



# TOWN OF THOMPSON

## Board of Selectmen

### SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

### Minutes

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The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:03 PM.

Roll Call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil.

Lesley Munshower (Recreation Director), Karen Durlach (Chair, Trails Committee),

H. Charles Obert (Trails Committee), Brian Loffredo (Trails/EDC). Town officials and

Department Heads, Members of the Public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

**I. Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the 06-02-2020 BOS Special Meeting with modifications carried unanimously.** In Section III, Selectman's Comments, A. St Onge noted that the Backhoe that was a big hit at the Parade, and that thanks went out to Elmer Preston for continuing Thompson's Memorial Day traditions.

### II. Correspondence

A. DESSP - May 2020 Services

B. Thompson Recreation Commission, June 3, 2020 memo from Director L. Munshower – she reviewed the expenses proposed by the schools and as a result, determined that Summer Adventure Camp cannot be conducted there.

- C. Obert noted that the Trails Commission had sent a memo, and an official report of the Connecticut Trails Census usage in Thompson. Neither A. St Onge nor the Selectmen received the correspondence but will look for it.

### III. Selectmen's Comments: S. Witkowski- none at this time

K. Beausoleil- the Town Hall back parking lot has been very well handled by the DPW, addressing public safety and providing a newly paved surface. "Thanks" for a job well-done.

A. St Onge \*Monday, June 29 the Town Hall re-opens on a limited basis, with the rear door available for residents to come in to make tax payments. Security staff will monitor the numbers and distancing. Other departments are by appointment, with masks required of everyone. \*The town has set up a subscriber's email list for those who wish to receive notifications; the form provides for specific notifications or those of a general nature. \* The lights in Riverside Park are all operational; more than half had been out. Thanks to the DPW and the Electrician. \* A Parks and Recreation projects list is submitted and the DPW has worked the tasks in among their other duties; having a list early-on provides them the opportunity to be efficient with their time and materials. Sandblasting of graffiti in public areas will be addressed soon. \* A matter has come in after the agenda was prepared: Chris and Andrea Smith request that the BOS address a safety matter near their Day Care Center on Riverside Dr; traffic coming off I-395 is moving fast and the bus stop comes up quickly.

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**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to add an Agenda item under X. Other to discuss public safety on Riverside Drive carried unanimously.**

### IV. Citizen Comments- none

V. Community Fire Department - Request for Boot Drive; June 20, 8-2 at the Transfer Station. K. Beausoleil noted that the DPW has no objection, with appropriate “distancing” maintained.

**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the request carried unanimously.**

VI. Resignation: Jared Lockwood (moving out of state) - Zoning Board of Appeals alternate,

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to accept the resignation with regret carried unanimously.**

**VII. Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the re-appointment of Diane Keefe to Recreation Commission through April 15, 2023 carried unanimously.**

VIII. Thompson Trails Committee – obtaining the above-referenced letter by email from C. Obert concerning the Committee/Recreation/EDC Request for Trail Repairs, A. St Onge read it aloud into the record; C. Obert, K. Durlach, L. Munshower and B. Loffredo contributed background and further information about the request. A counting device has been installed along the Airline State Park Trail and is monitored monthly by UCONN, confirming the high usage counts, with the Train Wreck and the Tri-State Marker drawing significant interest for walkers, bicyclist and horsemen. The request is for Town staff to improve the Airline Trail from Lowell Davis Road to Sand Dam Road, including mowing along the sides for safety purposes as well as repaving. The use of the Trail is an economic driver bringing many people in town; the presenters urge immediate attention to the areas in order to represent Thompson in a favorable light. Links to near-by Rhode Island trails are being considered, broadening usage even more. During this pandemic, usage is increased for all outdoor activities and Thompson should benefit from positive word-of-mouth referrals to this Airline Trail section. Discussion about how to keep the DPW informed about the needs along the Trails resulted in agreement to compile a list very early in the year and send it to the DPW, in order for them to integrate the tasks with their other work. R. Benoit (DPW) has looked at the area under discussion and notes that getting repair equipment into that area will be a challenge; the mowing will be scheduled. S. Witkowski followed up to a comment, asking for confirmation that the crossing at New Road and East Thompson Road is safe for public use.

IX. T. Penn-Gesek (Town Planner) proposes the establishment of an official “CGS 12-65 – defined Rehabilitation Area” along Riverside Drive from RT 200 to RT 131, encompassing both Mill rehabilitation sites; this action will allow the town the option of offering some tax structuring to potential developers that allows proposals to move forward. K. Beausoleil noted the area matches the BAR Grant area; dovetailing the two makes sense. A June 10, 2020 memo from the Town Attorney’s office reviews the Statutory 12-65 provision for the Rehabilitation area and details the process. Tax abatement can be followed by incremental tax increases, bring the property taxes up to fair market value over a period of years. The new Town Assessor is familiar with how the statutory provision works and is comfortable with it. The consensus of the BOS is to move ahead. A Resolution will be drawn up, a Public Hearing will be held, with a 15 day notice; the Town Attorney will be asked to be present.

X. Other Business: newly added to the Agenda-**Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to authorize a letter from the BOS being sent to the Connecticut DOT requesting appropriate signage at the referenced location on Riverside Drive, for the purpose of safety of the public including the children on the busses, carried unanimously.**

XI. Citizens Comments: none

XII. Tax Refunds: none

XIII. Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8:13 PM carried unanimously.

**See/hear the meeting on Zoom:** Click on the link or Copy and Paste to your Search bar:

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Password: 5l=i^n.V

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.*