

FINALIZED

Borough of Litchfield
Board of Warden & Burgesses
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Present: Gayle Carr, Senior Burgess and Acting Warden; Peter Vermilyea, Burgess; F. Todd Johnson, Burgess; Roberta Witty, Burgess; Barbara Ellis, Burgess; Cassandra Simoncelli, Borough Clerk

Also Present: Nancy Southard, Treasurer

I. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by G. Carr.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the December 14, 2021 minutes. Ms. Witty seconded. All in favor. Ms. Carr provided the written notes to Ms. Simoncelli for correction.

III. Communications:

Email received and forwarded to all regarding a series of concerns about the borough on North St

Letter from Renatta McKnight, and Thomas McKnight in support of removal of the ribbons on the town green. Would also like the fire stations sirens to stop at noon.

IV. Public Participation:

- a) Applicants- none
- b) Public Comment- requested the public submit their questions in written form to be read to the presenting attorney. All comments limited to 3 minutes.
 - a. Question asked if there was a committee for the walkways and who goes out to see if they are cleared after a snow storm.
 - b. Question asked regarding where a complete copy of the Code Book can be purchased.

Answers to questions will be posted to the borough website.

Follow up question asked when the last time any changes/revisions were made to the code book

- c. Question asked regarding town trash removal and who's responsibility it is.

V. New Business:

No new business at this time.

VI. Old Business:

Discussion pertaining to the presentation about the First Amendment, and the legalities that fall under that amendment. If one message is allowed then every message is allowed. Under the laws of the First Amendment- cannot discriminate against anyone or any message. Many questions from the public were addressed regarding the laws under the First Amendment. Discussion regarding trying to find an alternative avenue of expression. In the best interest to take the ribbons down and start with a clean slate to protect the residents of the borough from liability. Todd volunteered to work with Peter after everything is taken down to research alternate avenues of expression regarding the town green and what can and cannot be posted.

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Committees (Budget development, Sidewalks, Beautification)-

i. Committees:

1. Mr. Vermilyea - Sidewalks: question regarding who is responsible for the town garbage and removal of it. Landscaper has been handling. Along with maintaining them and what his authority is. Researching how long after a storm the property owners have to remove the snow from the sidewalks in front of their property.
 - a. Mr. Johnson moved to allow Mr. Vermilyea the authority to notify the snow removal contractor in the event of a violation after the passage of the appropriate amount of time to clear the premises, remove the snow and ice at cost to the landscaper plus 25% to the borough. Ms. Witty seconded. All in Favor.
2. Ms. Witty- Budget: nothing at this time
3. Ms. Ellis- Website:
4. Mr. Johnson- Beautification: Meeting with new president of the Garden Club to discuss ideas and efforts. The five lamp posts on the green proper are paid for and maintain by the Garden Club.
5. Ms. Carr-Trees: Met with Harwinton Tree- agreed to trim back branches to illuminate the flag. Also discussed planting of trees as well. Getting approval from Razz as the tree warden.

b) Website

- i. Nothing to report at this time.

VII. Acting Warden's Report and Requests:

Heritage Books came in. 3 located at the boroughs office. Flash drive available as well and will be maintained at the borough office. Look at possibly posting a copy online via the website. Post a hard copy of it at the library, and a copy at the historical society as well.

VIII. Tax Collector's refund requests/recommendations:

Refund in the amount of \$23.15 from Litchfield Real Estate for overpayment of property taxes. Mr. Johnson motion to approve, Mr. Vermilyea seconded. All in Favor.

IX. Treasurer's Report:

Monthly Financial Statements, Payments of Bills, and Treasurer's requests, if any Nancy reviewed the bills with the board.

Motion to approve payment: Todd moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$20,560.75. Mr. Vermilyea second. All in favor- motion carried. Voting was: Mr. Vermilyea - yea, Ms. Witty- yea, Ms. Carr- yea, Mr. Johnson- yea.

V. Adjournment: Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m., seconded by Ms. Witty, unanimously approved.

Cassandra Simoncelli, Clerk