

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022 ~ 5:30 P.M.
IN-PERSON AT TOWN HALL ANNEX, 80 DOYLE RD., BANTAM, AND
REMOTE MEETING BY LIVE INTERNET VIDEO STREAM AND TELEPHONE**

Call to Order: First Selectman Denise Raap called the regular hybrid meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. Selectmen in attendance were Jonathan Torrant, Jeffrey Zullo, Jodiann Tenney, and Christine Harding by Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion:** J. Torrant moved and J. Zullo seconded a motion to approve the regular 9/20/22 meeting minutes. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Requests/Comments: None

Selectmen's Requests: None

First Selectman's Update Report: D. Raap shared that she met with Jeremiah Sattazahn, School COO, and Ed Advance about a food waste diversion program in the schools. The pilot program will start 10/17/22 in both Litchfield and Wamogo, overseen by Ed Advance. She also met with the Town of Canton's Sustainable Task Force to share information about our on-site composting. A second request was submitted to the DOT to reduce the speed limit to 25 mph on Goodhouse Road from Mike Road to Newcomb Road.

Resignations

a) **Barbara Putnam from Registrar of Voters (elected position):** received and noted

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

a) **Interview Cailyn Paradise for Economic Development Commission, alternate member, term 6/2024:** Ms Paradise said she is a financial advisor with an office in the West Street Yard. She has been to an EDC meeting and thinks she could help with the programs. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved that the Board of Selectmen appoint Cailyn Paradise to the EDC as an alternate member for a term ending in 6/2024. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: 9/14/22 Inland Wetlands Commission

Sustainable Litchfield Update: J. Zullo said they met today and have open positions still available for membership. They have created a subcommittee to work on the climate leadership initiative. Raz Alexe and Naomi submitted the EV car charger grant application to DEEP last Friday. Proposed locations are at the Municipal lot (DC fast charger), Town Hall, DPW, LIS and LHS. The grant award is 65% from DEEP with the balance from Eversource. Total project cost is \$211,000. Bids received prior to the inflation reduction act for the WPCA solar PPA project were retracted because of the tax credit changes. The bids will be re-issued under the new guidelines with higher tax credits. J. Torrant asked why we went from 28 to 6 EV charges, and J. Zullo said that it was probably wishful but not practical, with the grants favoring the more heavily developed areas of the State. There will be opportunities for others to apply during the second round.

WPCA Liaison Update: C. Harding said the WPCA held a productive meeting. D. Wilson agreed to get the Woodard & Curran contract to the First Selectman by October 5th so the Board could review changes and get moving on the engineering contract. D. Raap said she has already received the contract and will bring it to the Board of Selectmen for the next meeting. D. Wilson said the WPCA had approved the

contract before Mike Rybak's changes, but has no issues with the changes, although he doesn't feel they will implement all the comments. The WPCA approved the MOU as presented, but C. Harding said she did not vote for it as she had more questions. She felt there are still some issues between the Board and the Superintendent of the plant that need to be resolved.

Vacancies: D. Raap again asked everyone to get the word out that we need volunteers, especially for the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Conservation Commission. The list of current appointed vacancies with term expirations is as follows:

Beautification Commission: 1 regular member 2/2025; 2 alternate members 2/2025
Broadband Commission: 1 alternate member 1/2023
Cable TV Advisory Council: 1 BOE members 6/2023
Capital Improvements Committee: 1 Citizen at Large 11/2023
Conservation Commission: 1 alternate member 12/2024
Economic Development Commission: 1 regular 6/2025
Inland Wetlands Commission: 1 alternate member 6/2023
Litchfield Arts Council: 1 regular member 8/2024
Litchfield Prevention Council: 3 alt. members: 1-6/25, 2-6/23
Milton Historic District Commission: 1 regular 1/2023; 3 alternates; 2-1/2024, 1-1/2025
Park and Recreation Commission: 1 alternate member 6/2026
Pension Commission: 1 alternate member 3/2025
Sandy Beach Commission: 1 regular member 12/2022
Social Services Board: one regular member 2/2025
Sustainable Litchfield Committee: one regular member 3/2024; 1 alternate 2024
Town Facilities Review Committee: 1 BOF Member 3/2023; 1 BOE Member 3/2023
Traffic Safety Community Action Group: 1 regular 1/2023; 1 alt. member 1/2023
Veterans' Advisory Committee: 1 regular member 8/2023; 1 alternate member 8/2024
Western CT Coalition, CAC #22 (formerly NW Regional Mental Health Board): 1 member 5/2023
Zoning Board of Appeals: 2 regular members 3/2023, 3/2026; 2 alternate members 3/2025

Tax Refunds: Motion: J. Torrant moved to approve the tax refunds as submitted by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$1,984.70. J. Zullo seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Old Business

a) Open Space Fund re Milde Property - Chez Liley, Kay Winter (tabled from 9/20/22): D. Raap reported that Chez and Kay still could not attend this meeting, but she reminded the group that Land Trust President David Geiger had sent a letter back in January of 2020 about funding an annual contribution of \$25,000 into the Town's special revenue account for open space acquisition. There is now \$22,000 in the fund, and she asked if they would consider taking a percentage of the annual conveyance tax revenue into it (cont. Under Old Business c).

Motion: J. Zullo moved to move New Business, Item c) to Old Business, Item c). J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

b) ARPA Requests: Three new requests will be added to the list of 18 requests already received. D. Raap suggested the committee that will review the requests should consist of someone from the EDC, Boards of Finance and Selectmen, Public Works, Broadband, and WPCA. The Board wanted the same committee as before with the Finance Director and Town Treasurer added in. It will be held as a special Board of Selectmen's meeting, so the entire Board of Selectmen will be included. They decided on October 18th at 4:30 p.m. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to set a special Board of Selectmen ARPA review meeting with

members from the last Committee on October 18, 2022. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

c) Consider \$25,000 Annual Contribution to the Open Space Fund, Acct. #27-1404-45001: It was agreed that 20% of the overage in the budget could be put into the fund. J. Tenney thought it should be called a land acquisition fund rather than an open space fund so that its use could be broader, such as for affordable housing. **Motion:** J. Torrant moved to table this item until such time as there is more information. J. Zullo seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

New Business

a) Move 11/1/22 BOS Meeting to Alternate Date: After discussion, it was agreed to forego the meeting unless they need to call a special meeting. **Motion:** J. Torrant moved to delete the 11/1/22 meeting in favor of calling a special meeting if needed. J. Zullo seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

b) Sandy Beach Presentation - Ed Ryle: Mr. Ryle, Sandy Beach Commission Chair, reported on the year's activities. He presented a profit and loss statement and offered to send a full balance statement if requested. He said they have two vacancies on the board and suffer from lack of quorum at times. They had a very successful and safe season again this year. Their numbers may have been down a little compared to last year, and they had a \$13,000 shortfall because of capital projects they undertook. They have at least \$15,000 in ash tree removals, having expended \$5,000 so far. They made repairs to the cottage on the property, \$2,800, and replaced the roof, for a total of \$16,000 in maintenance bills. They have done fundraisers in the past and have gained revenue from the Ski Club's ski show and have partnered with them to do parking revenue sharing for the ski show weekend. He then introduced Todd Dyer, the Beach Manager, who summarized this year as a great season and Sandy Beach as a gem in our community. He confirmed that numbers were down but back to where they were before the pandemic swell. They issued 217 beach passes this year. They were short staffed at the beginning of the season, but hired a couple more as the season progressed. There were four saves this year, with an average of 2 to 3 a year. The snack shack was certified by Torrington Area Health. He himself does a lot of the routine maintenance at the beach.

J. Torrant asked about an interlocal agreement, and E. Ryle said they are in the process of doing an interlocal agreement and are not a non-profit. D. Raap added that an interlocal agreement has been signed by Litchfield but is held up in Morris. J. Torrant asked how they are making up the loss and are they qualified to seek ARPA funds. E. Ryle said they are able to fundraise and save money in a renovation fund so they can keep up with requirements of their lease with White Memorial. They have come to Litchfield for capital needs in the past, but are able to refrain from recent requests because of their fundraising abilities. Last year they received \$5,000 from a business who used their beach, but have since realized that it was not acceptable to conduct outside business from the property per the lease. Therefore, the loss of the \$5,000 contributes to the loss. D. Raap said they might ask White Memorial about this type of chance for revenue when the lease renews in 2023. E. Ryle noted that technically, the Ski Club should not be doing business with them either. But in the past there was written permission from White Memorial to work with the Ski Club as an exception to the lease. J. Torrant suggested that if they have capital work to be done in 2023, it may qualify for ARPA funds. They then discussed capital requests. D. Raap said they will be meeting on October 18th for the ARPA requests, so she urged them to prioritize and submit an ARPA request. The insurance issue is settled, so all is well.

d) Union Savings Bank Accounts - Signer Changes: Motion: J. Torrant moved to approve adding Jeffrey Zullo as a third signer on all accounts at Union Savings Bank. J. Tenney seconded, all voted aye and the motion passed.

e) Endorse Litchfield Patriots, Inc. Proposal to Lead a 250th Nation's Birthday Celebration: Eileen Schmidt explained there are three years to go before celebrating the nation's birthday. The Patriots have been honoring Revolutionary War patriots from Litchfield and families since 2017. They would like to plan some activities with the cooperation of other agencies in town. Their board is active and they would like to solicit the cooperation of other groups and commissions in town. They have been cleaning gravestones at cemeteries in town as well as in Morris. They would like to also replace broken stones of patriots, with permission. Alice Ridgeway said that right now all they want to do is to convene the key stakeholders in town and coordinate by finding what they would like to do.

Motion: J. Torrant moved to endorse the proposal of the Litchfield Patriots, Inc. to convene and lead a committee to plan celebrations in Litchfield for the Nation's semiquincentennial. J. Tenney seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

f) Award Bid for 2023 Reappraisal and Revaluation Services: D. Raap said there were two bids received for the 2023 revaluation, and Assessor Chris Kelsey recommended going with VGSI. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the 2023 revaluation bid from VGSI in the amount of \$97,103. J. Torrant seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Adjournment: **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. and J. Torrant seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Denise Raap, First Selectman