

Town of North Canaan

EDC

February 17, 2022

Present: Chairman Chris Tripler, John Lannen, Kathy Ducillo, Will Perotti, Bob Riva, Selectman Craig Whiting

Chairman Tripler called the meeting to order at 6:02pm quorum established

**Chairman Tripler moved to accept the minutes from last month. Mr. Perotti seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**

Chairman Tripler asked Mr. Nania to speak on behalf of the Fire District first as Tim Abbott had not yet joined the meeting.

Tony Nania, Warden of the Fire District spoke to the committee regarding updates and responsibilities of the fire district in town. Regarding signage – unless it is related to the sidewalk safety the fire district has not authority and requests would have to be done to the State. The sidewalk in front of the Ducillo building is built incorrectly and it will be corrected. The fire district met with Eversource regarding the lighting on Railroad Street and the proposed changes are 3 phases. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase is every light fixture from Rte. 44 to the town parking lot will have new led bulbs which will be 3 times the brightness of what is there currently. This should be done by the end of the month. The next phase if needed, would be the brightest filament bulbs that they have installed. If this does not help, the fixtures themselves would need to be changed. The state has more work to be done on the sidewalks. There was discussion of the design and regarding the possibility of a future extension of the sidewalks. Sidewalks outside the scope of the State project will be prioritized for repair by the fire district. There is a scorecard for the sidewalks that are priority. Discussion of the handicap access to crosswalks ensued. The pedestrian handicap access has been built to federal standards. State traffic commission strictly regulated these. Mr. Riva stated that with the new railroad tracks and roadway being better speed may begin to be an issue. Mr. Whiting stated that the town can't determine speed limits on State roads. There was an accident there recently and they can request a traffic study. Mr. Nania stated that issues should be brought to the state as they want to clean up and finish this project as soon as possible and may listen better now than in the past. Chairman Tripler will send specific statements to Mr. Nania so that they can work together on what is needed.

Mr. Perotti let the committee know that the town is hosting a zoom forum on February 28 at 7:00pm for the affordable housing situation. He will report back to the committee results. Mr. Riva stated they had received the employee surveys and had forwarded them to the employees at Lindell's.

Chairman Tripler announced Tim Abbott, as a representative of the Housatonic Valley Association, to committee to speak regarding land trust. Mr. Abbott explained that he has resisted starting a land trust in North Canaan mainly because a land trust is not easy work and requires robust volunteer commitments and resources and starting a 501c3 without dedicated volunteer leadership is recipe for failure. Mr. Abbott explained different ways that land could be conserved in town. The town could have a conservation commission. He spoke about enhancement value for our community, as well as

grant monies for open space. North Canaan scores better for criteria for these grants. Mr. Abbott emphasized the town needs to give people a chance to understand what land conversation means and give them options other than just the highest/best use as residential to protect land. The Housatonic alley Association website has a lot of information on it. Currently someone in Canaan wishing to conserve land would need to be referred elsewhere. Discussion ensued about the former Masonic Lodge property and the fact that it currently sits as is, because the State does not have the resources to care for it properly. When the time is right talks between the town and State may evolve and a solution could come of it. There was a discussion of the greenway and trails and the lack of recreational trails in town.

Chairman Tripler is going to begin drafting a letter to the selectmen. Selectman Alllyn will share documents he has to help him. Selectman Alllyn spoke about the possibility of the town designating a bike share on Lower Rd with specific bike share hours. He stated that no lines would be needed and that a bike symbol in the travel lane would suffice. There is a lot of truck traffic on that road. There was a suggestion to reach out to the creators of the Millerton Rail Trail to come and speak to the committee.

Mr. Perotti spoke to Ted Perotti regarding a visit to North Canaan video. He gave two options 1 or 5 minutes videos. 1 minute mostly drone shots with no testimonials. 5 minutes would be with testimonials. 1 minute is \$1000 5 minutes being \$2000. This would be shared on social media/town website. Selectman Alllyn believes they should do both focusing on getting the 1-minute video out within 3 months. Selectman Whiting said he feels like the season isn't the best right now to promote the area and it might be wise to wait until the landscape is getting green. More discussion will occur at the next meeting.

Chairman Tripler spoke with Maria Horn and Senator Murphy at Ski fest, and he invited Senator Murphy to come and walk North Canaan. He is working with his office to make this happen. A discussion of broadband and the American Rescue money ensued. Mr. Perotti stated he spoke with someone from Xfinity and gave some insights.

Chairman Tripler asked to table the remainder of the agenda to the next meeting March 17, 2022.

Chairman Tripler moved to adjourn meeting. Mr. Perotti seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary