

MIDDLEFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455

Minutes of the May 2, 2022 Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Bob Yamartino called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Bob Yamartino, Carol Bufithis, and Jim Irish were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Jim Irish made a motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Selectmen

- a. March 22, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Under Public Comment: Add Peter's last name, Neidhardt.

Carol Bufithis made a motion, second by Jim Irish, to amend and approve the minutes of the March 22, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried.

New Business

- a. Town Clerk
 - i. Resignation of Donna Golub
 - ii. Appointment of Tonya Hogan

Bob noted that Donna submitted her resignation on April 26th. He read her resignation letter into record. Donna has honorably served our town for the past 22 years.

Jim Irish made motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to accept the resignation letter of Town Clerk/Registrar of Vital Statistics, Donna Golub, effective May 13, 2022. Motion carried.

Anne Olszewski commented that she has worked with Donna for over 20 years and thanked her very much for her service.

Cheryl Pizzo said that we are lucky to have Tonya. Cheryl noted that she worked with Tonya making Absentee Ballots available for the Presidential Election during the pandemic and was very impressed with her knowledge of operations in the clerk's office.

Jim Irish noted Donna's guidance over his time serving the community and thanked her.

Paul Pizzo commented to the fact that the lack of housing in our town caused Donna to have to relocate and that Donna will be missed.

Lastly, Anne Olszewski, commented that she has been happy to work with Tonya since she was hired.

Jim Irish made motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to appoint Tonya Hogan, Assistant Town Clerk/Assistant Registrar of Vital Statistics, as Town Clerk/Registrar of Vital Statistics due to the resignation of Donna Golub. Appointment to be effective May 13, 2022. Motion carried.

Boards and Commissions

a. Appointments – Discussion and Vote

Park and Recreation

- Appoint Ali Sinicrope, (D) 01/01/2022-12/31/2026, 1/3, as a regular member to fill expired term of Carrie Anderson
- Appoint Tina Olszewski, (D) 01/01/2020 – 12/31/2024, ALT, to fill adjusted expired term of Jayne Hesterberg
- Appoint Amanda Caccamo, (D) 01/01/2019 – 12/31/2023, ALT, to fill vacancy of William Warner (R)

Jim Irish made a motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to approve the Park and Recreation appointments. Motion carried.

WPCA

- Appoint Greg Makuch, (U) 01/01/2022-12/31/2024, 1/3, as a regular member to fill expired term of Kathleen Kokoszka
- Reappoint Robert Veeley, (U) 01/01/2020-12/31/2022, 3/3
- Appoint Roberta Curtis, (D) 01/01/2022-12/31/2024, as a regular member to fill expired term of Rob Poturnicki
- Appoint Rob Poturnicki to be the First Selectman's Ex-Officio Appointee to the WPCA Board

Jim Irish made a motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to approve the WPCA appointments. Motion Carried.

Charter Revision Committee

The board discussed the charge of the Charter Revision Committee. It was felt that the committee should review the work that was already done by the previous committee for comments, changes, and suggestions. They agreed that there was no need to restrict the scope and would welcome additions. Inclusion of a more in-depth description of rules for Boards and Commission would be an important addition as some rules are governed by state statute. Other points for close review should include timing of Town Meetings, Budget adoption, and succession. Bob suggested that the board be comprised of 2 Democrat, 2 Republican, and 2 Unaffiliated electors. Bob also hoped that Attorney Matt Willis would be willing to join the committee as legal counsel. The board will work to create a formal charge for the committee and plan to appoint members in the near future as the hope is to get the revised charter prepared to be on the November ballot.

Selectmen/Selectwoman Report

a. Affordable Housing Update

Bob explained that a grant had been applied for during Ed Bailey's term and will need to be updated and extended. Bob will be reaching out for guidance on the process to make the necessary changes. The Affordable Housing Plan did go to Public Hearing and was reviewed by the town attorney to be sure it is compliant with health requirements. The Board will vote on the plan at an upcoming meeting.

b. Review of information regarding potential for having live broadcasts of BOS and other Town Committee/commission meetings

Jim has been heading up the implementation of the equipment and zoom room technology. He has faced a few challenges so far including integration of the camera, Zoom Room, and electronic calendar required for the meeting recordings. Once everything is up and running training will be conducted for heads of Boards and Commissions.

c. Grant Opportunity – Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Jim briefly noted some updates to the dollar amount of the grant which is still in process. He mentioned how impressed Rosa DeLauro's office was with the many letters of support her office received in regards to being awarded this grant.

d. Recent RiverCOG Meeting

Jim reviewed what was covered at the meeting including recommendations for a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. This plan could offer bicycle paths in town and possibly an "advisory shoulder" for pedestrians to use for beach access. Next Jim explained that CT-DOT has asked the councils to coordinate grant applications for the infrastructure bill. Jim is hoping to find out if town roads can be included in the State Transportation Improvement Plan. Lastly Jim noted that there is an ongoing discussion about sharing a Building Official across the municipalities in the COG.

e. Discuss request to DEEP to add Lake Beseck to TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loading) Study for their awareness of total nutrient loading in their lake.

Jim explained that the DEEP started a program last year at Bantam Lake to monitor the nutrient loading due to the presence of blue green algae. We have the same issue at Lake Beseck and Jim would like the state and DEEP to add our lake to the program. Discussion continued around preparing letters to state representatives to assist us in joining the program.

f. Other

Carol had the chance to meet with Morty who runs a program on Lake Beseck for veterans. Behind Rover's Lodge Morty has collected donated kayaks and canoes that can be used for free by veterans. He invited Carol and the other Board members to join him for his Season Opener on May 5th. Carol also inquired about the Horse Tax here in Middlefield. Bob explained that we do have personal property tax assessed on horses. Bob said that the town rents some of our town owned properties and those lease agreements are expiring soon and asked the board to consider if they would like to keep the agreements as they are or possibly change them.

Adjournment

Jim Irish made a motion, second by Carol Bufithis, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya Hogan

Tonya Hogan
Middlefield Town Clerk

Minutes Approved _____

Confirmed by _____