

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – October 13, 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.

McGarry called the meeting to order at

Approval of Agenda: Moriarty made a motion to approve the agenda with an addition, a resolution honoring Schlag for this Sunday, October 18, 2020. McGarry would like to add the appointment of Maurice Adams to the Lower Connecticut River Valley Regional Planning Committee both under New Business: No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

September 14, 2020: Anderson made a motion to approved September 14, 2020 minutes. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

September 23, 2020: Moriarty made a motion to approve the September 23, 2020 minutes. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Sandra Olsen: Commented that she would like to show tribute to Melissa Schlag and what she did for the town. She deserves a day to be honored.

Joe Rizzo: Commented that he supports having a day for Schlag. Her environmental contributions throughout the years has meant a lot to the town. We were lucky to have her on our team, she will be missed.

Kate Wessling: The resolution states her strongest contributions to the town, the environmental work will be enjoyed by people now and in the future and is a great reason to have a commemoration day.

Tanja Moriarty: Respectfully urges the Board of Selectman to promote this Sunday, October 18, 2020 as Melissa J. Schlag day. We will be remembering her environmental and conservation accomplishments around Haddam. Your gesture of naming October 18th, Melissa J. Schlag day will be a great credit to this board. You will be remembered as the Board who led the way in bipartisan goodwill.

Peter Baird: Commented that he is in favor for naming this day, this year Melissa J. Schlag day. Her passion for the environment and the Town. She also recorded many town meetings making it accessible to those who couldn't come to meetings.

Sean Moriarty: commented that what he is proposing in the Resolution only has to do with her conservation work and her dedication to the Town, not anything controversial.

Ralph Livieri: speaking in support of dedicating the day to Melissa. He appreciated her taping of so many of those meetings and the dedication of taping all the various meetings. The dedication that required is astounding to him and would like her to get the credit she is deserved.

Marge DeBold: commented that she's lived here a very long time and loves when good things happen in Haddam. Something that may seem small to most, but is very important to the Town. The Haddam Senior Handbook. She worked with the Committee on Aging to put it together. It was Melissa's interest, skills, and efforts that got the Handbook done. DeBold stated she stands with others in recognizing Melissa who made a real difference in the Town of Haddam.

Robin Spencer: Commented that she agrees to have a day to remember Melissa. She did so much for this town. She had more passion than most for the Town. She helped restore the Shad Shack. Without her we would not have gotten this far.

Susan Costa: Supports naming next Sunday Melissa Schlag day. She loved Haddam, she kept on top of everything. The Shad Shack & Stop the Swamp very important. This soul deserves recognition.

Neal Perron: commented that maybe we can name entrance to Eagle Landing down to the land we can name Schlag way, as she did everything her way and suggested naming the Senior Center after her. She wore this town on her heart and deserves to be remembered in a permanent way.

Tim Teran: stated he agrees with Perrons suggestion. He also stated that no matter what your political affiliation, we all want to make Haddam a better place. Supports memorializing Schlag for a day or in a place.

Erin Moriarty: Support the motion to make Sunday, October 18, 2020 to honor Melissa J. Schlag. Commented that Schlag reminds her that the biggest changes, and most important work happens at the local level. Schlag's dedication should be honored.

Carol-Ann Spencer: I agree for a day to honor Schlag and agrees with tribute Goff and Grenman.

Cheire Bacley: Supports a day for Schlag to honor the dedication and service she had for the Town. In addition to what others said, Bacley commented that Schlag was on the committee for the Senior Tax Code and making sure seniors had tax relief.

Stacey Grimald: commented she is in favor of naming, Sunday, October 18, 2020 as Melissa J. Schlag day. She agrees with Livieri's comment and Tanja Moriarty's comment. I emailed her about recycling and she managed to pull me in and get me to work on a committee.

McGarry: Confirmed that the Senior Center is already named after First Selectman, Anthony Bondi. He also stated that Eagle's Landing is State property.

Selectman's update:

Scovil Hoe: The environmental and structural assessment of Scovil Hoe is being conducted. They did not come across any problems. We were all worried about the pond. The 5 test pits, went down 25 feet. They did not find anything of real concern. They did find rock salt on the property and a hydraulic lift that may have some contaminants. No environmental issues yet.

Tylerville Water: They are paving the roads again. This is the final paving to meet the state requirements. before the project is done. Fire Hydrant relocation in front of the River House, it could be a potential conflict with the sidewalks we're looking at on Bridge Road. The state agreed to pay the relocation fee.

Rossi Property: At the last selectmen's meeting we discussed the Purchase and Sale Agreement. We are looking at a proposal for Tighe and Bond to do the environmental assessment. I also spoke with the Chair of the Board of Finance and discussed financing it.

Road Work: Lt. Shubael Road is still scheduled for this year. Town crew has to raise the catch basins, once that's done the contractor can come in and pave. Old Turnpike Road will also be paved by a contractor.

New Project:

Proposed road-a-bouts at route 154 and route 82 connector to route 9 and onto Bridge Road to replace the intersection there. The State is designing the round-a-bouts. It will include a replacement for the bridge that goes over Clark Creek. The DOT will hold a Public Information session in the spring. Will start in April 2023 and end in November 2024. This will follow the major reconstruction they do on the Swing Bridge.

COVID-19: numbers are still rising in Haddam. 62 cases. Please continue to wear your masks, wash your hands and keep your distance.

Election 2020: Town Clerk's office has received approximately 1,500 requests for Absentee Ballots. Ballots have all gone out and 618 ballots have been received as of today.

Ethic & Social media policies: McGarry is working with the head of the Democratic & Republican town Committee to revise our ethic and Social Media policies. The Town attorney is also involved. We are also discussing holding an annual update for elected and appointed officials.

Moriarty: Thanked Bill Warner for his work on all the projects in Higganum Center. They are moving along nicely.

Farmers market wrapped up last Friday, October 9, 2020. Very successful season. Kristy Benson moved to Haddam in March 2020 and coordinated a very successful Farmers Market as the Market Master. Also want to thank Perm Aithal, Cindy Sola & Doreen Staskelunas were very instrumental as well as high school volunteers. It all went smoothly. It was a great success.

Board of Education update: Attached as Schedule 1

Moriarty asked Favalora about the Board of Ed Budget and the amount of money spent on technology. Flavora explained they took leftover money from last year and put it aside for COVID related items this year. Everything is being monitored. They received two (2) grants, the CARES grant and a state grant.

Tax Refunds:

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Motor Vehicle (03)	
finley, stephen	\$12.20
krashan layth	\$6.08
chambers, scott	\$12.68

hazlett, jeffrey	\$41.19
negrich, john	\$55.80
vynalek construction	\$371.56
talevi enterprise	\$47.69
vault trust	\$591.81
Toyota lease	\$46.93
Toyota lease	\$537.72
Ridgeway, shawna	\$54.03
curtis, marjorie	\$39.23
Horan, Pamela	\$70.29
Helenek, evan	\$60.87
stocking, sharon	\$25.29
emanuelson	\$18.06
vw credit leasing	\$89.27
vw credit leasing	\$86.26
vault trust	\$365.64
english, annemarie	\$45.86
White, Jennifer	\$19.02
vcfs auto lease	\$86.20
mroczka, matthew	\$193.19
barbagallo, gaetana	\$25.76
vw credit leasing	\$132.46
Toyota lease	\$408.29
SPENCER, EVERETT	\$13.77
Nissan	\$188.87

Total **\$3,646.02**

Grand Total: **\$3,646.02**

Moriarty made a motion. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointments:

Board of Finance: Richard Wells Jr. To the Board of Finance to replace Prem Aithal. Anderson made a motion to appoint Wells to the Board of Finance. Brief discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

RiverCog: - Alternate to the RiverCog Regional Planning Committee. This alternate position is vacant. RiverCog reached out and suggested Maurice Adams. Moriarty made the motion to appoint Maurice Adams. There was a brief discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

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Resolution to honor and name October 18, 2020 Melissa J. Schlag day.

Moriarty read the proposed resolution:

Whereas Melissa J. Schlag, served as First Selectman of Haddam 2013 to 2015, and Selectman in 2017 to 2018; and

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 restor 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, do hereby proclaim, **Sunday, October 18, 2020**, as **Melissa Jean Schlag Day**.

There will be a memorial on Sunday and understands that it is short notice and it has not been done in the past. We are not focusing on the controversy.

Moriarty made a motion to endorse issuing of a proclamation for Melissa J. Schlag for October 18th. There was a brief discussion. It was discussed to have a Special Selectmen’s Meeting for Friday, October 16, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Moriarty amended his motion and table his original request for a special meeting on Friday. No further discussion. Motion carries unanimously.

Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
October 13, 2020

Schedule 1
October 13, 2020 - Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Summary of September 2020 Board of Education Meetings

Cougar Pride:

The Board of Education and Superintendent Hageman recognized and thanked Amy Perry and Sharon Timek for coordinating over 50 volunteers to sew nearly 4,700 cloth face masks for the students and staff of HK. Amy began coordinating the effort in June to recruit volunteers and funding for the project and then distributed tote bags of supplies and materials to each of the community mask makers. The group created masks in both fun prints and school colors in various sizes that would fit pre-Kindergarten students through adults.

2020-2021 School Year:

School Reopening Plans: After months of planning, RSD17 was excited to welcome students back into schools for the first time since March 12th. The first four weeks in the hybrid model allowed for new systems and processes, such as distancing, technology, transportation and cleaning, to be smoothed out with minimal impact on students. On September 29th, grades K-8 returned to in-school learning five days a week with the option of remote learning still remaining a choice for families. The High School remains in the hybrid model until the completion of the Field House due to space limitations with social distance protocols in place.

Food Services: RSD17 applied for and was awarded a USDA waiver making school meals free for students until December 31 or until funds run out. Students in K-5 will receive breakfast and lunch for free and Middle and High school students will receive free lunch. This waiver includes children under the age of 18 who attend HK schools, students who are remote learning, and children who are not enrolled in the school system but reside in either Haddam and Killingworth.

Facilities:

HKHS Field House: Renovations at the HKHS Field House were delayed again when structural deficiencies were found in the original concrete subfloor that was poured when the Field House was built over 40 years ago. Expansion joints were added and numerous cracks were filled. Leveling tests identified varying point-to-point measurements to be amended in the surface. Additional spending was approved by the Board for the necessary repairs and reimbursement from the State is expected for these additional steps. The additional work has delayed the completion of the Field House until mid December.

Playground Equipment: The annual inspection of playground equipment noted safety issues with the KES wooden playground and the preschool playground at BES. Both playgrounds have been removed.

COVID-19 Adjustments to Facilities: Required preparations were made to each of the buildings in accordance with rules and standards for building operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional cleaning staff were outsourced, protective plexiglass guards were installed, and signage for distancing and precautionary measures were installed. Tents were set up outside each of the schools to allow for outdoor mask breaks in inclement weather. Excess furniture was removed from the buildings and stored in onsite containers and HVAC systems were adjusted and filters replaced.

Finance:

The Finance Subcommittee has been keeping track of expenses and savings strictly due to COVID-19. To date 2020-2021 COVID related expenses include mid-day bus runs for Kindergarten and first grade students, technology upgrades, instructional supplies, outsourcing custodial staff, and additional PPE. Expenses from July to September are at approximately \$222,000 and COVID relief grant money will offset some expenses.

Website:

You can review communications from the Superintendent, including information on how positive COVID cases would be communicated to the school community and the High School instructional model through December on the RSD17.org website under "School Re-Opening Updates".