

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 ~ 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 hybrid meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with Selectmen Jonathan Tarrant, Jodiann Tenney, and Jeffrey Zullo also present. Christine Harding arrived at 5:38 p.m. There were no attendees via Zoom.

**Approval of Minutes:** **Motion:** J. Zullo moved and J. Tenney seconded a motion to approve the regular 5/2/23 meeting minutes. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Public Requests/Comments:** (see end of meeting)

**Selectmen's Requests:** J. Tarrant noted Beacon Falls is installing speed humps in its town without approaching the State. J. Tenney said Raz Alexe is watching this, as Farmington had to take out its speed humps. J. Tenney said speed humps have to be located where the limit is below a certain amount, and have to maintain the markings ahead of it. With a speed limit of 30 on Goodhouse Road, it may not qualify per J. Zullo. J. Tenney will bring the question forward as well as for speed cameras. J. Tarrant will research the Beacon Falls initiative further and will report back. J. Tenney added that the flashing beacon at Spencer Street would need a \$15,000 feasibility study and ADA compliant sidewalks, which are not possible in that area. J. Zullo reminded them that there are still unallocated funds from ARPA. *[Christine Harding arrived here at 5:38 p.m.]*

**First Selectman's Update Report:** D. Raap clarified the proposal by the Litchfield Arts Council upon initiative by Sustainable Litchfield to find money and a location for a mural to be done by Danielle Mailler. She said she would offer the side of the Village as a host site for placement of the mural if it was approved by HDC, but she would have no other involvement. In order to avoid controversy after postings of incorrect information on social media, she told the Arts Council to find another location. The signings took place on the solar PPA and lease, the Sandy Beach interlocal agreement and the ground lease for the Litchfield Hills Rowing Club.

**Resignations**

- a) Barbara Spring from Litchfield Housing Authority, effective 5/5/23: received and noted
- b) James Stedronsky from Board of Finance, effective 5/11/23: noted

**Declining Reappointment**

- a) Will Neary from Economic Development Commission, effective 6/1/23: received and noted
- b) Rob Gollow from Park and Recreation Commission, effective 6/1/23: received and noted

**Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments**

- a) Reappoint Stephen Simonin to Cable TV Advisory Council, term 6/2025: **Motion:** J. Tarrant moved and J. Tenney seconded a motion to reappoint Stephen Simonin as above. All voted aye and the motion carried.
- b) Reappoint Michele Murelli to Economic Development Commission, term 6/2026
- c) Reappoint Renee Betar to Economic Development Commission, term 6/2026

**Motion:** J. Torrant moved and J. Tenney seconded a motion to reappoint Michele Murelli and Renee Beter as above. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**d) Reappoint William Cox to Board of Ethics, term 6/2026**

**e) Reappoint Beatrice Thompson to Board of Ethics, term 6/2026**

**f) Reappoint Matt Andrulis Mette to Board of Ethics, term 6/2026**

**Motion:** J. Torrant moved and J. Tenney seconded a motion to reappoint William Cox, Beatrice Thompson and Matt Andrulis Mette as above. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**g) Reappoint Robert Blazek to Inland Wetlands Commission, term 6/2026**

**h) Reappoint Martin Connor to Inland Wetlands Commission, term 6/2026**

**Motion:** J. Torrant moved and J. Tenney seconded a motion to reappoint Robert Blazek and Martin Connor as above. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**i) Reappoint Matt Dyer to Litchfield Prevention Council, term 6/2026**

**j) Reappoint Gary Waugh to Litchfield Prevention Council, term 6/2026**

**k) Reappoint Jill Johnson to Litchfield Prevention Council, term 6/2026**

**Motion:** J. Torrant moved and J. Tenney seconded a motion to reappoint Matt Dyer, Gary Waugh and Jill Johnson as above. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes:** 5/8/23 & 5/11/23 Board of Finance; 5/13/23 Fire & EMS; 4/4/23 Litchfield Arts Council

**Sustainable Litchfield Update:** J. Zullo reported meeting today, recapping the Earth Day event and proposing new ideas for the upcoming year. The Climate Leadership submission is in and being reviewed. Next they will review and target the actions to pursue for gold certification. They already have 500 points out of the 750 needed to achieve gold status. There is still one opening for an alternate member on Sustainable Litchfield.

**WPCA Liaison Update:** C. Harding reported no meeting last week, but there is a special scheduled for this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. D. Raap reported that D. Wilson has someone in mind to replace Sandy Mitchell, who is retiring July 15th after a long time as WPCA Tax Collector.

**Vacancies:** 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 1/2025

Cable TV Advisory Council: 2 members, 1 BOE rep, both 6/2023

Capital Improvements Committee: 1 Citizen at Large 11/2023

Conservation Commission: 2 alternate members 12/2024

Economic Development Commission: 2 regulars 6/2025, 6/2026; 1 alternate 6/2023

Inland Wetlands Commission: 2 alternate members 6/2024

Litchfield Arts Council: 1 regular member 8/2024

Litchfield Housing Authority: 2 members 8/2023, 8/2024

Litchfield Prevention Council: 1 regular member 6/2024; 2 alternate members 6/2023

Milton Historic District Commission: 1 regular 1/2023; 3 alternates; 2-1/2024, 1-1/2025

Park & Recreation Commission: 1 regular 6/2026

Pension Commission: 1 alternate member 3/2025

Sandy Beach Commission: 1 regular member 12/2022  
Social Services Board: 2 regular members 2/2024, 2/2025  
Sustainable Litchfield Committee: 1 alternate 3/2024  
Town Facilities Review Committee: 1 BOF Member 3/2026; 1 BOE Member 3/2026; 3- 3/2026  
Veterans' Advisory Committee: 2 regular members 8/2023, 8/2025  
Western CT Coalition, CAC #22 (formerly NW Regional Mental Health Board): 1 member 5/2023  
Zoning Board of Appeals: 3 alternate members 3/2025

**Tax Refunds:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business**

**a) License Agreement with Litchfield Hills Chore Service:** D. Raap reviewed the terms of the agreement written by Town Counsel. They agreed on \$50/month for an office in Room 56 at the Annex. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to approve the license agreement between the Town of Litchfield and the Litchfield Hills Chore Service. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

**b) Findings and Recommendations of the Town-wide First Responder Recruiting/Retention Committee - Dan Morosani:** Mr. Morosani presented and summarized the work of the committee and its quest to increase the number of first responders in the five departments in town. They felt a lack of compelling incentives is a major factor in the primary challenge of recruitment and retention of first responders. Low staffing leads to first responder burnout and financial consequences. He reviewed the present day proposed first responder benefits including tax abatement or 1099 reimbursement as well as other town perks. In addition he proposed pension adjustments. First, a re-adjustment to pension accrual to \$35/month starting in 2024 with a mandatory inflation-based revaluation every five years; and second, a proposed retroactive adjustment for first responders who served in the 2005-2023 period. The committee believes that a fair re-adjustment for annual accruals during this time period would be between \$20 - \$25. They felt this would be seen as a meaningful effort by the Town to do right by its first responders. J. Zullo suggested a pay-per-call incentive that Mr. Morosani said they had considered that but wanted to be more conservative. J. Zullo suggested all departments get on board along with the Board of Finance to widen the outreach and awareness with public meetings. The Selectmen decided to keep this item on the agenda and to come back with a mandate to flush out more detail.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:** Priscilla Jeffery, Chairman of the Litchfield Arts Council, spoke about its application for a mural for the center of town. There seems to be a number of people in town who do not want it. She said she would be happy to withdraw the application, but is sad because the towns are supposed to be inclusive and make our community more beautiful. D. Raap clarified that this is an issue with the Borough and Historic District Commission. It is not permanent and depicts buildings and activities relating to Litchfield and its history. All she said was that if the HDC votes in favor, then they can use the Village building to promote public art. C. Harding suggested Priscilla not withdraw the application and pay no attention to Facebook. J. Zullo also urged her to keep the application open and get a ruling.

**Adjournment:** **Motion:** J. Torrant moved to adjourn at 6:51 p.m. and J. Zullo seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

  
Denise Raap, First Selectman