

Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting – October 16, 2020 (Approved minutes)

Robert McGarry called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm Via GoToMeeting

Kate Anderson and Sean Moriarty were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moriarty stated he and his wife went to Schlag's funeral. He and his wife went away for the weekend. While away, he and his wife thought to have a "Melissa Jean Schlag" day. He emailed the board and asked to add it to the agenda on Tuesday.

Moriarty made a motion to proclaim Sunday, October 18th Melissa Schlag day.

WHEREAS MELISSA J. SCHLAG networked with officials at the Hartford Capitol to garner superfunds to remove pollutants from the Higganum Cove so it could be enjoyed as a public park; and

WHEREAS AS ONE OF MELISSA J. SCHLAG greatest local/regional/national contributions was her successful effort working with the Department of Energy and Environment Protection (DEEP) and CT River Conservancy to have Connecticut Yankee remove the floating florescent orange barriers that blocked the 'public trust' entrance to the canal along the Connecticut River; and

WHEREAS MELISSA J. SCHLAG was instrumental in promoting the State purchase of 42 acres of the Kuiaski property in Higganum to be preserved as a State reserve, open to the public as woods and hiking trails; and

WHEREAS MELISSA J. SCHLAG, directed Stop the Swap, a multi-town protest that saved Eagle Land, 17 acres of publicly owned, pristine, Connecticut River land from falling into the hands of private developers; and

WHEREAS even in her illness, Melissa J. Schlag recently spearheaded a work party to restore Spencer's Shad Shack; and

WHEREAS she was a dedicated public servant, environmental advocate and a beloved friend in the Town of Haddam, in the region, and the nation,

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved, that I, Robert McGarry, First Selectman on the Town of Haddam, Connecticut do hereby proclaim, **Sunday, October 18, 2020**, as

Melissa Jean Schlag Day

McGarry stated this is a motion that is for one day, not every year.

Public Comment:

Tanja Moriarty: strong proponent for this being approved. Thank you for your consideration.

Robin Spencer Klimaszewski: also supports having a Melissa Schlag day this Sunday. She was very helpful getting the start of the Shad Shack restored. Never wanted any accolades. Even days when she didn't feel good, she stood by my side and helped me.

Steve Bayley: supports the proclamation.

Gina Block: supports having Sunday as Melissa Jean Schlag day.

Peter Baird: supports having the day for Schlag. Her contributions to Haddam environment and environmental protection and saving the Cove and her advocacy of open government is worthy of a single day proclamation.

Chris Moriarty: supports Melissa J. Schlag day, she was a personal friend.

Cati Ferreri: supports Melissa J. Schlag day she should be recognized.

Joe Rizzo: environmental efforts are incredible. Supports the motion.

Johanna Coburn: is in support of Melissa J. Schlag day and future October 18th set aside and future October 18th's as well.

Ralph Liveri: Supports the motion/proclamation

Katie Packtor: echo what's we are hearing. Honoring Melissa is a great idea. Supports proclamation

Aubrey Bingham: supports proclamation.

Closed public comment.

Open for discussion.

Moriarty: thank you to my fellow selectmen for the support and the opportunity to present it. And thank you for working well together for the past year.

Anderson: thank you for coming out tonight on a Friday night
Thank you, Sean, for the flexibility and understanding. I'm glad you opened the way you did. I thought this item should be an Agenda item that was published and advertised. Open, honest transparency. giving everyone the opportunity to speak. Thank you to everyone who sent us emails as well. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

McGarry commented: When Melissa was First Selectwoman she and Phil Goff fought repeatedly, I know this because I used to hear it from Phil all the time as a Fire Chief. When Phil passed away the stone in the center of the town with the plaque on it, honoring him, Melissa was a strong proponent of that as well as a financial donor. If she can be that magnanimous with her thought toward someone she used to fight with hopefully everyone in the town could feel that way about this proclamation.

Thank you to everyone who came.

Moriarty made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. 6:49 pm Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli