

**Special Meeting Minutes  
Town of Litchfield  
Borough/HDC Consolidation Study Committee  
November 10, 2022, 6:00 PM  
Litchfield Firehouse; 258 West St., Litchfield, CT**

**Call to Order – Committee Chairman:** Chairman Jonathan Torrant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other members present were Chuck Conn, Ron Leal, Dan Parsons, Pat Iannuzzi, Cleve Fuessenich, and Leslie Caron. First Selectman Denise Raap was also present.

**Absent:** Bruce Schnitzer, Ty Williams, Leo Paul, Jr., Michael Castelli

**Approval of 10/13/2022 Special Meeting Minutes: Motion:** C. Conn moved to approve the minutes of 10/13/22 and L. Caron seconded. In discussion, L. Caron noted the heading should say “Minutes” instead of “Agenda”. Voting on the motion with correction, all voted aye and the motion carried.

**Seating of Alternate Members as Regular Members if appropriate:** None available

**Town Green Title Search - Discussion:** J. Torrant referred to the Town Green title search. The searcher, Elizabeth Munch, spent about three days and \$750 without much result. Spending additional time did not look like it would produce much more information, so the search was halted without knowing who actually owns the Green. D. Raap said the Green was part of a public highway and there were no deeds transferred. J. Torrant added it would also be almost impossible to track all the descendants of all the people who were in charge of the Green.

**Foundation Document - Discussion:** J. Torrant publicly thanked Pat Iannuzzi for all the work he has done in researching this document and the original charter of 1885. Mr. Iannuzzi said the additional information he has gathered has been inserted in blue. He said the village was created in 1819 to prevent and manage fires. The Borough then came about to replace the village in 1885 with a Board of Warden and Burgesses with expanded responsibilities. The Borough Charter was revised in 1915 and again in 1989. The only two governmental functions in the current charter that were in the original charter are control over the parks, and control over the sidewalks. J. Torrant further stated that P. Iannuzzi found the 1974 document that created the Park and Recreation Commission, which gave them responsibility for parks in Litchfield, creating an overlap for the Green for which they do not assume responsibility. J. Torrant said how valuable this information is in understanding the history and pointed out the map of the Borough with boundaries.

**Discuss Historically Appropriate Documents:** L. Caron will visit the Historical Society to search for other historical documents. They can also search at the Borough office. Ron Leal questioned some of the documents handed out as being appropriate. J. Torrant said he chose documents from many older files in deciding what might be important or of interest to the Committee.

**Discuss Next Step(s) in the Consolidation Study Process:** C. Fuessenich proposed constructing a report that can be presented to the Borough voters and Town voters for their consideration and vote. J. Torrant noted that by the resolution it would first go to the Board of Selectmen and then to the voters.

R. Leal thought the control of the Green should be by the Town. While the finances should be turned over to the Town, he felt the Borough, perhaps with a new name, should be run by the people who live there. D. Raap suggested an update to the charter of 24 years ago to determine which responsibilities of the Borough are still relevant.

J. Tarrant suggested the financial analysis should be a next step. C. Conn suggested looking at the 1998 attempt at consolidation to learn what transpired and what did not work that we might change today. C. Fuessenich questioned the existence of good records from that group on the process it followed. P. Iannucci asked if we could persuade the Borough to relinquish control of the Green as they had done for Community Field, albeit not officially. D. Raap said that permission for Park & Rec events at Community Field still has to come from the Borough.

D. Parsons would like to find services that are redundant and what the Borough tax dollars pay for. The problem is that the Borough is hard to approach, as they run things defiantly without input from residents. With the Town in control, the Board of Selectmen will take responsibility for the decisions made. L. Caron added that the Borough Board is extremely unapproachable. They said they are in charge of the Green and the Heritage Foundation Board makes decisions on what changes can be made on the Green. The greater Town would have no say. J. Tarrant said in response to R. Leal's comment that anything that happens on the Green affects the entire Town, and the 6,000 voters outside the Borough cannot make any changes or affect the center of Town in any way. Instead the Borough Board controls the center of Town. He would like everyone to have a say in a representative type of government by making the Borough Board a commission of the Town that would be appointed by the Board of Selectmen and representing all five sections of our town. R. Leal agreed with this. He encouraged everyone to sit in on the Borough's meetings. L. Caron, D. Parsons, P. Iannuzzi, and R. Leal offered to attend Borough meetings on behalf of the Committee. C. Conn did not think that would be overly productive and a mistake to speak. To go and listen only would be different. R. Leal offered to invite them to come to these meetings. J. Tarrant asked R. Leal to do that and hold off on our members attending their meetings en masse. If Ron is successful he should discuss with J. Tarrant which agenda items should be included. C. Fuessenich is working on a helpful list of terms and definitions that he will get to J. Tarrant for distribution as a first draft. J. Tarrant will start the financial process, showing impact on the Borough and Town taxpayers.

**Set Regular Meeting Schedule for 2023:** The final meeting for this year will be December 8th. J. Tarrant asked if the second Thursday at 6:00 p.m. works for all, and it did. **Motion:** C. Conn moved to adopt the schedule of regular meetings for 2023 as outlined on the draft presented by Mr. Tarrant. D. Parsons seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

**Adjournment: Motion:** L. Caron moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m., and D. Parsons seconded. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

  
Jonathan Tarrant, Chairman

2023 Regular Meeting Schedule  
Borough/HDC Consolidation Study Committee  
Litchfield Firehouse, 258 West Street  
Second Thursday of the Month ~ 6:00 p.m.

January 12, 2023

February 9, 2023

March 9, 2023

April 13, 2023

May 11, 2023

June 8, 2023

July 13, 2023

August 10, 2023

September 14, 2023

October 12, 2023

November 9, 2023

December 14, 2023

Jonathan Tarrant  
Chairman