)

DoT: M. Pfaffinger, C. Leone, A. Esposito, A. Correria. K. McKernan, Greg Palmer, Matt Blume

Litchfield Center Green Pre-Design – Project PP073-0018

The initial meeting began with a review of the West Street and South Street extension parking concepts to add /maintain parking spaces with the new DoT parking restrictions in an intersection. Several concepts were discussed and the main point of the Board of Selectmen support of the project being a general desire to maintain as many parking spots around the green as possible with the road realignments. Also discussed adding a number of bumpouts to protect crosswalks.

Next reviewed was the DoT process going forward and the section 106 process under federal funding and a high level of historic characteristics including an extensive environmental review. This project may be completely state funded or have federal funding on an 80/20 (Fed/CT) split.

The next action will be the DoT funding decision expected in the next 3-6 months with a detailed scoping report, estimate and schedule before being transferred to the DoT design group.

A final Go/No-Go decision will occur at the 30% design stage and a Dot project that is funded typically does not go away.

One point noted was the point of possibly removing the center green easterly walkway that does not end at a crosswalk to lessen the amount of 202 right-of-way on the north side of 202.

Additional review of parking constraints, 202 right turn lanes and the west end of the green reconfiguration and enlargement with the elimination of the Meadow St. extension and continuation of West St. to come out across from the Town Hall exit. This extension will be included in the baseline design and evaluation of a control signal, although not currently meeting DoT criteria warrant not applicable will be evaluated.

Further discussion of pedestrian crossing signals, traffic calming measures with raised crosswalks/speed tables was reviewed and the possibility of extending granite curbing with this project in keeping with the existing West St. configuration.

Discussion next reviewed the possibility of placing the overhead utility wires underground was reviewed and Litchfield BoS expressed interest in evaluating this.

The initial meeting concluded with the agreement of Litchfield BoS to proceed with DoT pre-design funding, estimate and schedule and funding approval.

A motion to suspend the initial meeting was made by D. Morosani, seconded by A. Dranginis at 2:35pm to transition to another meeting room with Greg Palmer and Matt Blume to review the Rt118/254 intersection. All voted aye.

Litchfield 118/254 Intersection Review Discussion – meeting began at 2:37pm

Greg Palmer reviewed the 118/254 intersection evaluation and the vehicular warrants based on the traffic count analysis from Oct. 2025 and the accident data.

Route 118 (East Street #1) at Route 254 (Northfield Road)

- The 8-hour vehicular volume warrants and crash warrants in the MUTCD were met for further consideration of a traffic control signal.
- CTDOT Traffic is now conducting an Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) to determine what is the most appropriate future traffic control for this intersection.
- Intersection Sight Distances (ISDs)
    - ISDs looking to the west are adequate for the distance associated with the posted speed limit but are not adequate for the distance associated with prevailing speeds.
    - ISDs looking to the east are adequate for the distances associated with the posted speed limit and prevailing speeds.
- Short-term modifications will be pursued by CTDOT (described further below).

Route 118 (East Street #1) at Fern Avenue and Chestnut Hill Road

- MUTCD warrants for consideration of a traffic control signal are not met at this time.
- The latest available crash data revealed a total of three crashes over the past three years with no overrepresentations indicated.
- Since both side streets are municipal roadways, it should be noted that maintenance of the ISDs are the responsibility of the municipality.
- As discussed at the meeting, the Town could potentially consider closing or revising the Fern Avenue connection to Route 118 since East Litchfield Street also provides connection to this area. An encroachment permit from District 4 Maintenance would be necessary for this work.

What CTDOT Will Do

- Conduct an Intersection Control Evaluation to determine the most appropriate future traffic control for the intersection of Route 118 and Route 254.
- Upgrade existing signing and pavement markings to latest design practice.
- Pursue removal of the existing climbing lane on Route 118 eastbound in this area.
- Prepare a concept for consideration of modifying the existing median island on Route 254 at the intersection with Route 118. Internal coordination with other CTDOT offices is necessary to determine feasibility.
- Check with other CTDOT offices to determine when this segment of roadway is anticipated to have pavement resurfaced. As indicated at the meeting, these remaining efforts will be prioritized the extent possible.

What CTDOT Recommends the Town Do/Consider

- Increase speed enforcement along Route 118 to address motorists exceeding the posted speed limit.
- Consider installing dynamic "Your Speed" speed feedback radar signs.
- Consider applying for Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD), such as speed safety cameras.
- Review and maintain ISDs from Town roadways (Fern Avenue and Chestnut Hill Road) since they are the responsibility of the municipality. If the Town pursues any vegetative clearing in the State highway right-of-way, an encroachment permit from District 4 Maintenance would be necessary for this work.
- As discussed at the meeting, the Town could potentially consider closing or revising the Fern Avenue connection to Route 118 since East Litchfield Street also provides connection to this area. An encroachment permit from District 4 Maintenance would be necessary for this work.

D. Morosani departed at 3:25pm.

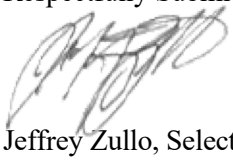
Fixed Asset Inventory Assistance

A motion was made by A. Dranginis to approve Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Transfer #4 (amended) for $15,120 amount to fund the Fixed Asset Inventory Assistance and forward to the Board of Finance for their approval, seconded by J. Zullo. Discussion regarding the audit and the difference in inventory values may require additional audit work, all voted aye.

Adjournment

A motion was made by A. Dranginis to adjourn at 3.48pm, seconded by J. Zullo, all voted aye.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeffrey Zullo, Selectman