



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen- Minutes

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Hybrid Meeting – In Person at Town Hall
and via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

I. First Selectman Amy St Onge called to order at 7:02 PM, explaining public participation options
Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Ken Beausoleil and Susanne Witkowski.
Roger Durand, (V. President of the Community Fire Department), Judy Rondeau (Conservation
Commission). Members of Boards/Commissions. Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

II. Approval of Minutes:

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 07-6-2021 BOS
Meeting carried unanimously**

III. Correspondence

A. Thank you Notes from Scholarship Recipients

B. Thompson Public Library – Pandemic Year: 19,722 visitors, 37,767 items loaned, 226 virtual events

C. Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours, 07-22, Westcott-Wilcox, Danielson

D. After the Minutes were posted: the Conservation Commission selected a strong candidate as
Conservation Agent and submitted their recommendation to the BOS.

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to add an agenda item to *IX, Other Business*, to
consider the hiring of a Conservation Agent carried unanimously.**

IV. Selectmen Comments:

K. Beausoleil-resurfaced Quaddick Rd looks great; what a big improvement. Thanks, DPW.

S. Witkowski – the heartfelt notes from scholarship recipients were noticed and appreciated.

A. St Onge- Wheaton Brook culvert work and the work on the Railroad tracks at RT 12 and W.

Thompson Road is ongoing; closures will be posted on the website. * July 25 & 26 the first Community
Concerts will take place in Riverside Park. *A recording secretary resigned; a candidate was identified.

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to add an agenda item to *IX, Other Business*, to
consider the search Committee's recommendation for a recording secretary carried unanimously.**

V. Citizen Comments: R. Durand, 209 Brickyard Rd, clarified some of the sentences in the 07-06-2021
BOS minutes regarding the location of EMS and Fire apparatus during the period of closure of the
Community Fire station, noting they are remaining central to their service area.

VI. Disposition of Property at 0 South Shore Road: PnZ Memo, 01-27-2020, voted to dispose of the
property, requesting Fair Market Value. Attorneys have researched the land records, noting that the
property at 0 South Shore Road (adjacent to 31 South Shore Road) was deeded to the town but not so
recorded, and can be sold. David and Patricia Blake of South Shore Road have requested conveyance.

**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to dispose of 0 South Shore Road as town
property carried unanimously.**

VII. Crowdfunding Campaign for Art in the Park- Town Planner T. Penn-Gesek: voluntary donations
only, including possible crowd funding with possible grant support from Sustainable CT will be used for
this innovative outdoor art installation. The Elementary School art teacher's proposed project involves
creating large fish, to be permanently installed along Riverside Park. Among the "up-cycling" items to
be used are the "nips" bottles collected from the roadside pick-up in 2020. K. Beausoleil praised the

creative sculpture and especially involvement by elementary school students. S. Witkowski noted that the town will not want to be seen by the students as promoting the use of alcohol.

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to support this public art project and endorse the proposed crowd-funding campaign carried unanimously.

VIII. Resolution for Cultural Commission – Discussion & Possible Action for the purpose of grant funding through The National Endowment for the Arts: The Regional Cultural Commission is requesting support for an art program that will span all eastern towns of the state, with funds distributed according to eligibility.

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to endorse the Cultural Commission Resolution to pursue an application at the National Endowment for the Arts carried unanimously.

IX. Other Business:

a). Consider approval of a new Conservation Agent, as recommended in a letter from Planner T. Penn-Gesek. Several applications were received, 6 were considered, and one individual chosen.

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to make the offer to the selected Conservation Agent per the search team recommendation carried unanimously.

b). The recording secretary interview committee has recommended a candidate to begin in mid-August.

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to make the offer to hire the recommended person carried unanimously.

X. Citizens' Comments/discussion of possible uses of ARPA Funds:

- R. Durand: the Community Fire Department will need funding for reconstruction; the engineering review that is underway by Tighe and Bond indicates remediation steps will be adequate to resume full use of the Station. He confirmed that Fire and EMS services are based there.

- S. Witkowski asked how other possible ARPA uses beyond those already proposed can be submitted.

A. St Onge: a written proposal soon to the BOS, adhering closely to the Federal guidelines is needed.

– Merrill Seney, 4 Johnson St, supports ARPA funding for the Community Fire Station/EMS; the needs are not fully identified or costed out

XI. Tax Refunds: **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve tax refunds for a total of \$757.96 carried unanimously.**

Birch, Carrie E. \$150.01

Chaszcz, Gary J. \$349.27

Cyr, Daniel S. \$119.14

Hicks, Joshua \$24.02

Tackson, Dennis A. \$115.52

XII. Adjourn:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to adjourn at 7:37 PM carried unanimously.

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

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