

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – September 11, 2023 (Approved minutes)

Robert McGarry called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam CT 06438

Kate Anderson and Sean Moriarty were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda: Anderson made a motion to approve the Agenda. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: August 14, 2023: Moriarty made a motion to approve the August 14, 2023, minutes. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

August 17, 2023: Anderson made a motion to approve the August 17, 2023, minutes. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Wayne Hilt: 176 Injun Hollow Rd: He disagrees with the proposal to change the name of Injun Hollow Road. He listed all the documents that would need to be changed if the name of the road changed.

Lisa Malloy: Attached as Schedule I

Peter Smith: Injun Hollow Road: commented that most of his immediate family were born on Cove Meadow Road. He provided history on why the road was named Cove Meadow Road. He stated it won't bother him if the road doesn't get changed, but if it does, it should be changed to Indian Hollow Road.

Ed Munster: 25 Horton Road: Attached as Schedule I

Michael Powers: 243 Injun Hollow: commented that this is a chance to redress something that certain individuals find offensive.

Dillon Kessler: 14 Morris Hubbard Road: Commented that he supports the name change of Injun Hollow Road. Re-naming the road to not have racially charged language is step toward making Haddam an inclusive town and showing that we are welcome to those of all backgrounds.

****Additional Public Comments submitted via e-mail included in Schedule I****

Selectman's Update: Moriarty asked about the Shad Museum being moved and what the status is. Malloy: It is elevated on blocks because there is construction that needs to be done underneath the building. All of the volunteers are over 70 years old – it will take time to complete this project. Moriarty commented that he appreciates all of the work that has been done. Thank you.
Anderson: Haddam River Days is scheduled for September 30th with a rain date of October 1st.
McGarry: There was a Town Meeting last month. Approved the funding for the Tylerville Business Grant/Loan in the amount of \$500,000.

Board of Education Update: Attached as Schedule II. Anderson informed the residents that there is a Community Conversation regarding the Master Plan of RSD17 on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 6:00pm at the Haddam Killingworth High School Auditorium. She strongly encourages all residents to participate in whatever way they can. For questions you have regarding RSD17's Master Plan project, please email masterplan@rsd17.org.

Tax Refunds: Anderson made a motion to accept the September 2023 Tax Refunds in the amount of \$2,614.93. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. (Attached as Schedule II)

New Business:

Presentation by Deborah Olsen: Deborah Olsen made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen regarding the street name change of Injun Hollow Road. She requested to be named Cove Meadow Road (the original name of the road). She created a petition to get as many signatures as possible. She gathered ~ 50 signatures, many who live on Injun Hollow Road.

She spoke with a resident on Injun Hollow and he stated he is against the name change. She is speaking on his behalf and has permission to do so. She relayed the message that he purposely moved to Haddam Neck to live on Injun Hollow Road because he is partially Native American in his heritage and that enjoyed the name Injun Hollow and did not want the road to change names.

She concluded that her purpose here is tonight is to have the name of the road changed back to Cove Meadow Road.

McGarry commented that a decision will not be made tonight. First it goes to a street naming committee to be sure there are no conflicts. More research will need to be completed would like to look at all the costs associated with a street name change. There is no urgency to have this change happen immediately. We will take our time gathering all information and then will make a decision.

Haddam Land Trust Inc. Abatement of property tax request:

Moriarty Made a motion to approve the request from the Haddam Land Trust, Inc Tax Abatement. There was a brief discussion noting that this has been done for other non-profits as well. Motion carried unanimously.

Appoint Jason Waterbury to Parks & Recreation Commission: Anderson made a motion to appoint Jason Waterbury to the Parks & Recreation Commission. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Re-appoint Peter Christopher and Emily Kyle to the Parks & Recreation Commission:

Moriarty made a motion to re-appoint Peter Christopher and Emily Kyle to the Parks & Recreation Commission. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Appoint Erin Ortega to the Connecticut River Gateway Commission: Anderson made a motion to appoint Erin Ortega to the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: N/A

Next Meeting date/place: The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 6:30 pm** and will be held at the Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam CT 06438.

Adjournment: Moriarty made a motion to adjourn. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm. Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli

September 11, 2023 - Board of Selectmen Meeting - Schedule I

Injun Hollow Road

My name is Elizabeth Malloy and I am speaking tonight as a private resident of Haddam Neck for the past 60+ years.

I would like to start with a little history of area and name that is under consideration tonight.

Over the past 300 years the roads in Haddam Neck have been called various names. For the first 200 plus years all roads were simply called highway, or highway to river. There was no need for street names. Everyone knew everyone including the mail delivery person. Even in my lifetime you only had to address an envelope "Rural Route #1, Haddam Neck, CT". Street numbers didn't exist until 1986.

Research shows that a number of current Haddam Neck roads were known by different names. This is from looking at land records and interviewing long-time residents. Quarry Hill Road was once called "Main Street" or "Grange Road". The lower part of Quarry Hill Road has been referenced as "Middle Road".

Injun Hollow Road was once called "Cove Meadow Road" or "River Road".

In 1959 Haddam was preparing for a reassessment and it was discovered that Haddam Neck roads did not have official names. Newspapers noted that some streets had multiple names and signs and many had no name at all.

The Haddam Neck Grange sponsored a road naming project. The Town officially named the roads in October of 1959.

Regarding Injun Hollow Road

In 1819 David Dudley Field wrote in his "Statistical Account of the Town of Haddam from the Statistical Account of Middlesex County" that a few (Indians) inhabited Thirty Mile Island within the memory of the persons living, and had a place of resort in a deep hollow on Haddam Neck, the northeast, which is still known by the name of Indian Hollow as the brook running through it is by the name of Indian Brook".

In the 1885 History of Middlesex County, Henry M. Selden writes in the chapter of Haddam Neck "The Indians remained on their reservations in the town for many years. They had a place of resort in a deep hollow on Haddam Neck, called Indian Hollow, on land of William C. and Henry M. Selden, where a number of their wigwams remained standing several years after 1740. The brook rising at Chatham line and passing through it bears the name of Indian Hollow Brook.

Lillian Brooks in her History of Haddam Neck from 1972 notes that Injun Hollow was named such after the first inhabitants, the Indians, who trod these hills and byways.

However, prior to 1950s the road was known as Cove Meadow Road as documented in legal land records.

I recently spoke with "Red Oak" whose English name is Gary O'Neill from East Hampton and is one of the few remaining descendants of the Wangunk Tribe who lived in this area. I asked him if he found the name of Injun Hollow Road offensive and his reply was yes.

Injun may not have been considered belittling or disrespectful in 1959 but it is today. I ask that the Board of Selectman carefully review the proposal before you tonight.

I object to the changing of the name Injun Hollow Road because it is part of a movement in this country to tear us apart and divide us. Tearing down statues and changing the names of schools, roads and places is what happens in other countries when they want to erase the past. Yes, we have our warts and our issues in this country but I believe we have the best form of government ever devised by man. We learn from our mistakes and that helps to make the United States the greatest nation in the world.



Cameron Bailey

I cannot make it to the meeting on Monday night. Therefore I would like to state my feelings here. Changing the name doesn't change the past, nor change the future. Old names such as Injun Hollow remind us of our history, and where we came from. Injun may be considered as a slur, or maybe just slang for the term 'Indian' which we know isn't accurate either. The politically correct name would be 'Native American Hollow' which may be matter of fact but lacks any real feeling of emotion. This town is rich in history, American history, and not all of it aligns with our collective views today. Changing the name would be one step closer to removing any reminder of the colonialism of this country which undoubtedly is the reason why Haddam is what it is today. While some may not agree with certain names being chosen we all must live with the realities that occurred in order for us to be here today.

RE: Road Name Change - Haddam Neck

Kevin McManus

Mon 9/11/2023 11:08 AM

To: Robert McGarry <firstselectman@haddam.org>

Bob,

I am unable to attend the meeting tonight but wanted to provide some very brief awareness of the impact changing a road name may have.

Background; In my prior career as a 9-1-1 dispatcher, I was involved in many road name changes - some were executed smoothly and some took years to implement. It's very dependent on the resources in that area.

Expectedly all residents and property owners would need to update anything related to their address. This includes bills, identification, deeds, & registrations, Some of these may actually come at a cost.

Change to mapping systems does not happen overnight. This can take up to four years to accomplish across all sources. Consider your map services on your phone and GPS. Add services that need to use addresses such as 9-1-1 GIS, fire, EMS, police, alarm companies, and other service providers.

Every emergency response plan for the Town, including those related to the spent fuel storage installation would need to be updated, along with all filings necessary for the proper operation of the site. The Federal Government would need to be part of the process, not only for the plant but also for the many properties they now have ownership of in the area.

While I have no personal preference for a road name change, significant planning and research would need to take place by all stakeholders before any decisions are made.

Happy to discuss further as needed.

Kevin

Proposed Street Name Change

Marie Lippincott ·

Mon 9/11/2023 12:11 PM

To: Robert McGarry <firstselectman@haddam.org>; Joann Ricciardelli <selectasst@haddam.org>

Good afternoon Bob,

I couldn't help but see Mr. Luisi's numerous posts as he put one on every town Facebook page available and I found it necessary to write to you this afternoon in support of the proposed name change of "Injun Hollow Road". This is simply a case of doing the right thing.

I am a big fan of the late Maya Angelou's, "When we know better, we do better". Today, we know that the slang word, "injun" is outdated and offensive to people of Native American backgrounds and frankly, to anyone who knows better.

Thank you for your time,
Eric & Marie Lippincott

Jackie MacKnight

I am out of state for work, and will be unable to today's meeting, but I would like to send my strong opinion that Injun Hollow road name not be changed. Steeped in history of our hamlet, it should remain a piece of who we are, our community. Further, it is a lot of extra work and effort on the part of those that live on that road. Thank you.

Cory MacKnight

I will be unable to today's meeting, but I would like to send my strong opinion that Injun Hollow road name not be changed. Steeped in history of our hamlet, it should remain a piece of who we are, our community. Further, it is a lot of extra work and effort on the part of those that live on that road. Thank you.

Dustin Nablo 34 Cove rd Haddam Neck CT 06424

Not sure if this is possible but I'd like to vote for keeping Injun Hollow as the road name for the road running from Rock Landing to the CY property
Hello Selectmen,

Sarah Colonghi 80 Park Rd. Haddam

I wanted to share my opposition to the proposal to change the name of Injun Hollow Rd. In Haddam Neck. It is an unnecessary change to be made and would cause the residents of the road undue frustrations and work as well as potentially a monetary loss to adjust official documents to reflect this change if it were to be granted. In my opinion the person suggesting the change has not taken into consideration the impact on the residents and has only considered her own perceived offense.

Gina Block -242 Saybrook Road, Higganum, CT

I hope this note finds you well. I'm writing in regard to one of the items on tonight's agenda: "changing the street name "Injun Hollow Road" in Haddam Neck." As a Haddam resident, I have long wondered about the name of this road - chiefly, why it still remains. With respect to Native Americans, the term "Indian" is both incorrect and dated. As for "injun," which is a colloquial derivative, the Oxford English Dictionary classifies the term as "*Chiefly*

U.S. A North American Indigenous person. (now offensive/dated)" Given our (often) abysmal treatment of Native Americans during the colonization of our country, retiring this word strikes me as a simple gesture that speaks volumes. If there is any remaining doubt as to whether or not this word is truly offensive, we have five indigenous tribes that are recognized by Connecticut statute: the Schaghticoke, Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, Mashantucket Pequot, Mohegan, and Golden Hill Paugussett. I'm sure any of these would be happy to submit commentary if requested.

I understand that there is concern for potential financial implications due to changes of address, etc.; but with all due respect, if this was truly a deal-breaker then people would not pursue name changes after marriage, nor would they move for fear of obtaining a new address. These are administrative nuisances, but they are commonplace enough that they should not present an insurmountable barrier.

I will leave you with the words of Attorney Bryan Stevenson: *"Always do the right thing even when the right thing is the hard thing."* Thank you for your consideration,

Neal and Katy Sakash, 11 Lake Ave, Higganum, CT

Tonight's meeting looks to contain a rather contentious new business item. I'm excited to listen in on Ms. Olsen's presentation for renaming "Injun Hollow Road" and I hope those automatically opposed to this change give her the attention and due respect she deserves as a Haddam Neck resident.

It's sad and embarrassing that this name still exists or was even used to begin with for official town addresses. I guess it's just testament to what was still acceptable not very long ago. I am really curious, however, to learn the history of this road since the historical maps I've found on the USGS' website show maps from the 50s, 60s, and 70s that all label the road name as "Indian Hollow".

Hopefully her presentation will address this change and reinforce the need to revert the name to what it was just over 50 years ago. Or better yet, allow for the option to name the road after the actual tribes that used that strip of CT river shoreline before colonists arrived.

This may seem like a small issue but your decisions as elected leaders will have a great impact on how our neighbors view us as a town. Changing an objectively racist road name would be an easy start to fixing our image problem and I hope the three of you do so if and when this name change comes to a vote.

Susanne Kwas, 326 Rock Landing Rd, Haddam Neck, CT

I oppose the changing of the name of Injun Hollow Rd in Haddam Neck.

Michael Kwas, 326 Rock Landing Rd, Haddam Neck, CT


I do not support the changing of the name of Injun Hollow Road.

We cannot be so woke today, to think feeling good about something we do today will right wrongs, or conceived wrongs of the past.

I am not interested in my tax dollars going to this unneeded, unwarranted, and unnecessary change.

History is exactly that, we need to acknowledge where we have come from to understand where we are going.

Catherine Holmes

We feel the name Injun Hollow Road should NOT BE CHANGED !!! We live on Rt. 151 behind Haddam Neck fair grounds but grew up spending many fun times with friends in Haddam Neck and consider it our home town 

Summary of August 2023 RSD17 Board of Education Meeting

Superintendent's Report

Convocation was held on August 29th at HK Middle School welcoming back teachers and staff and recognizing teachers of the year and accumulated years of service by RSD17 staff. The Superintendent also visited all schools to greet teachers and students.

Haddam Neck Transportation

The Superintendent provided an update on transportation and the swing bridge for Haddam Neck bussing status. STA completed several test-runs over the summer to find the best solution for the bussing arrangements on the days of the bridge closure. STA will be able to pick up and drop off the students at their normal stops on the Monday am/pm, Tuesday am/pm, and Wednesday am routes where the bridge will be closed. The alternative route will be over the Arrogoni Bridge and up Route 9 with a contingency of going on I-95 if there is an issue with crossing the Arrogoni Bridge. In the event of any route changes, a notification will be sent to parents by the automatic notification system.

Expenditures

Superintendent Wihbey advised on updates to the installation of the boiler at KES, the new kiln with updated electrical was installed at the High School, and the new reach-in refrigerator for the Cougar Cafe is ready for the school year.

ARPA Funds

Food Services reported that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has allocated funds to the state to help families with school meals. RSD 17 will serve students free breakfast for the 2023-24 school year, and students who qualify for reduced or free meals will also receive a free lunch for the school year.

Human Resources

The Superintendent updated the Board that the District is fully staffed with certified teachers for the start of the school year and also reported that the Human Resources department is in the process of moving all annual evaluations to an online platform system.

The Curriculum Coordinators led several projects over the summer, including the launch of the district Curriculum Council and professional development connected with the CT State Dept. of Education.

Master Plan

Tecton has provided the latest update to the Facilities Committee on the Master Plan process and there will be another Community session on September 13th. We are on schedule to have the process done at or near the end of the current calendar year. There is attention being paid to possible impacts on transportation and the analysis of the financial impact on the Board budget and in turn the Towns' budgets.

ON OUR WEBSITE:

The RSD 17 Master Plan Information is available on the website under the District Facilities menu option [RSD 17 Facilities Study and Master Planning Website](#). Email masterplan@rsd17.org with any questions regarding RSD17's Master Plan project.