

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
7:00 P.M., MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015
3rd FLOOR MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order and roll call

Laura Francis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led with the pledge of allegiance. John Szewczyk and Steve Levy present.

2. Approval of the agenda

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE

3. Public comment

Comments were heard about agenda item #4 regarding the approval of a Purchase Power Agreement but were limited to what was not already heard at the March 2, 2015 meeting. Five people in the audience expressed their thoughts ranging from the financial stability and credibility of the developer to recommendations to move forward with clean, efficient solar power.

4. Approval for the First Selectman to sign a Purchase Power Agreement with GRE 359 DURHAM HQ LLC - Solar Farm Haddam Quarter Road/Brick Lane

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY STEVE LEVY TO GRANT APPROVAL TO THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO SIGN A PURCHASE POWER AGREEMENT WITH GRE 359 DURHAM HQ LLC FOR A SOLAR FARM ON HADDAM QUARTER ROAD AND BRICK LANE. Discussion. J. Szewczyk reiterated what he stated at the last meeting; he felt this was the wrong location, that spot zoning one piece of land in the middle of a neighborhood was not fair and noted the financial liability and potential future tax implications. S. Levy stated that he had given the matter great consideration and noted that he was a strong supporter of solar energy and other environmental programs and agreed that the Town of Durham should pursue clean energy. He talked about the public outcry against the location and also the citizens who have expressed support for the solar farm and stated that he was not in favor of the proposed location. ALL NAY. MOTION FAILED.

L. Francis noted her disappointment with the project and regrets that the public discussion had moved off the topic of policy to political and personal attacks. She stated that she supported the project because it would have resulted in energy cost savings, and felt it was consistent with the character of Durham in valuing low impact development and conservation of natural resources. She felt the project was in alignment with the town's clean energy pledge and the sentiments of many residents as evidenced by the propensity of solar and other energy related installations. She talked about the creation of the Clean Energy Task Force and thanked them for their efforts and noted that there are numerous incentive programs available to promote renewable energy as well as programs that create energy efficiencies that she and the task force will continue to assess for the benefit of the taxpayers and future generations.

5. Town Green Revitalization Committee report

Tina Gossner, Tim Larkin, Bob Isleib and Chad Reddick were in attendance. T. Gossner explained that the Town Green Revitalization Committee (Project) was created by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on July 8, 2013. Board members included Tim Larkin, Bonnie Penders, Bob Isleib, Tina Gossner, Bob Thody, and Chad Reddick. Duncan Milne and Joe Pasquale later joined as adjunct members. Their charge was to develop an improvement plan for the Durham Town Green and to create guidelines to assist the public works department, tree warden, Durham Garden Club and others in the planting, maintenance, and removal of trees. After consulting and working with Adam Moore, former Executive Director of CT Forest and Park Association, John Alexopoulos, Professor of Landscape Architecture at UConn, and graduate student, Rachel Conroy a draft plan was constructed and was ultimately rejected by the committee. The plan presented tonight is designed by Duncan Milne; the committee felt this plan was comprehensive yet straight-forward and would allow for movement into the future planning for the Green. There was discussion regarding the removal of

unhealthy trees, the compaction of soil and maintenance that would be required, the funding and installation of new trees, and the wish list of a sidewalk.

6. Request from Durham Volunteer Fire Company Parking Committee to use town properties surrounding the Durham Firehouse to park cars for the four day Durham Fair 9/24, 9/25, 9/26, and 9/27/2015
MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY STEVE LEVY TO GRANT PERMISSION TO THE DURHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY PARKING COMMITTEE TO USE TOWN PROPERTIES SURROUNDING THE DURHAM FIREHOUSE TO PARK CARS FOR THE FOUR DAY DURHAM FAIR 9/24, 9/25, 9/26, AND 9/27/2015 WITH ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO THE LENGTH OF SERVICE PROGRAM, THAT PROPER SAFETY MEASURES ARE PUT IN PLACE, AND THEY ALLOW PARKING FOR OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY MEMBERS. ALL AYE
7. Request from Lindsay Scheinblum, American Diabetes Association for permission to use town roads on Sunday, June 14, 2015 for CT Tour de Cure bike ride
MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY STEVE LEVY TO GRANT PERMISSION TO LINDSAY SCHEINBLUM, AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION FOR PERMISSION TO USE TOWN ROADS ON SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2015 FOR THE CT TOUR DE CURE BIKE RIDE PENDING RECEIPT OF INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. ALL AYE
8. Request from Austin Charles, Connecticut Cycling Advancement Program for permission to use town roads on April 25, 2015 for CCAP Breakaway Benefit
MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY STEVE LEVY TO GRANT PERMISSION TO AUSTIN CHARLES, CONNECTICUT CYCLING ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM FOR PERMISSION TO USE TOWN ROADS ON APRIL 25, 2015 FOR CCAP BREAKAWAY BENEFIT PENDING RECEIPT OF INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. ALL AYE
9. Request from Samantha Francis, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for permission to use town roads on Saturday, September 12, 2015 for Cycle for Life Event
MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY STEVE LEVY TO GRANT PERMISSION TO SAMANTHA FRANCIS, CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION FOR PERMISSION TO USE TOWN ROADS ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015 FOR CYCLE FOR LIFE EVENT PENDING RECEIPT OF INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. ALL AYE
10. Request from Kristen Alves, Smilow Cancer Hospital for permission to use town roads on Saturday, September 12, 2015 for Closer to Free Ride
MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY STEVE LEVY TO GRANT PERMISSION TO KRISTEN ALVES, SMILOW CANCER HOSPITAL FOR PERMISSION TO USE TOWN ROADS ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015 FOR CLOSER TO FREE RIDE PENDING RECEIPT OF INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. ALL AYE
11. Discussion of Ground Water Ordinance
L. Francis presented the Selectmen with a document on the proposed Groundwater Ordinance for the Durham Meadows Superfund Site that addressed questions presented at the public hearing held on December 16, 2014. She stated she would like to have another public hearing sometime in June and the Selectmen agreed.
12. Review and approval of Town Procurement Policy
Requested changes to the policy were reviewed; the addition of Professional services for I/T, consideration to Public Act No. 13-71 that allow cities and towns to raise their competitive bidding requirements as of October 1, 2013 to \$25,000, and barter language. L. Francis stated she would consult with the towns finance director on best practices related to the barter language and bring back to the Board at the next meeting.
13. Approval of Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of March 2, 2015
Tabled
14. Selectmen's comments
MOTION BY JOHN SZEWCZYK THAT AS OF JANUARY 9, 2013 THE TOWN OF DURHAM IS NOW AN AGGRIEVED PARTY AS IT IS SPLIT INTO TWO DIFFERENT ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS WHICH IS CLEARLY AND

EXPRESSLY AGAINST XV OF THE CONNECTICUT CONSTITUTION ADOPTED 11/26/1980) AND THAT THE TOWN OF DURHAM APPEAL THIS DECISION BY USING ANY AND ALL NECESSARY LEGAL MEANS IN ORDER TO BE MADE WHOLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONNECTICUT STATE CONSTITUTION. NO SECOND. MOTION FAILED.

15. Old/New business

- L. Francis thanked town hall staff Beth Moncata, Kim Garvis, Alicia Fonash-Willett, Sherry Hill, Amanda Pedersen, Martin French, Maryjane Malavasi, Diane Huffstetler, and Bill Milardo, Trooper Peter DiGioia, Cyndi Shirshac, Elizabeth Dougan and Diana St. Pierre who prepared and served approximately 50 people at the Community Supper at the Church of Epiphany on Sunday, March 8th.
- Legislation session update; testimony was sent in on resident state trooper reduction, comments to PSAP regulatory changes hearing were sent in, and 471 formula changes. L. Francis noted that she met with Senators Kennedy and Fasano regarding 471 and PSAP funding regulations.
- There will be a lunch and learn tomorrow for Town of Durham staff, RSD13, and Town of Middlefield employees sponsored by Citizens Bank on the topic of Social Security.
- L. Francis will be attending a CEO lunch tomorrow hosted by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro.
- L. Francis and Kurt Bober will be attending training on Infrastructure Asset Management hosted by UCONN Technology Center on March 11th at the Durham Firehouse.
- L. Francis will be out of the state over the weekend, leaving Friday afternoon and returning Monday afternoon.
- L. Francis will be a panelist at the Freedom of Information Commissions Annual Meeting on Friday, April 10th.
- The town will be participating in the CT DOT/High Risk Rural Roads Horizontal Curve Safety Project. The scope of the project is limited to the installation of new or replacement of worn warning signs and pavement markings. Sixteen roads are eligible and will work with the State Circuit Rider to determine what curves should be addressed.

16. Public comment

- Donia Viola thanked S. Levy and J. Szewczyk for voting no on the solar farm.
- Bill Ward expressed his disappointment of the proposed Price Chopper and now the solar project being voted down and asked the Board and residents in attendance what the town would be allowed to do to help keep taxes down. L. Francis noted that times have changed; the towns' grand list used to be able to offset increases but it does not allow for that now. She also noted that state revenue has also decreased. S. Levy noted that he felt there was a great need to promote business in town and suggested having a taxpayer as a member of the towns Economic Development Commission.
- D. Viola stated she thought residents should be afforded a referendum for the towns' budget and not a town meeting.
- Rick Parmelee noted his support of the 9 Town Transit transportation system having used it. He also talked about taxes and the schools portion of the budget, his support of local businesses and the importance of signage to promote their businesses. J. Szewczyk stated he was an advocate for 9 Town Transit but felt there were not enough riders utilizing it.
- Joe Pasquale suggested adding a process to the barter recommendation to the procurement policy and asked if it would conform to best practices. L. Francis stated this would be reviewed by the towns finance director.

17. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Moncata