



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen - Minutes

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Merrill Seney Room- Town Hall
and via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

I. The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:03 PM with a fluctuating internet signal.
Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Ken Beausoleil, and Susanne Witkowski.
HR Director Michelle Giammarinaro, Finance Director William Steglitz. Members of Fire Departments, Boards and Commissions as well the public. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Due to a flickering communications signal, the First Selectman turned off the video aspect of the Zoom recording; after that time, the audio was clear to all participants throughout the meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 12-20-2022 BOS meeting carried unanimously.**
- B. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the 12-22-2022 Special BOS meeting carried unanimously.**
- C. BOS Meeting 1-3-2023 cancelled

IV. Correspondence

- A. DESPP Police Services Reports: 11/22 and 12/22 - both reports were read aloud.
- B. NDDH FY 2021-22 Report, Susan Starkey (Director)

V. Selectmen Comments:

-K. Beausoleil: loss of AMR at DKH; all the park lights are out (timer?); noted Buckley Hill Road speeding
- S. Witkowski observed that Community Fire has completed shoring up of the building's flooring within the allocated amount and the fire apparatus has been returned to the inside; asked BOS Budget Workshop schedule.
-A. St Onge called out notice of rescued dog, Ryder, who is at the animal control facility, awaiting his forever home. *A TMHS Drama Club fundraising event this Friday will support the TMHS student theater, which is entirely funded through donations. *Budget workshops will begin with town staff on 01/24 and 01/26 at 3 PM each day. Fire Departments: 02/22. Others are being scheduled. *Town meeting 01-18; there will be a full presentation on all 3 topics; a referendum scheduled for 01-31.

VI. Citizens' Comments:

- Valerie Clark, 105 Alm Road: verified that the town meeting is not in hybrid format (but will be live-streamed on YouTube); confirmed that the 01-03-2023 BOS meeting had been cancelled; confirmed under Agenda item VIII, that no proposed ordinance is drafted, and that tonight is for preliminary discussion by the BOS.

VII. CT Humanities Grant – Facility Lease to the Thompson Historical Society: President Joe Iamartino reviewed the history of the Tourtellotte Memorial High School Building and the lease by the town. Funds are needed to upgrade accessibility to the auditorium and other work on the second and third floors of the building (a possible total of \$125K). S. Witkowski confirmed that the Town owns the structure; she suggests the BOE, the Tourtellotte Trustees and BOS meet to collaborate on the work which is needed and on the lease details.

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to move forward with the CT Humanities Grant application pending review of the lease, and providing the Trustees and the BOE approve, carried unanimously.

VIII. Natchaug Epic Bicycle Tour – Sunday, March 26, 2023: Details were reviewed of the annually recurring, 83-mile bicycle event, which moves through several towns but begins and ends in Thompson and which is not a race/does not include road closures.

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the request as presented for the Natchaug Eric bicycle event on March 26, 2023, pending receipt of the required Certificate of Insurance, carried unanimously.

IX. Neglected Cemetery Grant: Norma O'Leary has handled this cemetery work oversight admirably; the previous grant funding has been used well.

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to authorize the First Selectman to apply for a 2023 Neglected Cemetery Grant Program carried unanimously.

X. Proposed Addition of 13 Street Lights for Sidewalks on Riverside Drive: A. St Onge noted that it was K. Beausoleil who spotted the need to complete the project with the addition of streetlights, for public safety, encouraging walkability. The process of obtaining the CL&P work order was reviewed. The cost of electricity to the town is projected to be about \$8 per month per lamp. S. Witkowski: the town will not own or maintain them. MSRAC will be asked to oversee the precise pole locations and fixture heights from the ground.

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to add 13 streetlights to illuminate the sidewalks on Riverside Drive carried unanimously.

XI. Proposed Ordinances - Introductory BOS Discussion:

- A. Quaddick Lake Ordinance and, B. Vacant and/or Abandoned Properties: a first review and detailed discussion by the BOS members of both proposed ordinances took place.
 - A. Lake Ordinance proposal: What the DEEP will permit was reviewed. Specific safety measures have been identified, including speed limits, limits on wakes and others; a Fishing Tournament-only early morning speed exemption is proposed. The DEEP must approve the proposed ordinance as it is a state facility. S. Witkowski: enforcement needs to be addressed. K. Beausoleil: Public safety is the first concern. CCM or DEEP may already have model ordinances, created by other towns in a similar situation.
- B. Abandoned property ordinance proposal: this property tax language would provide the preliminary step for the Rivermill Developer to establish a timeline. Discussion included possible limitations on the locations and previous uses of properties that could qualify. The consensus: conduct further research on both proposed ordinance ideas.

XII. Request from the Board of Finance- \$22,350 for Renewal of Mandatory DEEP Stewardship Permit: The Pasay Road site permit is to be renewed every 10 years, but there was a pause due to the pandemic; the application needs to be submitted soon, however.

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to submit a request to the BOF for up to \$22,350 for the renewal of the mandatory DEEP Stewardship Permit as presented carried unanimously.

XIII. Other Business: None

XIV. Citizen Comments:

- Brian Santos, 17 Hagstrom Road, encouraged the inclusion of the Lake Association in discussions of a possible ordinance, given the seriousness of events on Quaddick Lake.
- Valerie Clark, 105 Alm Road, thanked K. Beausoleil for his thoughts on both ordinance concepts: 1). Recommends more research a Lake ordinance before town attorney contact, and 2). States the possible Abandoned Property ordinance to be a "slippery slope."
- John Rice, 39 East Thompson Rd, supports efforts restoration to move of the mills
- Jason St Onge, 139 Riverside Drive, asked if there is language in the draft Lake Ordinance requiring Lake Use Rules to be posted, visible to out-of-town users. There is a bulletin board on the premises; it is State property, the State would have to post them.

XV. Tax Refunds: **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the tax refunds for a total of \$3,248.62 (Toyota Lease Trust, \$2,090.07 in total and Lambros Begaris \$1,158.55) carried unanimously.**

XVI. Adjourn: **Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to adjourn at 8:07 PM carried unanimously.**

To see the meeting, click on this link or copy/paste into your search bar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/uuXilJB8X67lQJe5bZXRb-qvutOj5hxNcYcQCyiIB-9f0oyFhVQECJXoNC3XukdG.wqgEAfrseu-ntwzd> Passcode: xM%tW\$T3

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minute.