

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – July 13, 2020 – Unapproved Minutes

Robert McGarry called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm via GoToMeeting.

Kate Anderson and Sean Moriarty were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda: Anderson asked to amend the Agenda adding landscaping and building maintenance on the Agenda. Moriarty made motion to approve agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Anderson made a motion to approve 7/8/20 minutes. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Moriarty made motion to approve 7/9/20 minutes. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Schlag, Melissa: Thank you for adding public comment, but doesn't have a public comment.

Waller, Bob: Thank you for putting up the Welcome to Haddam signs on the Agenda and is requesting replacement of the signs.

Perron, Neal: asked to dedicate the Dublin Bridge to Phil Goff and the entrance to the Transfer Station after Gunnar. He also asked when Public Works would be cutting back on the roads in Haddam Neck. The line of sight in some places is getting bad.

Selectman's Update:

Dublin Hill Bridge is now complete.

Scovil Hoe Building: unchanged, Still waiting on the states approval so our consultant can get in and do the environmental and engineering assessments.

Tylerville Water is in the 90-95 % completion range for hook-ups. There is one problem, with 110 Little Meadow hook-up, we need to get access by going through 109 Little Meadow. We may need to initiate eminent domain procedures to get that done. We are still waiting on paving. The contractor wanted to wait until fall to pave, the state is not in favor of that. We are waiting on prices.

Road work:

Injun Hallow Road is in the process of being done.

Road work will start soon on Christian Hill Road and Lieutenant Schubal Road followed by Dublin Hill sometime this Summer.

Public Works has also done some work installing millings on the unimproved/dirt roads. This is something new we are trying, bringing millings from other roads, the other advantage is once you put millings on a dirt road that road will qualify for next year's Town Aid Road Fund.

Budget: the budget was passed by the BOF. The Mil Rate remained the same. Tax Bills went out on time.

Town Office Building will open full time later this week.

COVID-19: 38 cases in Haddam, 1 fatality. The last 2 cases came about 1 week ago. All residents are encouraged to follow the CDC Guidelines. The Governor has delayed phase 3 for a few weeks.

Presidential Primary, August 11, 2020. As of Friday, we have just enough poll workers. Anyone interested, please contact us.

Farmers Market: it was a Great success. CDC COVID guidelines are being adhered to. It is being held outside at Haddam Elementary School Grounds. If there is bad weather the market will be canceled. We will not move inside due to current conditions. Requesting people park in the “right hand parking lot” (where the basketball courts used to be)

Board of Education: (attached as schedule 1)

Tax Refunds: None at this time.

New Business:

Wetlands Commission: Moriarty made a motion to reappoint Curt Chadwick, Dan Iwanicki, Tom Worthley and Mark Stephens for a 3-year term to the Wetlands Commission. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Commission: Anderson made a motion to reappoint Mardi Hanson and Gail Reynolds to the Conservation Commission for a 3-year term. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Welcome to Haddam signs: The first sign was damaged the end of February beginning of March. it was a hit and run. Our deductible is \$5000 and the sign cost \$4000. We will have to come out of pocket for it.

June 28, 2020 the sign on Route 81 was hit and the driver was charged with a DUI. We will submit that paperwork to CIRMA and they will go through their insurance company.

McGarry suggested the town look for a way to replace the first sign. Both Anderson & Moriarty agreed. It was also suggested we use the new sign shop in town.

Water Pollution Control Authority Ordinance: We have a hearing scheduled for July 27th to discuss this. Because we are looking to establish a community Septic System, on the HES property, we will need to establish a Water Pollution Control Authority to oversee it. A proposal for an Ordinance has been put forward by the Town Planner and reviewed by the Town Attorney. The Board of Selectmen will be appointed as primary board members and two (2) alternates will be appointed from the electors of town.

Town Landscaping: Anderson discussed she was approached at last weeks EDC meeting and the aesthetic of Town own Properties. In general, there are over grown weeds, invasive plants and trash. She heard a lot of complaints about Haddam Meadows and reminds residents that the state owns Haddam Meadows. Painting of the Gazebo. Volunteers would be a great help. Any group can contact the Selectmen's office

Anderson made a motion to adjourn. Approved unanimously. Adjourned 7:10 pm

Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli

Summary of June 2020 Board of Education Meetings

Cougar Pride:

The Board held its annual recognition ceremony via video conference to celebrate the Class of 2020's Top 10 graduates, award the District's Teachers and Staff of the Year, and give recognition to District Retirees for their many years of service. Notable awards went to this year's Valedictorian, Arjun Badami of Higganum and Salutatorian, Zachary Houlton of Higganum. Beth LiPuma, of Central Office, was named District Staff Member of the Year, and Paige Callahan, of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, was named Teacher of the Year. With gratitude we celebrated the retirements of Eileen Mills, Patricia Zeidler, Nancy Chase, Cindy Klein, and Gary Shepherd.

End of the School Year:

Each RSD17 school ended the year in a special way for their students, from a Reverse Parade at KES, to a Ringing Out Ceremony at Burr. HKMS 8th graders had their promotion event with students arriving in their festively decorated cars with teachers and staff cheering as they were driven through to receive their promotion certificate, a gift bag and ice cream. The HKHS Class of 2020 also celebrated their Diploma Day with a heartfelt drive through celebration. With teachers cheering, music and signs for each Senior lining the drive, the Seniors exited their cars dressed in their caps, gowns and HK facemasks, to cross the stage. As their name was announced, Principal Hayward got to speak to each student, award them their diploma and instruct them to turn their tassel. The ceremony was videotaped, professional pictures were taken for each student, and Project Graduation handed out very generous gift bags to each Senior. **The in-person Commencement for the Class of 2020 that had been scheduled for August has been moved up to July 17th, as many colleges have moved their start dates to early August due to Covid-19.**

Next School Year:

Superintendent Hageman has pulled together a team of District Staff, Teachers, Administrators and Board Members for a committee to plan for the reopening of schools in the fall. Initial guidelines from the State were released indicating all students will go back to school this fall. This committee will meet throughout the summer and more details will follow.

Curriculum

The Board agreed to purchase \$7,500 worth of K-12 books from the '19-'20 budget to infuse curricular materials with rich literature from diverse authors with multiple points of view and perspectives, as well as books that teach about empathy, understanding, and the richness of diversity. This injection of texts into classroom libraries is part of a curriculum plan for language arts with the intention to later expand to the social studies curriculum.

RSD 17 Fund Balance:

With many uncertainties facing the district next year due to Covid-19, the Board voted to use '19-'20 fund balance savings due to Covid-19 to pre-purchase items that were approved for the '20-'21 budget. This decision was made with the clear understanding that this \$500,000, which was saved only because of the Covid closure, will be used only for Covid related expenses, such as software needed for distance or hybrid learning or items that can no longer be shared between students. Any unspent funds from this will be returned to the towns in the '20-'21 audited fund balance.

Capital Improvements:

HKHS Field House- The abatement and demolition of the HKHS Gymnasium Floor is progressing on schedule and OWI Construction, LLC was awarded the bid to complete the gym renovation. Contractors for lighting and the Voice Evacuation System were also chosen.

On our Website:

You can watch videos of the Teacher and Student Recognition Ceremony and Class of 2020 Diploma Day on our RSD17.org website under “Community” - “HKTV” - “Click Here to View Channel 18 Live”.