



Town OF Thompson
SELECTMEN'S MEETING - Minutes
Tuesday, April 5, 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.
- III. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 03-11-2022 BOS Special Meeting carried unanimously**
 - B. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 03-15-2022 BOS Meeting carried unanimously**
 - C. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 03-16-2022 BOS Special Meeting carried unanimously**
- IV. Correspondence:
 - A. Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala
 - B. Two Citizen E-mail correspondence items re: Open Space
 - C. Safety & Health Committee Minutes March 2022
 - D. Thompson Business Association BBQ Mixer
 - E. Citizen E-mail correspondence re: PZC and Town Meeting
**After the agenda was posted:
- memo today, 04-5-2022 from Town Attorneys Halloran and Sage
- V. Selectmen Comments:
 - S. Witkowski: the "Have a Heart" auction was very successful
 - A St Onge: *on Sunday she attended the recognition event for Eagle Scout Elena J. Ralph, Troop 1066; she is the first female Eagle Scout not only for the Troop but also for the District * Town Attorneys Halloran and Sage sent a memo intended to be in time for this BOS meeting, addressing William Warner's correspondence. The memo noted that a Town Meeting to address some matters in Mr. Warner's document would be outside statutory Town Meeting authority. It was also noted that Mr. Warner's text regarding the repeal or amendment of a specific Ordinance could just be restated/reworded, bringing it into compliance with Statute.
- VI. **Citizen Comments:**
 - Jessica Bolte, 1081 Riverside Drive asked to have the Girl Scout Cookie sale rescheduled; it will be considered at the BOS 04-19-2022 meeting
 - Those who expressed an opinion or posed a question regarding possible changes to PA 490: Valerie Clark, 105 Alm Road; Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Road; Brian Cole, 172 County Home Road; Donna Austin, 1075 Thompson Road; Nadine Williams-Edwards, 131 Spicer Road; Mary Eames, owns land on Lowell Davis Road: and others
 - Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Road: asked about the proposed Town Administrator position. * He noted there are only two agenda places for Citizens' to make Comments to the BOS.
 - Donna Austin, 1075 Thompson Road asked about the process of the creation of Board/Commission meeting minutes
 - Al Landry, 33 Randall Road: noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission members are elected and should be consulted when there are concerns regarding their work
 - Brenda Dvoryaninova, 131 Pasay Rd; Thompson needs businesses in town and encouraged staff to be supportive
- VII. Recreation Commission –The Recreation Director's request to reduce the number of members on the Commission was discussed, with the BOS agreeing that a quorum must be present in order for

the Commission to conduct business. The Ordinance Committee should be consulted; the only change proposed is in the size of the Commission. No action was taken pending results of research.

- VIII. Community Fire Dept:
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the Community Fire Station request to conduct a Boot Drive at Riverside Drive / Main Street as well as at the Transfer Station on April 23, 2022 from 8-12, carried unanimously.
- IX. Quinebaug Fire Dept request: Discussion of possible utilization of ARPA Funds for upgrades to firefighter's air packs. Chief Steven Bodreau: the current breathing apparatus is becoming obsolete. Should any ARPA funds become available, he hopes the BOS will consider the request.
- X. New Hires:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to endorse the hiring of William Steglitz as Finance Director and of Troy Sposato as Director of the DPW carried unanimously.
- XI. Appointments:
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to appoint William Steglitz as Town Treasure for the unexpired term through November 21, 2023 and Tom Angelo to the Building Committee for the unexpired term of Paul Provost through November 15, 2023 carried unanimously.
- XII. Open Space Requirements (PA 490) - Discussion and Possible Action: In preparation for this meeting, A. St Onge reviewed the January discussions. Joan Nichols provided the CT Farm Bureau official PA 490 publication as a resource. Ms. Nichols makes that statement that "The more clearly defined criteria are for qualification for PA 490, the better off you will be" since precise language prevents future confusion. Not all towns participate in the PA 490 open space/tax incentive program (30 of 169). Based on what has been learned, A. St Onge advocates for staying with the 1979 language adopted by Thompson. She notes that two words were omitted from the Thompson language and reviewed the ramifications. The proposed text will be used in the advisory-only Thompson Plan of Conservation and Development. K. Beausoleil: send the document to PnZ as proposed for use in the PoCD. Subsequently, the Ordinance can be reviewed, perhaps broadened, and can possibly include the change in the sentence regarding Forest Land. A. St Onge read aloud the text of the proposed text for the Planning and Zoning Commission, for use in the Plan of Conservation and Development, which presents the criteria for qualification for PA 490 Open Space status (very close to the 1979 text). **Motion A St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the PA 490 text, as read into the record, for use by the Planning and Zoning Commission in the PoCD, carried unanimously.** [The full text is attached as an Appendix](#)
- XIII. Report - Director of Planning & Development: T. Penn-Gesek: should any funds be available, the use of ARPA funds for Fire Departments' air pack needs does fall within the ARPA guidelines * she provided an update on pending grant applications, especially a preliminary "middle-mile broadband" concept. A Plainfield firm proposes creating a Thompson municipal utility company, to serve the town's center (which can be expanded to cover more area in the future). * the 150-acre former Quinn's Shirt Shop property is approved/moving ahead. The owner may have a contact regarding installing broadband service. There are frequent complaints about poor cellular coverage in Thompson and lack of broadband in business locations.
- XIV. DPW Building Fire Alarm Proposals: K. Beausoleil has examined the proposals and finds much ambiguity among them, such as various warranties, differing proposed inspections and annual maintenance proposals, and others. Fire Marshal Jamie Seney has compared the proposals, conducted walk-throughs, and is directly involved. The need to be able to make direct comparisons among the proposals was noted. No action was taken.

XV. Other Business: none

XVI. Citizen Comments:

- Dave Clark, 105 Alm Road: work/research should be done by Boards and Commissions and the results have ramifications; they should be shared with other Boards/Commissions in the decision-making process
- Mr. Paquette, 36 Terrace Drive wonders about the current dynamic/trust levels
- Valerie Clark, 105 Alm Road requested the text of PA 490 that was voted on, thanking the BOS
- Nadine Williams-Edwards, 131 Spicer Road and Ray Williams, Porter Plain Road asked about the list of pending grant applications and the long-term impacts to the budget cycle
- Donna Austin, 1075 Thompson Road inquired about future transfers of ownership of PA 490 land
- Christine Goulet, 564 Fabyan Road spoke about vegetable gardens
- Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Road inquired about Board/Commission minutes
- Brenda Dvoryaninova, 131 Pasay Road noted that minutes summarize and consolidate. * She supports the idea of a member of the community who suggested a detailed study of Open Space.

XVII. Tax Refunds:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the tax refunds as presented for a total of \$510.85 carried unanimously

Desmarais, Cynthia M.	\$112.58	Toyota Lease Trust	\$366.26
Siekierski, Kristine	\$8.21	Belinski, Richard F. & Alex C.	\$23.80

XVIII. Executive Session:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to go into Executive Session at 9:17 PM with all 3 Selectmen present, to discuss a Potential Land Purchase North Grosvenordale, carried unanimously.

Executive Session began at 9:17 PM and ended at 9:31 PM. No action was taken.

XIX. Adjourn:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to adjourn at 9:32 PM carried unanimously.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/jGJBzw5kjJlwL4l4ru5DlrMEcsEfTsQTNsGhkdhi-qLsRfCwOe3GMd53fMZ6xvMS.BRmPHN0tgS3Zx7DH> **Passcode: !f7djHhN**

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.

APPENDIX to the BOS meeting, April 5, 2022

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Thompson BOS meeting APRIL 5, 2022

PA 490 text for use in the Thompson PoCD

In order to reduce financial pressure to sell land and to incentivize the preservation of open space within the Town of Thompson, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends the adoption of the Open Space Classification of PA 490, with the following criteria:

- Land in all zoning districts of Thompson is eligible for consideration
- The minimum area eligible for classification as Open Space shall be 3 acres of vacant or undeveloped land.
- In the Town of Thompson, the following land types shall be eligible for the Open Space Classification:
 - Land meeting the minimum acreage threshold which is completely unimproved and undeveloped.
 - In cases where a parcel includes portions which contain a residential dwelling or commercial building, the 3-acre minimum shall be land in excess of any portion containing such a structure. That portion shall be calculated, at a minimum, as the area of a single building lot within that zone.

Land set aside under the Open Space requirements for a Subdivision or a Conservation Subdivision shall not be eligible for enrollment in PA 490. Such land is to be preserved permanently as Open Space, as described in the Subdivision Regulations of the Town of Thompson.

Approved unanimously by the Board of Selectmen 04-05-2022

