

Regular Meeting Minutes
Town of Litchfield
Borough/HDC Consolidation Study Committee
September 14, 2023, 6:00 PM
Town Hall Annex, 80 Doyle Road, Bantam

Call to Order – Committee Chairman: Chairman Jonathan Tarrant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other members present were Leslie Caron, Pat Iannuzzi, Bruce Schnitzer, Chuck Conn, Michael Castelli (alternate member), and Leo Paul (alternate member). Ron Leal arrived at 6:17 p.m.

Absent: Ty Williams, Dan Parsons, Cleve Fuessenich

Seating of Alternate Members as Regular Members if appropriate: Chairman Tarrant seated both Michael Castelli and Leo Paul as regular voting members.

Approval of 7/13/2023 Regular Meeting Minutes: **Motion:** C. Conn moved and B. Schnitzer seconded a motion to approve the 7/13/23 meeting minutes as presented. A ll voted aye and the motion carried.

Discuss Borough/HDC Connection: J. Tarrant passed out a letter received Tuesday from the Historic District Commission that says any effort to consolidate the Borough into the Town would also remove the HDC from existence. It would be difficult and a lengthy process to get it back in place as it is now or at all. He asked members to review the letter as well as the attachment, an opinion from the HDC's attorney attesting to the truth of the HDC's letter, and be ready to discuss at the next meeting. B. Schnitzer was distressed that the HDC has determined what we think and what we researched without having spoken with us at all. He encouraged the Chairman of the HDC to have such a conversation. J. Tarrant said he would issue the invitation to Ms Metcalf to attend the October meeting as well as the subcommittee meeting, and he will make the request in writing. L. Paul agreed but also thought the committee should wait until the next meeting to discuss it. He also encouraged J. Tarrant to request that Byrne & Byrne be invited to attend. J. Tarrant agreed to include this in the letter.

Discuss Borough/Town Budget Overlap: There is no further information at this time per J. Tarrant.

Discuss Next Step(s) in the Consolidation Study Process: J. Tarrant thought they were at the point where they should either set a proposal to go forward or do a report with results and reasons not to go forward. Public hearings will be held thereafter, hopefully by the end of this calendar year. The date for the subcommittee meeting will be determined and held within the next two weeks.

Open Discussion: Dirk Patterson was allowed to speak by Chairman Tarrant and said the Chabad lawsuit will not be over until 2026, and we cannot prepay what is owed without opening a can of worms, so he advised not making a move until 2026. J. Tarrant said he was well aware of that, and they would look into it. *[Ron Leal joined the meeting here at 6:17 p.m.]*

Adjournment: **Motion:** L. Paul moved and M. Castelli seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:19 p.m. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Jonathan Tarrant, Chairman