

FINALIZED

Borough of Litchfield
Board of Warden & Burgesses
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 08, 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 6:02 p.m. by G. Carr.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Vermilyea moved to approve the January 11, 2022 minutes with corrections. Ms. Witty seconded. All in favor. Ms. Ellis abstained. Ms. Carr provided the written notes to Ms. Simoncelli for correction.

III. Communications:

- letter from William O'Shaughnessy
- Email from James McGurk
- Email from Charles Ketz
- Letter from Sylvia Abbott

IV. Public Participation:

- a) Applicants
 - a. Rene Betar requesting to run Info Booth from May 1- Nov 1 for the 2022 season Thurs- Sun from 10am-4pm and will be staffed with volunteers. Ms. Ellis moved to approve for the season Mr. Vermilyea approved. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - b. Susan B Anthony: Walk a Mile in Her Shoes: May 22, 2022- previously approved
 - c. Annual Request for 45th Litchfield Hills Road Race, Sunday June 12, 2022. Mr. Vermilyea motioned to approved contingent on stipulations set forth in prior applications. Ms Ellis seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - d. Litchfield Art Festival: Hannah Young- to be held at Community Field. May 14-15, 2022. Held over to next meeting.
- b) Public Comment
 - a. Gary Gilman- statement referencing Cancel Culture in regard to something that he saw happen at the Green.
 - b. Leslie Caron- Asked for response to questions that have gone unanswered to which the Board provided answers to.
 - c. Val Caron- when was the decision made to hire Thomas Gerard made?
 - d. David Weik- spoke in favor of the yellow ribbons.

V. New Business:

a. New Candidates for Borough Board:

Stephan Krucker and Dan Parsens both presented their names to the Board for consideration for the vacant spot. The Board asked each candidate multiple questions. Voting will take place at next meeting.

b) Trash Receptacles for Borough- discussion on the cost of putting a dumpster at the Borough Office.

c) Heritage Plan Report- Discussion of what is laid out in the plans and what the overall goal of the project is. Request made to hold a special meeting possibly via zoom.

d) Review of Traffic Plan- No new updates at this time.

e) FOIA Workshop/Risk Management: April 14, at 6:30 with the Attorney Steven Byrne. Zoom will be an option for those traveling.

VI. Old Business:

A. ARPA- final rules have come out. Create a proposal for the voters by April and request to call a special meeting in March.

B. Committee Updates (Budget development, Sidewalks, Beautification):

a) Budget: nothing to report.

b) Sidewalk and Monument: Thanks to Paul Adams for all his amazing work. Notice on website homepage regarding timeframe of snow removal.

a. Monument- Harriett Beecher monument is falling apart. Proposal to restore structural integrity of monument and move it as little as possible to make sure it is in the historic footprint of the church but still within a safe spot (10-12 feet). Mr. Johnson moved to appoint Mr. Vermilyea to proceed with the organization responsible for the stone monument to investigate with the support of the board and to restore and move it. Ms. Carr second. All in favor. Motion carried.

c) Trees: Need to order and order soon due to a shortage thanks to COVID. Talk with the Garden Club to see what the best trees would be to plant there.

d) Beautification: John Campbell located the contract for the beacon light. Replacement will be happening soon. If determine it's too bright we can scale it back.

e) Website: talked with three different groups. Still researching best option for the needs of the Borough.

VII. Acting Warden's Report and Requests:

- a) Allocate a larger amount of money to sidewalks. Looking into the Local Capitol Improvement Entitlement.
- b) Notice from insurance company: Insurance goes through March 31, and looking into other options. Sent applications for new policies. Barbara is looking into it.
- c) Building will be transferred to the Historic Preservation Trust.

VIII. Tax Collector's refund requests/recommendations:

None to report.

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 refund: in the amount of \$3,231.04 to be returned to the Sheratus Foundation. Mr. Vermilyea moved to approve motion Mr. Johnson second. All in favor- motion carried. Voting was: Mr. Vermilyea- yea, Ms. Witty- yea, Ms. Carr- yea, Mr. Johnson- yea.

Motion to approve payment: moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$10,413.76. Ms. Ellis motioned to approve. Mr. Johnson seconded. 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 9:00p.m., seconded by Ms. Witty, unanimously approved.

Cassandra Simoncelli, Clerk