

Town of North Canaan
Board of Selectmen
Special Selectman's meeting
May 18, 2022, 9:00am

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

Selectman Perotti called to order the special meeting at 9:00am

Selectman Allyn made a motion to set the town meeting date for June 1, 2022, 7:00pm. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

The town meeting will be for:

1. Renewal lease for North Canaan Little League
2. Transfer \$70000 for revaluation
3. Amend motion for the purchase of the 2022 loader from the sale of the Canaan Valley property
4. Possible action on municipal budget
5. Possible action on NCES budget

Both budgets must pass in order to move forward.

Camp Brook Greenway: Jeff Drury wrote a draft letter which the Selectmen can sign and send to the State to see what happens. If the original correspondence that we received was what they wanted to do it would be fine, but the town is not in a position to purchase the property given fair market values. The letter asks the questions to see if this is something we can work out. A big question is what passive recreation is. We have to be able to maintain what we have ownership of. **Selectman Allyn made a motion to approve signing and sending the letter to the State. Selectman Whiting seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**

Mr. Drury stated the state may be difficult with this. They have an appraisal department which needs to see the appraised amount. There is a lot of wetlands on the property so it would be hard to sell. We have to see what happens.

Disc golf charges for tournaments which Mr. Drury indicated could be changed. The issue isn't making a profit, it is money changing hands, which eliminates even donations. If the town leases from the state, they could not then lease it to the disc golf because they would have to open it up to anyone wanting to lease it. There are walking trail possibilities.

Mr. Drury also mentioned that the town has to authorize him to speak for the town to the state. He drafted a letter which needs to be on town letterhead and signed.

Because the meeting for the Masonic Lodge was unable to happen today it has been changed to May 25 at 10:00am. Selectman Allyn recommended only Bill Tingly, and Tim Abbott be there along with the selectmen and Mason. Selectman Whiting said he fine with them being there.

Selectman Whiting stated to Selectman Allyn that he was upset at Selectman Allyn for telling people that there was going to be a meeting and it ending up on Facebook when there wasn't even an agenda at that point. Selectman Whiting was verbally beat up about something that wasn't even finalized and this needs to stop.

Selectman Allyn replied with what he said happened so that it doesn't cause animosity. Kathy Ducillo and Bill and some others were upset for lack of action on the greenway and the masonic lodge property as it had been since July of last

year. When at the Cranford Club meeting Ms. Ducillo asked him about the masonic lodge property, he did tell her that yes, a special meeting was going to be happening. She then inquired if it was on Facebook to which he told her that he did not think it was appropriate to put it there. She took it upon herself to post it.

The meeting was supposed to happen today, but Mason had a prior engagement that he didn't realize so he had to change it to the 25th.

The Masonic Lodge property is State owned not town owned. The lack of anything happening is on the state not the town. Selectman Allyn stated it is important the selectmen are aligned with each other.

Selectman Whiting stated he was blown away to see it posted on Facebook when he was thinking they would be meeting at the site and the public should not be going there for that. When he responded to the post he was inundated with messages. Selectman Allyn said it was an error in judgement on his part as he thought it was just a special selectman meeting. He made it clear he is not knocking either of the other selectman. We are moving forward it just was delayed.

The town is definitely not in a position to maintain the masonic lodge property. We have a 4-man crew, and they are already too busy. We need to ask Mason to get an organization to take it over and discuss the gate. This will be a site visit on the 25th at 10:00am. Selectman Whiting cannot be there.

Both accesses are blind, and the parking lot has to be graded up. The only mowing could be just a pathway to where boats are put in and taken out.

There was mention of whoever maintains it has to make sure garbage is removed as there is a lot of bear activity in Green Acres.

The selectman will advocate for non-motorized boats only. It will be a retrieval and a launch.

Complaints would need to be made to the DEEP and regulations need to be written and posted.

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

Meeting adjourned 9:41am

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary