

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – August 14, 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: Moriarty made a motion to approve the Agenda. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: July 10, 2023: Anderson made a motion to approve the July 10, 2023, minutes. No discussion. Moriarty abstained. Motion carried.

August 7, 2023: Moriarty made a motion to approve the August 7, 2023, minutes. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Ed Schwing: Chairman Higganum Cove Advisory Committee: read a letter under the record. Attached as Schedule I

Ralph Petrucci: read a letter under the record. Attached as Schedule I

R. Thurston Clark: Lives on Injun Hallow Road. Echoes what Petrucci read. No need. Don't support it.

Selectman's Update: Attached as Schedule II.

Anderson: Farmers market has picked up on Saturday mornings. There is a 2-week break, but one of the farms will still be there to provide fresh produce on those 2 Saturdays.

Board of Education Update: N/A

Tax Refunds: Anderson made a motion to accept the August 2023 Tax Refunds in the amount of \$1,626.11. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. (Attached as Schedule III)

New Business:

Presentation by Scott Larson re: Firetruck Purchase: Moriarty made a motion to approve the purchase of the three (3) Pierce firetrucks as presented by the Haddam Fire Department. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: Moriarty commented on the letter in the July 10, 2023, Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes, from Schwing, chairman of the Higganum Cove Advisory Committee, regarding the deed restrictions. He agrees with Schwings' suggestion. Anderson and McGarry commented they are also in agreement.

Next Meeting date/place: The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, September 11, 2023, at 6:30 pm** and will be held at the Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam CT 06438.

Adjournment: Anderson made a motion to adjourn. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm. Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli

August 14, 2023 - Board of Selectmen's Meeting - Schedule I

Haddam August 14, 2023.

To: Haddam Board of Selectmen

From: Ed Schwing Chairman Higganum Cove Advisory Committee

Dear Bob, Kate, and Sean,

The second ask is to make the Higganum Cove Committee a permanent committee.
Bob mentioned why not the Park & Rec Commission, so I copied their mission below:

Park & Recreation Commission:

Responsibilities:

A: the Commission shall be responsible for the general management, control and maintenance of all recreation buildings, apparatus and equipment owned by the Town; shall supervise the erection of any recreational building and purchase all recreation apparatus and equipment; and shall make such rules and regulations as it deems necessary governing the use of and care of all recreational buildings, apparatus and equipment owned by the Town.

B. The Commission shall be responsible for the general management, control and maintenance of all property owned by the Town which is devoted to and which will be purchased for recreational purposes, including buildings, apparatus and equipment thereto; and shall make such rules and regulations as it deems necessary governing the use of and care of all properties, buildings, apparatus and equipment owned by the Town.

C. The Commission shall develop and organize recreational programs and provide supervision of same.

D. The Commission shall plan the development of such properties as referred to in Subsection B above so that they will be more useful recreational areas or facilities.

The Commission shall have the power to employ or appoint some suitable person, properly qualified in training and experience, as Recreational Director, and such other personnel as the Commission deems necessary to perform its functions. The compensation of such personnel shall be fixed by the Commission, subject to appropriation.

So, as you can see the focus of the P&R commission is clear: recreational programs. In fact, recreation/recreational is mentioned 9 times, while park only once and in the title but not mentioned under their responsibilities. In fact, two P&R members are board members of the Haddam Killingworth Recreation Authority, which indeed creates recreation programs for residents of both towns.

I think their mission is clearly defined in last paragraph : The Commission shall plan the development of such properties as referred to in Subsection B above so that they will be more useful recreational areas or facilities, meaning ballfields, playground, basketball court, volley ball court, exercise rooms etc..

Why make the Higganum Cove Committee more permanent?

As I mentioned in my letter of July 10, 2023, the Higganum Cove has unique environmental and historical qualities that would really qualify it to be a town monument, like our national parks, but of course to a smaller scale. But monument, nonetheless.

Indeed, with the waterfalls exhibiting exceptional geological features, with its historical building foundations spanning more than 200 years of our town's history, and with its direct environmental connection to the Connecticut River, the Higganum Cove is not just an additional piece of property that could be used for recreational activities. With its unique environmental and historical qualities, the committee feel strongly we should make all efforts to preserve the Cove as a park for the enjoyment and benefit of all Haddam residents, present and future.

Under its current structure, our entire committee is disbanded every 2 years and only reappointed at the pleasure of a new administration. The committee strongly believes that a permanent Cove committee with members appointed by this board, can provide the continuity and special attention needed to accomplish that goal.

Over the last couple years, and we want to thank you for appointing us to this committee, we have made tremendous progress as you witnessed during the walk this last spring. And as you know our landscaping plan received the "Exemplary Site-Specific Master Plan Award" from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association.

However, for the foreseeable future, there is still a lot of work to be done to execute that master plan. There are the falls viewing platform, the excavation of some of the foundations, a pavilion at the bottom and maybe a staging area for small concerts.

Currently we are working to build an overview area that will be ADA accessible. This came about from a brainstorming session the committee had after the master plan was completed.

So, this is always evolving, maybe more grants to be written, organizing private donation drives, budgeting a solid maintenance program, adding descriptive panels, specific park rules and much more.

Another big challenge is that, unlike the other town areas, we have a parking situation and also the fact that the Cove is not only popular with town residents but also popular with out-of-town visitors.

So in our view all this activity is better handled by a permanent committee which has knowledge of the Higganum Cove specific limitations and is dedicated to making this one of the most amazing park this side of the River.

Thank you

Ed Schwing for the Higganum Cove Committee

Proposed commission language (based on park & Rec Commission as model)

Higganum Cove Park Commission

Statutory Authority

A Higganum Cove Park Commission is hereby established in accordance with C.G.S. § 7-148.

Responsibilities

- A. The Commission shall be responsible for the general management, control and maintenance of the Higganum Cove Park and shall make such rules and regulations as it deems necessary governing the use of and care of the park.
- B. The Commission shall supervise the implementation of the Higganum Cove Master Plan with the goal to make the Higganum Cove a town park open to the public and to be used for passive recreational and educational activities while protecting the outstanding natural attributes of the Cove connecting the Higganum Creek to the Connecticut River.

Membership; Terms of Office

- A. The Commission shall consist of seven residents of the Town of Haddam, who shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen of the Town to serve for a term of three years, except as stated in the following subsection.
- B. Said members shall be appointed, three to serve until September 1, 2024; two to serve until September 1, 2025; and two to serve until September 1, 2026; Thereafter and starting in September 2026 and each September thereafter, members shall be appointed to serve a term of three years.

Vacancies

Any vacancy may be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the Board of Selectmen.

Compensation

The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their services as such, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

Annual Budget

The Commission will prepare and submit annually a budget for consideration by the Board of Finance.

Name change:

Ladies and gentlemen of the Board.
(Madam Board Woman and Board Men)

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion with respect to our neighbor's proposal to change the name of Injun Hollow Rd.

My name is Dr. Ralph Petrucci. We have been living on Injun Hollow Rd since 2016.

While this is an effort on the part of our well-meaning neighbor(s) to respect our indigenous Native Americans, I view this petition as short-sighted and gratuitous for the following reasons:

Any proposed street name change will immediately effect and cause a prolonged and severe disruption for current and previous residents with:

- Bank accounts and Financial Institutions
- Mortgages
- Home and auto insurance policies
- Wills & Trusts
- Passports, Visa's and the TSA
- Retirement plans such as Social Security, 401's/403's, and Pension Plans
- Town property records
- Prior Birth and Death Certificates
- And with the Dept. of Motor Vehicles
- (just to name a few)

As an example. Any change with
the CT DMV starts at \$30.
Passports ... \$130.
Wills ... 0 - \$1,000.
Trusts ... \$600. - \$3,500.

This proposal will cause the current residents on Injun Hollow Rd to seek legal counsel and accounting services because a street name change is fraught with many inherent consequences.

The Courts, as a rule, do not effect a change of street name as a matter of course.

Because of the on-going prolonged consequences associated with a change in street name, I oppose such a change.

Surely, there are other less disruptive alternatives to honor our Native Americans who once thrived in Haddam Neck.

Thank you very much.

August 14, 2023 - Board of Selectmen's Meeting - Schedule II

BOS Meeting Selectman's Update 2023-08-14

Projects

- Rossi Property
- Scovil Hoe
- HES
 - We posted an RFP for an architectural firm to do a building condition and utilization study for moving municipal functions into HES. Opened 7/27.
 - 5 firms responded.
 - Costs ranged from \$23.5k to \$75.8k, 3 in the mid-\$40k
 - Scheduling interviews for 8/24
 - Responses to our RFP for multi-generational playground/park design at HES due 8/15
 - We received a \$4.55 million grant award for CT Community Challenges Grant. 26 towns applied, 8 grants were awarded.
- Swing Bridge
 - This will be a tough year for our Tylerville businesses. Please patronize them.
 - Business Interruption Grant Program town hearing/meeting on 8/23
 - The project is on schedule.
- Bridge Road/Haddam Center Sidewalks – Nothing to report
- Tylerville Water
- Private Projects
 - Blueway Commons
 - 105 Bridge Road apartments
- Road work
 - Culvert washout on Old Chester at Dudley Clark – Repair work completed
 - TOB parking lot has been paved and striped.
 - Cedar Lake Road work start 1-2 weeks
 - Chip sealing done on Park Road, Park Road Extension, Island Dock. Started on Church Hill, Bartman to follow.
 - Ruth Hill will have millings put on it.
 - Silver Springs Drive – Fog sealing will require closing road for hours. Will address with residents.
 - Roadside mowing underway.

Personnel

- Trooper Eddie Miller temporarily assigned as our evening resident awaiting formal transfer.
- Over 300 applications received for FD Assistant.

Other

- Higganum Smoke Shop – The owner was arrested on 7/31 for 3 charges – Sale to a minor, risk of injury to a child, reckless endangerment.

August 14, 2023 - Board of Selectmen's Meeting - Schedule III

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Prior/Current</u>
Real Estate (01)			
pytlik, helen	2021-01-2943	\$113.17	prior
Total:		\$113.17	

Personal Property (02)			
thompson agency	2022-02-40430	\$83.66	current
Total:		\$83.66	

Motor Vehicle (03)			
argo, craig	2022-3-50076	\$95.11	current
peplau, nancy	2022-03-57292	\$22.50	current
COX, LYNN	2022-03-52061	\$6.00	current
dragoo eliza	2021-04-80389	\$78.85	prior
wetteman, james	2022-03-59796	\$97.38	current
kowal wsalt	2022-03-54949	\$24.35	current
moriarty, brittany	2022-03-56498	\$69.00	current
oneill, brian	2022-03-57010	\$547.66	current
vault trust - lease	2021-03-59283	\$77.52	prior
morelli, gary	2022-03-56470	\$76.22	current
lee, nellie	2022-03-55306	\$30.02	current
pylik, helen	2022-03-57624	\$63.04	current
argo, craig	2022-03-50076	\$95.11	current
barile michael	2021-03-50459	\$43.00	current
anrg - kelly	2021-03-54702	\$103.52	prior

refund is for fee taken in office,

Total **\$1,429.28**

Motor Vehicle Supplement (04)			
Total:		\$0.00	

Grand Total: **\$1,626.11**