



**TOWN OF
THOMPSON
Board of Selectmen**

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Via ZOOM Online Meeting

Minutes

First Selectman Amy St Onge called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with all three Selectmen present via Zoom, noting that the meeting is being recorded.

Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil. Atty Steve Adams, John Rice (PnZ, Building Committee), Lesley Munshower (Recreation Director), Matt Gineo, Members of Boards/Commissions, and the public, WINY, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

I. Approval of Minutes:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the 01-19-2021 BOS Regular Meeting Minutes with a modification carried unanimously. In attendance were Chief Grauer/Thompson Hill Fire Department and EMS/Assistant Fire Chief Josh Kusek.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the 01-22-2021 BOS Special Meeting Minutes with a modification carried unanimously. K. Beausoleil during the meeting noted his concerns about changing the Budget Ordinance at this time.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the 01-26-2021 BOS Special Meeting Minutes with a modification carried unanimously. K. Beausoleil had been unable to log in due to a faulty Zoom meeting link.

II. Correspondence:

A. DESPP - Police Services Report December 2020

III. Selectmen Comments:

K. Beausoleil- thanks the DPW for excellence during 24+ hours storm and a foot + of snow

S. Witkowski- discussion of possibly sending to the Building Committee a review of the status of the Bull Hill soccer fields drainage problems as well as the condition of the track at the schools.

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by A. St Onge to add an agenda item, Other Business, #11, possible Building Committee review the soccer fields/schools track, carried unanimously.

A. St Onge thanked Superintendent Melinda Smith for coordinating vaccines for over-75 residents. A person should call the Selectman's office; bus transportation is being set up to Walgreen's, Putnam, from the Senior Housing facilities. K. Beausoleil: can the NDDH come to Thompson for vaccines. Answer: not yet. Age 65+ will be the next group eligible. * February 24 will be the Town Meeting; she proposes a public information campaign (perhaps a video) with all 3 BOS members, informing the public about the meeting, how to "attend" and what will be on the agenda. S. Witkowski added: a Zoom workshop, demonstrating how to let their voices be heard, might be helpful for members of the public who are unfamiliar with that technology. All Boards and Commissions should immediately be informed so the members can plan to attend.

IV. Citizen Comments: John Rice, 39 East Thompson Rd asked for clarification of Agenda item 6.

V. Land Donation to Windham Trust - Discussion and Possible Action: Planning and Zoning has reviewed the materials forwarded to them subsequent to the last BOS discussion regarding the possible Bull Hill land donation to the Windham Land Trust; they previously approved 6 town-owned parcels and now have approved the 7th. Attorney Steve Adams noted that a conveyance of the about 60-acre parcel would probably utilize a Letter of Understanding, spelling out the

restrictions on the parcel (implemented by a comprehensive land/forestry management plan); this would bring the total area to about 1,000 acres at the Bull Hill Preserve. It was noted that the parking spaces currently in place will be ideal for those who want to access the trails and to utilize the available spaces. In order to move ahead, the BOS will need to place the matter on the May Annual Town Meeting agenda. Attorney Adams and the Town Attorney will communicate to draw up the documents well in advance of the Town Meeting.

- VI. Zero (0) Lillian Avenue - Discussion and Possible Action: the Memo (01-15-2021) from Mr. & Dr. Matt & Laura Gineo and their follow-up Memo (01-22-2021), outlining their goal to obtain the Open Space abutting parcel and maintain it in perpetuity as an unbuildable lot, were reviewed by the BOS. The Town Attorney has confirmed that it must remain as Open Space; further details are in the PZC minutes. M. Gineo was present, noting that the parcel is currently not maintained and has become unsightly, used for piles of materials and abandoned items. As owner, he will clean and maintain it. The nearby Open Space on Sand Dam Road, which is designated for recreation, provides outdoor activity spaces and river access. J. Rice, PZC: Subdivision Regulations are specific as to the possible uses of Open Space and will need to be reviewed. K. Beausoleil: the ZEO needs to be informed about the condition of the property and begin enforcement. There are expanded ideas of what constitutes Recreation to be considered. The BOS will review of all applicable documents/PZC Minutes/Regulations. No action was taken.
- VII. SBA Lease - Discussion and Possible Action: The SBA Communications Corp memo of 11-03-2020 offering either \$550K to buy out the ground lease and create a 55 year communications easement for the town, or specifying that the town can receive \$360K and continue to receive current and future revenue sharing was reviewed. The Cell tower is on a small section of a 20 acre parcel (Wilsonville Rd/Rich Rd). K. Beausoleil: the Finance Director should be asked to confirm the current income stream and compare it to a buy-out figure; he asked to see the lease itself. The 2 options and the lease should be reviewed by the town attorney. J. Rice: This parcel was where the state had considered putting in a Welcome To Connecticut rest stop.
- VIII. Budget Workshop Dates (end times estimated) via Zoom: A schedule has been prepared for town departments/agencies; February 9 presents a conflict for S. Witkowski; February 16 is substituted
- IX. Appointment:
Motion S. Witkowski seconded by A. St Onge to appoint Kenneth Beausoleil as a MSRAC alternate for an indefinite term carried unanimously, with K. Beausoleil abstaining.
It was determined that a BOS member may serve in an appointed capacity.
- X. Recreation Director: Summer Camp School Bus RFP - Discussion and Possible action: summer camp details were reviewed by L. Munshower. The DATTCO bus contract has 2 more years to run, but an addendum could possibly add in this route. In case that cannot be worked out, the RFP should go out. Families whose children who attend the Camp pay a fee that covers transportation.
Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to put out a RFP for Summer Camp bus services, to be utilized if needed, carried unanimously.
- XI. Other Business: agenda addition - Consider charging the Building Committee with reviewing possible improvements to the Bull Hill soccer fields and to the track at the schools- the past uses of the Bull Hill soccer area, the change in ground water conditions and other aspects of the situation were discussed. J. Rice: the Building Committee has almost completed the Tank removal/replacement project; at that time the Committee could look at the soccer field situation; a first look at the track at the schools has taken place. A St Onge: asks that all options be explored.
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to send review of the Bull Hill Soccer Fields and the Schools track to the Building Committee carried unanimously.

XII. Citizens' Comments:

Jason St Onge, 139 Riverside Dr- he has started a Go Fund Me campaign for the newly opened Animal Facility, due to expenses for veterinary fees and other unanticipated expenses; to date \$1,810 has been donated for the animal shelter. Contributions are welcome.

XIII. Tax Refunds:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the tax refunds as presented for a total of \$734.87 carried unanimously.

Karkutt, Kathleen M.	\$26.96	Bellerose, Bernard/Cynthia L.	\$68.94
Durand, Matthew D.	\$98.01	ACAR Leasing LTD	\$210.10
Streich, Erica L	\$37.58	Honda Lease Trust	\$259.87
Cournoyer, Richard/Teena	\$33.41		

XIV. Adjourn:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8: 33 PM carried unanimously.

See and hear the entire meeting by clicking on this link

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ZFeDHjS9Uag0-iPgAgG5nU3dqIXYIFXOg01_x3-4029BaeqiSZCG01_o_2e08vLm.FagXDwa7w5OFDtOT Passcode: kMNWf.4C

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.