

DRAFT

Borough of Litchfield
Board of Warden & Burgesses
Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 18, 2022

Present: Gayle Carr, Senior Burgess and Acting Warden; Peter Vermilyea, Burgess; Stephan Krucker, Burgess; Roberta Witty, Burgess; Lara Hillman, Burgess; Cassandra Simoncelli, Borough Clerk.

Absent: Barbara Ellis

Also Present: Nancy Southard, Treasurer

I. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by G. Carr.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 30, 2022 motion made by Mr. Krucker to approve minutes with minor changes seconded by Ms. Witty. 3 in favor, 2 abstentions, motion passed

III. Tax Collectors refund requests/recommendations: if any

IV. Treasurer's Report:

a. Monthly Financial Statements, Payments of Bills, and Treasurer's requests, if any
Bluehost for domain name registration and privacy protection \$36.15
\$15, 918.50 motion to approve by Roberta seconded by Stephan. All in favor
motion carried.

V. New Business: 5:30 with First Selectman: Denise Rapp, John Tourant, Jeff Zulo, Christine Arding, Jodi-Ann Tenney,

a. Joint Meeting of Board of Warden and Burgesses and Board of Selection:

i. Cooperation between Borough and Town of Litchfield-

Sidewalks- conversation in past between Denise and Dirk, the previous Borough Warden- still willing to work on collaboration and assist with Tree Warden, and Public Works Director. Discussion regarding the locations that need the most work, and what the plan is. Razz- developed a 15 year plan to get all the road up to an acceptable level. Question asked about difference between Town Hall and Borough and who responsibility is what. Once this issue is figured out we can find a better way of working together on common issues. Draft MOU to outline understandings between two parties. August special meeting re: Heritage Plan. Traffic concerns and safety issues also addressed. Codify into an agreement with an MOU or IMA. Town has zero responsibility of the green. With Borough having responsibility over the last 200 years Borough would own the Green. Challenge the ownership of the green with a Title Search.

Community Field and Public Works- solar panels at community field, parks and rec out of building. Areas that could be changed that would be better allocated to the Town. Borough and historic District is what it is and we are not looking to change that. Talk with HDC to discuss parking area at Center School. Is there a way to do this. Suggestion of reaching out to new owners regarding being in a borough and what that entails.

Garbage and compactor will be relocated and hidden.

Are town members allowed to attend borough meetings even if they do not live in the borough.-Yes, allowed to speak during public comment at regular meetings. People want a fair voice. Consolidation of the borough would cause a financial impact with a tax increase on residents outside of the borough and a tax cut to those who live in the borough. With the most impact effecting the lower income residents.

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ii. Beecher Monument- due to modernization the memorial is deteriorating. Monument needs to be moved and reoriented so that it can be restored and better preserved from the hazards of cars, and salt from the plows during the winter. Medallion and plaques need to be removed asap to begin working on restoring them. Since this is an act of preservation and conservation we can move it. Project will happen in stages. Will need to get approval from the State Highway for moving it.

iii. Future meetings- Suggestion to having quarterly meetings with the Town of Litchfield to collaborate with them. 3 times a year excluding summer neutral day to host a special meeting with collaboration between the two committees.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm

VI. Committee Updates:

a. Budget- nothing to report at this time

b. Sidewalk and Monuments- work has started on the sidewalks. Discussion regarding noting properties that need to cut their hedges to keep sidewalks passable.

c. Trees- landscaper had concerns regarding some trees in which the tree person will be coming to take care of them. Peter Viteritto with Heritage and had a meeting with the nursery regarding the trees that will be planted on the green.

d. Beautification- Lara appointed to committee. Discussion will happen at August or September meeting to discuss management of Holidays.

e. Website- none at this time

Communication

a. Requests for Use of Green

i. Voice of Art- Received very specific requests that we not allow the event to happen. Raised issue that is not a local organization and does little to nothing for the town or the towns people of Litchfield. Does not specifically benefit the Town of Litchfield. More support from people who sell food than merchandise. Do not have all responses yet regarding survey that was sent out. 3 biggest complaints were parking, garbage, bathrooms (ie: asked to use merchant restrooms). All in agreement that events bring tourism to Litchfield. Higher priced retail and restaurants are the ones that have problem with events and taking away from their ability to do business. Not enough information to give a full analysis at this time due to waiting on word from a few more merchants. For Profit event as the vendors benefit. Figure out a way to address issue going forward. Motion to move Voice of Art application to the green- Lara- nay, Peter- nay, Roberta- nay, Stephan- nay, Motion denied at this time. All in favor. Motion carried.

ii. Makers Market- wants to continue partnership with Michelle Tatro- IOG a subset of Free Masons. Michelle is part of Art-Tripping (art therapy) Road Race weekend for 2023. Suggestion to re-submit application after more feedback is compiled from business owners on the green.

Acting Warden's Report & Requests

Updated COI from Park and Recreation received.

Peter checked information booth and no water inside

Special events application- request to use Green on Aug 12 (rain date August 19) from 5:30-7:30 from Northwest CT Young Democrats in response to recent issues address by Government. No tables- good to go. Tables cannot approve at this time.

Future meetings with Board of Selectman's- every one in agreement that 3 meetings will be sufficient. Or, biannually. Suggestion for meeting to be held in October.

Ambulance building- if they move out the Borough takes ownership. Owned by Borough- potential future meeting place?

Adjournment

Mr. Vermilyea moved to adjourn, Mr. Krucker seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Cassandra Simoncelli, Clerk