



TOWN OF THOMPSON
Board of Selectmen- Minutes
Tuesday, March 15, 2022
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall
and via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

- I. The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:00 PM with all Selectmen present.
Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Ken Beausoleil, and Susanne Witkowski.
Michelle Giammarinaro (HR Director) Tyra Penn-Gesek (Director Planning and Development), Paul Hopkins (Assessor),
Members of Boards and Commissions and the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited; First Selectman A. St Onge commented that to live in our great country, where
Democracy allows us to express views and opinions, is a gift and a privilege.
- III. Approval of Minutes:
***Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 02-28-2022 BOS Special Meeting carried unanimously, with note of a typo regarding the vote to fund Fire Departments. Revised wording of the Minutes- Motion: A. St Onge/S. Witkowski—to fund Ambulance Services (\$250,000), West Thompson Fire Department (\$75,000), East Thompson Fire Department (\$75,000), Hill Fire Department (\$75,000), *Quinebaug Fire Department (\$75,000), Community Fire Department (\$65,000)*, and remove \$400 for Shredding services (Data Processing) from the budget proposal carried. K. Beausoleil- nay S. Witkowski—yes A. St Onge- yes**

***Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the 03-1-2022 BOS Meeting carried unanimously**
- IV. Correspondence:
- DESPP Police Services Report for February 2022
After the Agenda was posted:
- letters from residents Valerie Clark and from Jonathan Hoenig
- request from Jessica Bolte to modify the dates of the Girl Scout cookie sale
- V. Selectmen Comments:
- K. Beausoleil: Town meeting tomorrow night. The budget process is underway; voter presence is excellent as meetings take place TEEG can help to residents including seniors who need fuel assistance.
- S. Witkowski: none at this time
- A. St Onge: * The town meeting tomorrow is to vote to designate the current voting District 3 to become part of the area served by CT Senate #35. The second matter is to decide if to combine voting District 1 and District 2 into one polling place at the Library. * The BOF is meeting weekly for Budget Workshops, 7 PM on Thursdays, in person at the town hall as well as via Zoom. In addition, the public can email a question to the Board at budget@thompsonct.org.
- VI. Citizens' Comments:
- Valerie Clark, 105 Alm Rd read her correspondence to the BOS regarding PA 490 aloud
- Blair Cole, 172 County Home Rd spoke regarding PA 490
- George O' Neill, 122 Fabyan Rd noted the "Social Contract" residents have with town leaders
- **At 7:10 it was noticed that the Zoom recording was not operational and it was turned on.**
- VII. Request for Roads Use: 400 bicyclists, to support ALS. Proof of insurance was provided.
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to permit road use in Thompson on June 24, 2022 for the Tri-State Trek, pending state approval for use of a state road, carried unanimously.
- VIII. Thompson Recreation Department Request at Thompson Common:
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to close Bates Avenue for the Recreation Easter Egg Hunt April 9, 2022 (rain date April 16, 2022) carried unanimously.
- IX. Selectmen's Proclamation: Thompson's first female Eagle Scout, Elena J. Ralph, Troop 1066, was recognized. K. Beausoleil noted this outstanding achievement is a reflection on the individual's character. The Selectmen's Proclamation was read aloud.
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to adopt the Selectmen's Proclamation recognizing Elena J. Ralph's achievement as an Eagle Scout carried unanimously. .

X. Reappointment Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to re-appoint Cynthia Antos and Donna Poitras to the Recreation Commission through April 15, 2025, carried unanimously.

XI. Resignation –Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to accept Paul Provost's resignation from the Building Committee with regret carried unanimously.

XII. Open Space Requirements - Discussion and Possible Action: Note was made that with a subdivision application, the PZC can mandate Open Space as part of the approval. This is different from open space as provided by statute in PA 490. The current open space provisions of PA 490 were enacted in Thompson in 1979, just prior to the creation of state requirements; no ordinance was created. After review, the Planning and Zoning Commission, working with the Agriculture Commission, has put forward a document for BOS approval before it is sent to a town meeting. The goal is to include the matter in the already-scheduled town meeting in May. The state deadline for the acceptance of the document is September 1. A. St Onge advocates in favor of the document, with the addition of some proposed definitions which she believes will clarify some ambiguity and eliminate vague text, leading to ambiguity. K. Beausoleil and S. Witkowski stated that the final document was only received today, and time will be needed to carefully read all the provisions and understand the implications of each section. The Ordinance Committee will be called upon. The BOS consensus was to table the matter at this time.

XIII. Report - Director of Planning & Development: Tyra Penn-Gesek updated the status of the many previously-reported grants and of three she is soon to apply for. A federal broadband grant may become available. Additionally, she is working with the EDC, Trails Committee, PZC, and Recreation. The BOS asked if she could pursue another possible grant category as well.

XIV. Other Business: reschedule the Girl Scout Cookie sale, due to supply chain issues.

Motion A St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to add the Girl Scout cookie sale as an agenda item under XIV, Other, carried unanimously. Proposed new dates: March 26, April 16 and April 23. The schedule of activities at the Transfer Station on those dates will be checked for conflicts.

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to change the dates of the Girl Scout Cookie sale as requested carried unanimously.

XV. Citizens' Comments:

- Sally White, 308 308 E Thompson Rd, spoke about open space and about grants
- Nadine Williams-Edwards, 131 Spicer Rd: asked if the public has access to grants details; asked for clarification of PA 490 terms
- Valerie Clark, 105 Alm Rd, suggests the BOS bring in Joan Nichols, the expert on farm-related matters
- Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd spoke about PA 490; noted that voter participation must be bolstered
- Christine Goulet, 564 Thompson Rd asked about tree removal on land adjacent to hers
- Others who spoke/asked questions about PA 490: Jane Salsi, Greenacres Lane; Blair Cole, 172 County Home Rd; Brenda Dvoryaninova, Pasay Rd; Butch Durand, Town Farm Rd; Ray Williams, Porter Plain Rd; Dave Clark, 105 Alm Rd; Bill Warner, Lowell Davis Rd

XVI. Tax Refunds: none

XVII. Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 9:40 PM carried unanimously.

To hear and see the meeting, use the link to the Zoom recording

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/kCzSL-dzI4H6JvTVWfCWRxaeIYDp59i38l2QU4wGf3DEFcPuu5e4D25OuHJEDTS.t1h4rxewRijk0cvw> Passcode: 4&y+P1nv

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 minutes.