

**Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 21, 2022
7:30 PM**

Hybrid- In person and Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89652564798?pwd=NElmdTlLbktYdnpTK0MrUTQzUXIwZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 5256 4798

Passcode: 123133

Present: On Zoom, Board of Selectwoman Julia Pemberton. Present at Town Hall, Selectwoman Peg O'Donnell, Selectman Michael Thompson.

In Town Hall Hearing Room: Jesse Wright, David Pattee.

Other members of the public on Zoom.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes—Regular BOS Mtg. Oct. 17, 2022

Motion to accept the minutes as written. P. O'Donnell. M. Thompson. No discussion. Unanimous.

3. Public comment

None.

4. Executive Session: Pending Litigation

Motion to move into Executive Session. M. Thompson. P. O'Donnell. No discussion. Unanimous.

Back in public session at 7:58 pm.

There was action coming out of Executive Session.

Motion that the Board of Selectman approve the settlement agreement in the amount negotiated by the First Selectwoman after mediation in the matter of Mark Lubus vs. the Town of Redding. M. Thompson. P. O'Donnell. No discussion. Unanimous.

5. Approval of Board of Selectmen meeting calendar FY 2023

Motion to approve the calendar of meetings FY 2023 for the Board of Selectmen. P. O'Donnell. M. Thompson. No discussion. Unanimous.

6. Discussion and possible action: Revisions to the Employee Handbook

The Selectmen expressed an appreciation for all those who worked on the handbook changes—Town Counsel, Krista Gramer, and the Finance Department--for the past several months.

Motion to approve changes made in Employee Handbook. P. O'Donnell. M. Thompson. No discussion. Unanimous.

7. Discussion and possible action: Tree Ordinance & Tree Warden position

There has been a concerted effort to review tree ordinances from all different towns for the past few months. In Redding, there was one circulated in 2000 but was never adopted. The goal is to consider setting standards to taking trees down on public lands. Redding is one of few towns that does not have a comprehensive plan. A draft has been written. The idea is to pass it to Conservation and Planning to review.

Motion to send a letter to both Planning and Conservation Commissions to refer the tree ordinance for their review and consideration. P. O'Donnell. M. Thompson. No discussion. Unanimous.

Discussion of Tree Warden

The last tree warden was Jeff Hanson, former Director of Public Works. Prior to Jeff, the tree warden was Sean McNamara, who was offered a stipend of \$1,500 but did not take it as compensation for his time and expertise. Discussion that the Town might offer \$8,000 as an annual stipend per year, divided by 12 months in paid installments and offer a \$500 stipend for gas or ask for submission of mileage. This breaks down to about \$40 per hour, 200 hours per year, which would include an annual tree survey. The tree warden would work with Jamie Gracy, Director of Public Works. There is a line item in the budget of \$50,000 in the highway budget for tree work now.

This tree warden model resembles what the Town of Bethel does. J. Gracie is taking the tree warden exam from UConn and would be named Deputy Tree Warden once he passes.

We have a tree warden candidate in mind—Charlie Hyatt of Evergreen Arborists. He has a long history in our town and as an arborist. No motion necessary at this time.

8. Discussion: Building Department Staffing

Put on hold until January 2023. The only action taken was to send a note to Shaun telling him what the Selectmen decided.

9. Appointments:

Park and Recreation Commission- Bret Chapin.

M. Thompson noted that he is a valued asset in the town. As superintendent of the Redding Country Club he brings a lot of knowledge about grounds and field maintenance.

Motion to appoint Brett Chapin to the Park and Recreation Commission, serving until June 30, 2023. P. O'Donnell. M. Thompson. No discussion. Unanimous.

Water Pollution Control Commission: David Faulknor & Peter Bonfanti

There was some discussion between the Selectmen and Amy Atamian, Chair of the WPCC noting that both candidates bring expertise to the WPCC. Peter Bonfanti was a chemical engineer at IBM, and he also has some background in IT. David Faulknor specializes in finance and is skilled in budgets. He also has an IT background.

Motion to appoint David Faulknor and Peter Bonfanti to serve on the WPCC until February 28, 2023. P. O'Donnell. M. Thompson. No discussion. Unanimous.

Economic Development Committee: Laura Gibbons

Motion to appoint Laura Gibbons to the Economic Development Committee as a full member. M. Thompson. P. O'Donnell. No discussion. Unanimous.

Historic Cemetery Committee: Louise Wagner

Louise Wagner is a skilled grant writer and brings her knowledge to this committee.

Motion to appoint Louise Wagner to the Historic Cemetery Committee. P. O'Donnell. M. Thompson. No discussion. Unanimous.

10. Administrative

The ARPA Working Group has had to cancel the past few meetings but will convene after the Thanksgiving holiday. There is still over \$1 million left in the budget which will be considered for distribution to the schools, nonprofits, and town.

The Long-Range Capital Plan group met last week and are reviewing the HVAC situations in Town buildings via Facilities.

Redding Housing & Rental Assistance Program has sent out a postcard to all households letting them know that the United Way is managing the \$50,000 that was set aside for this for those in need. The deadline is December 1, 2022.

December Board of Finance Meeting will provide a more detailed discussion of the budget this year.

11. Other business

Revaluation letters have been sent out. It is projected that the Grand List grew by 20%. Those who don't agree with their new assessment can approach the Board of Assessment appeals. The Assessor's office is available to answer questions.

The Gilbert & Bennet Church hosted an event that brought a lot of people to the space to enjoy music and cupcakes. J. Pemberton congratulated Richard Wenning who hosted the event.

12. Adjourn at 8:44 pm.

Submitted by Alice Smith