

The Board of Selectmen held its regular meeting on October 6, 2015, at the Town Hall with the First Selectman Robert Morra presiding. In attendance were: Selectmen Robert Neil, Robert Lessard, Gwen Marrion, and Sandra Pierog; Administrative Officer Joyce Stille; and several members of the public.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. **Public Comment:**

Bruce Dixon, 17 Tinker Pond Road, Fire Chief, reported that he had successfully sold the unneeded compressor and with the proceeds bought a camera system as part of the security system which was now installed. He presented a check for the remaining funds, over \$500, to the BOS.

3. **Approval of Minutes:**

September 1, 2015 Public Hearing: R. Neil moved to approve. G. Marrion seconded. Motion carried 4:0:1, R. Lessard abstaining due to absence at that hearing.

September 1, 2015 Regular Meeting: R. Neil moved to approve. G. Marrion seconded. Motion carried 4:0:1, R. Lessard abstaining due to absence at that meeting.

September 17, 2015 Special Meeting: R. Neil moved to approve. R. Lessard seconded. Motion carried 5:0:0.

4. **Correspondence:**

A letter of resignation was received from Holly MacDonald as a full member of the Inland Wetlands Commission. H. MacDonald was willing to be an alternate on the commission. S. Pierog moved to accept the resignation as a full member on the commission. R. Neil seconded. Motion carried 5:0:0.

5. **Appointments:**

G. Marrion moved to amend the agenda to address appointments as item 5. R. Neil seconded. Motion carried 5:0:0.

Bob Langton, 18 Fiano Road, introduced himself. He had served over 20 years with the Fire Department and was now applying for the position on the Fire Commission. S. Pierog moved to appoint Robert Langton to the Fire Commission for a term ending 7/1/2019. R. Neil seconded. Motion carried 5:0:0.

S. Pierog moved to appoint Holly MacDonald as an alternate member on the Inland Wetlands Commission for a term ending 7/1/2019. R. Neil seconded. Motion carried 5:0:0.

6. **Unfinished Business:**

A. Consider and Act on Ethics Ordinance:

R. Neil moved to take the Ordinance off the table. G. Marrion seconded. Motion carried 5:0:0. Due to the proposed changes in the ordinance, G. Marrion moved to set a new Public

Hearing on the Code of Ethics Ordinance for 7:00 p.m., November 7, 2015, prior to the Board of Selectmen's meeting. R. Neil seconded. Motion carried 5:0:0.

7. New Business:

A. Charter Oak Greenway Shared Use Path and Path Extension:

R. Morra reported that the subcommittee has yet to review the draft BSC Group report, so no date has been set for a public informational meeting. Several residents were in attendance to voice concerns on Route 44 section of the Path Extension.

Gloria Wood, 71 Tolland Road, said the proposed Multi-Use Path Extension would negatively affect her and the neighborhood. She was concerned about safety in the area and the additional people it would add to the area. UConn traffic can back up to I-384 for miles. Given the many issues to contend with there, she asked why not consider another throughway for the extension, such as Steeles Crossing, and build off of existing trails. Other questions with R. Morra's answers were as follows:

- Q: At what point is the project at, and is this portion already set in stone?
A: It is not a sure thing yet, and is only in the study phase.
- Q: Who would be voting on the extension and/or how will it be decided?
A: It can be considered by the Selectmen or go to town meeting or referendum if it is of enough interest or significance to the town. The map and work so far are for feasibility, to gather information.
- Q: Will the trail increase use of the parking lot at Indian Notch Park, as the endpoint?
A: There will be no extra hours for the Park, and the path will not end at Tolland Road. It also proposed to extend to Coventry.

G. Marrion said that, regarding safety, the path will improve safety for bikers and walkers.

R. Lessard said the project is not cast in stone yet and if it is accepted it will still be a long process.

Stacy Houlberg, 9 Sunnysdale Lane, expressed her concerns about the project and having a path along the side of Tolland Road. She said the BSC Group, or anyone, looking at the area should be doing traffic studies first, as it was already unsafe for her to get out onto the road in a vehicle without a trail. She also thought 10 feet was excessive for a trail, and was concerned about the impact to the historic stone wall in her neighborhood.

The BOS said that on Tolland Road, they will only be widening the road and moving over the center yellow line. Tolland Road will be a shared use. For Route 44, work will be on the state-owned land against the road, which is DOT property.

S. Houlberg asked if Coventry was actually in favor of the trail. She also said that considering the proximity to people's yards, she wouldn't like it if she were a resident living on Route 44.

Sarah Zalewski, 1020 Boston Turnpike, said she was not in favor of the extension. The concrete barrier would block the view from her windows. The extension would be only 14 feet from her house, and the proximity of the trail would take away from their privacy and safety. She also told the BOS about a serious 2-hit accident her husband, Greg Zalewski, had been in a couple years ago on Route 44 while turning onto a residential street. She is already concerned about her family dealing with the traffic there, let alone with a trail added.

Greg Zalewski, 1020 Boston Turnpike, said they also own the 1022 Boston Turnpike lot. It shares the same driveway, which he was concerned would also be affected.

Additional concerns were that the presence of a trail would add traffic rubbernecking to the dangers of the area; proximity to the stone wall; relocation of telephone poles; security; and impact to driveways. In some areas of Route 44, the driveways are already very short.

Lani Kerr, 27 Quarry Road, owns 1212 Boston Turnpike. They are concerned about the safety issues of Route 44, which already has constant traffic and is very risky for residents to get onto. She said a trail with pedestrians and bicyclists would add to the difficulty of using the road. She asked who would vote on the project and how they would know when meetings go forward.

R. Morra said there will be a public informational meeting in November or December. Notice of the meeting will be on the website, in the Bolton Bulletin and will also be in the newspaper.

G. Marrion stated that she has an email list of people interested in trails and she would add their names if emails addresses were shared with her.

L. Kerr also voiced concern that the BOS was using language that made the extension seem certain as if it had already been decided.

R. Morra said it was a presentation of what the Path and Extension could be. G. Marrion explained there was a grant to study the feasibility of a trail. The BSC Group's report was to study feasibility and options, but the town's action is separate and there will be opportunities for change and input. One factor which might impact it is the current Next Gen transportation study to UConn.

R. Morra emphasized that the project was in a study phase and a long way from making a decision to actually put it into place. He also discussed the Next Gen study which may

propose adding turn outs to address the intersection issues of roads connecting to Route 44 (like the turnouts on Route 6). The state DOT is also looking at “calming” measures to deal with speed in the area. R. Morra said the origin of the study was an effort to connect the disconnected side of town to the rest via trail.

G. Zalewski asked if the BOS knew of any other bike trails like this one being proposed that are along highways. R. Morra said that more are being proposed along the secondary highway system. G. Marrion said that part of the Charter Oak Greenway is to be at the same grade as the road.

Sarah Benitez, 9 Keeney Drive, said that as the Planning & Zoning Commission board clerk, she had heard a lot of discussion of the proposed Path and Extension. She understood and agreed with the positive aspects and motivation behind it, but thought it important to be sure that what was beneficial for some residents was not done at the cost of negatively impacting others. Besides the traffic dangers, she also raised concern over how the trail would impact the boat launch by her house. It is state property. Activity there can already be disruptive, especially in the evenings. She was worried about it worsening with increased traffic and access to the launch.

R. Morra thanked the residents for sharing their concerns and encouraged them to continue giving input. A petition of eight (8) signatures to “Halt Shared Use Bike Trail along Hwy 44” was given to the Selectmen.

B. Lower Bolton Lake Status Report:

A forum on the lakes was scheduled for October 22. B. Morra and J. Stille will participate to to update residents on studies, grants, and the outlook of the lake for the coming year. Kim Welch, Lake Commissioner, said there would also be information on the history of Bolton Lakes. She said the lake is in another bloom but it is a normal, green algae bloom. Hydrilla, an invasive species, was found in Coventry Lake. She wanted to take the opportunity to highlight the importance of plant identification and strongly encouraged residents to send pictures of vegetation found in Lower Bolton Lake. She also said that the Fisheries Department of DEEP would be conducting electrofishing on the lake at night to get an idea of the fish population.

J. Stille said there has been no word from the state yet on the drawdown, which usually begins in October.

C. FY16 Budget Report: The budget was 23.57% expensed at the end of September.

D. Capital Projects: The Board of Finance approved the appropriation requests for the projects. J. Stille is finalizing with Bond Counsel the language for the call for the Special Town Meeting and resolutions. The Board of Selectmen will need to schedule a special

meeting to set the dates for the informational meeting and Special Town Meeting.

E. Consider and Act on Budget Transfer and/or Appropriation Requests: None.

8. Ongoing Business:

A. Subcommittee Reports:

Human Resources Subcommittee: G. Marrion moved to amend the September 18 minutes by adding the following language regarding the hiring process for Financial Director: “Ms. Savitsky and Ms. Stille proposed that a non-partisan technical panel of financial individuals be enlisted to conduct the first round of interviews of selected candidates. Ms. Marrion asked what the candidates will be screened for, and Ms. Savitsky stated that the panel will only decide if the candidates meet the minimum requirements for the position. Ms. Pierog asked to see the resumes of all candidates, including ones that do not meet the minimum requirements.” S. Pierog seconded. Motion carried 5:0:0.

B. Bolton Lakes Sewer Project:

R. Morra reported the last change order was sent out. The amount of people looking to tie in was increasing faster than the contractors could keep up. He said they hoped to have the congressmen and representatives present at a November/December ceremony as the project is completed.

C. Properties and Facilities:

S. Pierog said the engineer has been looking at what needs to be done on the barn in front of the milk shed, the last point to be examined. The proposal was received from the contractor, which J. Stille, R. Morra, and S. Pierog thought was higher than anticipated.

S. Pierog questioned the test pits on the farm for a possible pond and if an archaeologist was present. J. Stille said she believed the section tested was the area settled on by the subcommittee since the prior plan by the engineer located the pond where a road was proposed. An architect was not on site since this was not part of the archeological area based on the general map given to the Town which does not have the whole parcel as part of the designated area. S. Pierog and G. Marrion said that they had been at a presentation done by the state where they if the specific boundaries for the archeological area at Bolton Heritage Farm were determined and were told they were not.

D. Revenue Sources: R. Morra thanked B. Dixon for the check.

9. First Selectman’s Report

A. Cisterns and Dry Hydrant Town-wide Plan:

R. Morra reported that the Inland Wetlands Commission has found the three proposed sites are non-regulated. The Fire Department is now reviewing them for approval. For Johnson Pond, the family is looking at donating the land to the Boy Scouts and asked if the town

would be interested in acquiring the pond. R. Morra had suggested that they also donate the pond to the Boy Scouts.

B. Economic Development:

Syndet has footings in and construction is moving along. The heating company facility on Routes 6 & 44 is fully completed. Lyndale Stand is closing. The commercial site and hayfield across the street will be sold. R. Morra thanked the owners for the years they kept the stand open for the town and surrounding area to enjoy.

C. Proposed 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development:

A letter was sent to the PZC endorsing the Economic Development Commission's letter and thanking the commission members for their work on the plan.

D. Fire Prevention Month:

R. Morra said it was now Fire Prevention Week of Fire Prevention Month. B. Dixon gave a reminder to ensure smoke detectors are working, to change the batteries, and advised people to put detectors in bedrooms as the hallway ones will often not be enough to wake them up at night.

10. Administrative Officer's Report:

A. Request to DOT for Revisions to the I-384 Terminus with Routes 6 & 44:

CRCOG is moving forward with seeking funding from the state to address the terminus of I-384 with Routes 6 & 44. They are proposing using the draft plan done for CRCOG and the Route 6 Regional Economic Development Commission.

B. Expressway Properties:

Draft deeds are being prepared. J. Stille received a letter on a preconstruction meeting for the Lake Street state DOT project. B. Dixon asked about the traffic light change at South Road and Route 44 intersection. J. Stille said that there are plans for it but construction is not complete yet. It would impact the potential course of the Route 44 trail and it has been considered by the BSC Group as part of their feasibility study.

R. Morra said that Eversource invited him and the Energy Committee Chair to an award ceremony on the 14th to be recognized for energy conservation and the creation of the committee.

11. Adjournment: R. Neil moved to adjourn. S. Pierog seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benitez

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.