

Town of North Canaan
Selectman Meeting
February 1, 2021 via zoom technology

Present: First Selectman Charlie Perotti, Craig Whiting, Christian Allyn

Selectman Perotti called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

Chris made a motion to approve the minutes from December. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Public Comment: Rick the director of Northwest COG will be retiring, so they will be looking for a replacement. Charlie took a moment to mention and honor from second selectman Henry Carley who passed away recently.

1. Governor Lamont has extended the State of Emergency to April 20th. He has lifted a couple of restrictions allowing restaurants to be open until 11pm and allowing individuals into churches, due to positive percentages down. Nothing has change in the declaration from Secretary of State. Missy sent a grant opportunity to local restaurants that could possibly help them.
2. COVID update - Vaccinations ongoing for over 75. 3 town employees have gotten the shot. There will be 2 more additional testing dates: February 11 and February 25 1-4pm at the town hall. Torrington Area Health will be sending out weekly reports on COVID cases.
3. Farmers to Family Food distribution notification was received by Mary Beth and Dinny. Mary Beth was able to get some individuals there. They hoping to have it every week in Torrington. It was requested that Dinny put it on Facebook.
4. Annual Town Meeting status will be updated when the budget comes up for a vote in May. Budget presentations from the town and the BOE will be March 17th at 7:30pm via zoom. BOE will be bigger for town this year as there are 101 students from town. The oil tank will be done this year as well.
5. Resident Trooper update – 274 total calls for January. Report read into record
6. Social Worker report – very busy working with families/clients – report read into record
7. Building Department report – very busy
8. Zoning Enforcement Officer report – fielding a lot of zoning calls/questions and working on regulations
9. Selectman Whiting report: has received complaints regarding garbage in the center of town by the old Zia crosswalk area. He suggested building more garbage cans. Suggestion made to schedule another clean up day. Overnight parking issues are better but there is garbage in the parking lot. Thank you to Missy and Cheryl for working on the website. Spoke with Kevin at Geer who is excited with progress made with vaccinating the staff and residents. There was a discussion on passing the food truck ordinance but making it effective at the end of the summer to help the brewery with their food issues due to State COVID restrictions.
10. Selectman Allyn report: Mentioned that Ed Kirby, president of the Friends of Beckley Furnace, passed away. As he sits on the board for several years, he will let the town know when a new president is named. He did not meet with the ZEO much this month, but will forward the recommendations from the town plan of development to the commission for any feedback next

month. Discussion ensued about Airbnb regulations and mixed use development. The commission is in agreement that an Airbnb should not be a special permit, it should be an owners right. Mixed use development is when there's a shop on the ground floor and apartments above. ZEO suggested changing to residential and residential/agricultural zones, but Selectman Allyn believes most of these outside of downtown fall within cottage industry. Commission agrees. There is a major Emerald Ash Bore outbreak in North Canaan. Blonding on the ash trees shows where it is occurring. The mature beetles lays eggs, they hatch and bore into trees and the wood peckers go after them. The ash trees will be dying off. He would like to increase the tree removal budget this year as they will be removing a lot more. The EDC had a meeting for the first time in a year. Once they are up and going again he will report on items. The notes will be sent to the town. Missy stated she did get the minutes, but requested additional letters from the committee that need to be acted on.

11. Skating rink at pavilion is up and running and has been busy
12. There is a new antique store at the old Dr. Kobylarz Office and another one at the old Brewer Bros. building. The town is starting to boom.

Selectman Whiting made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Allyn seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned 7:43pm

Respectfully Submitted

Ayrslea A Odell
Recording Secretary