

**TOWN OF BOLTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018**

		Present	Absent
First Selectman	Sandra Pierog	X	
Deputy First Selectman	Robert Morra	X	
Selectman	Mike Eremita		X
Selectman	Kim Miller	X	
Selectman	Nicole Sullivan	X	
Administrative Officer	Joyce Stille	X	
Others	6 members of the public	X	

1. Call to Order

By: Sandra Pierog

Time: 7:01 p.m.

Place: Town Hall

All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment:

Barbara Amodio, 50 Volpi Road – Stated that she was told the Charter Oak Greenway is expected to be ready in the mid-August to mid-September timeframe. Stille said the DOT has stated November 29, 2018 as the Charter Oak Greenway completion date. Amodio believes that confusion exists over the different greenways and trails. She commented on the “No More Bike Path” signs that are appearing and confusion over the funding of the different trails and if more private land was to be taken for trails. Morra indicated that the Trails Committee also believed there is confusion between the various trail projects. Amodio also discussed the possible conveyance of property off of Notch Road from the Town back to the original owners and the possible improvement of access to the trail. (Rails to Trails) off the end of Notch Road Extension.

Alan Bicknell, 890 Boston Turnpike - was present regarding his interest in serving on the Conservation Commission. He stated his interest per those statements on the submitted Interest Form that was included in the packet.

3. Approval of Minutes:

A. June 5, 2018 Public Hearing

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2018, Public Hearing.

By: Morra

Seconded: Sullivan

Voting:

For: Pierog, Miller, Morra, Sullivan

Against: None

Abstain: None

B. June 5, 2018 Regular Meeting

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2018, Regular Meeting.

By: Morra

Seconded: Sullivan

Voting:

For: Pierog, Miller, Morra, Sullivan

Against: None

Abstain: None

B. June 19, 2018, Special Joint Meeting with the Land Use Boards/Commissions.

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2018, Special Joint Meeting with the Land Use Boards/Commissions.

By: Morra

Seconded: Pierog

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra

Against: None

Abstain: Miller, Sullivan

4. Correspondence:

None

5. Unfinished Business:

None

6. New Business:

A. Charter Oak Greenway Shared Use Path and Path Extension

Morra reported that the Trails Committee had a broad based discussion about the proposed Nathan Hale Greenway path and some of the same concerns were raised that Ms. Amodio reported. It is important that the Board of Selectmen make it clear that a walking path is the only use being proposed. Gwen Marrion feels a public statement from the BOS and/or the Trails Committee clarifying that only a walking path through the property is proposed at this time.

Pierog stated that the Charter Oak Greenway may be confused with the Nathan Hale Greenway. The proposed Nathan Hale Greenway is on the former land the State acquired to extend I-384 to Windham. In 2016, 153 acres along the corridor was given back to the Towns when the state project died. The Towns of Bolton and Coventry applied for a DEEP grant to explore ideas on uses. The grant of \$130,000 was awarded and the towns hired the BSC Group to study the feasibility of some type of a path or trail through the corridor.

The shared use path is intended to be a footpath. This is more sensible given the steepness in some areas and the presence of wetlands. A footpath has more flexibility than a fully developed trail. Marrion offered to draft a public statement that can be sent as an eBulletin and be posted on Facebook and the website and Pierog agreed. Stille said the Trails Committee had agreed to this being sent as part of the information advertising BSC Groups next presentation. Members discussed walking the proposed path once plans are available.

Morra added that a key discussion item was access at the end of the cul-de-sac on Notch Road Ext. The footpath goes straight in from that area. He walked the path from there and scouted out other possible routes, but found nothing else is logical without making major cuts and going onto State property. What currently exists is the most accessible way to get onto the path. Ms. Amodio feels the path intrudes on that person's yard. Morra stated that it is well on Town property; the property owners may have been maintaining the area which is why it looks as part of the yards.

Sylvia Ounpuu, 48 Stonehedge Lane reported that this is a well-used, very established path and asked to improve the access point by taking out the weeds. Morra agreed that the vegetation is thick but if cleared trail usage would keep open. Stille will speak to the Highway Supervisor about possibly cutting back the heavily weeded area.

Pierog addressed Barbara Amodio's question about the kiosk. She reported that the request for installation is in process. This is not expected until the project is complete.

There is a jarring section on the Hop River Trail near Railroad Brook that has been commented on by bike users. It has been eroded to single track use. This is on DEEP property as part of the Rails-to-Trails. Many discussions have taken place between the Town and the DEEP. DEEP will not fix the trail until something is done with the Notch Pond dam. To date the State does not want to take responsibility for the pond and will not accept anything other than a fully engineered dam for which they cannot fund at this time. Marrion suggested that a simple retention device would be better than what is now there. Morra replied that since the beavers were removed from the area there has not been an issue with surging water. Simple solutions have been proposed but the State has not approved them. Pierog indicated that the Town will continue discussions with the DEEP, but she does share some of Morra's hesitancy in dealing with DEEP. Bolton wants to retain the pond while the DEEP is in favor of letting it evolve into a swamp. Stille stated that Town staff had recently reached out to DEEP for possible discussions.

The proposed Bike Walk Bolton (BWB) port-a-potty is on DEEP or DOT property for which their permission would have to be granted to install it there. There is no Town funding for this proposal. Amodio indicated they would get a business sponsor to fund the cost. Morra feels a safer location would be at the edge of the commuter lot. The area is lit, it is State property, and it will help all forms of transportation. DOT's permission would be needed to place it here. DEEP permission would be needed to place a sign on the Rails to Trails indicating the presence of the facility that is off the trail.

The Facilities and Public Safety subcommittee meeting is needed to discuss the Bike Friendly Community issue.

Pierog mentioned that Bill O'Neill is planning a golden spike ceremony in August or September near Highland Park for the East Coast Greenway. The path will still not be open to the public at that time and the greenway will not officially be open at that time. Stille said the Trails Committee plans on having the official opening in the spring of 2019. Once the contractor turns the project over to the State Pierog feels it should remain under their control for a few months to make sure there are not any issues with the greenway. When maintenance is turned over to Bolton any costs are absorbed by the Town.

B. Lower Bolton Lake Status Report

Kim Welch, 51 Vernon Road - the lake clarity is good right now. Curly pond leaf was found around July 4, 2018 and neighbors are keeping a look out for the weed. They are still waiting on the DEEP catfish aging survey data about the ages and spawning of the fish. One resident on Middle Bolton Lake and one on Lower Bolton Lake are providing pontoon tours this week in support of Lakes Awareness Week as proclaimed by the governor.

C. FY18 Budget

Stille reported that the expenditures for the end of June are not available as books are still open. The motor vehicle tax collection is a bit behind at 99.94%. However, overall collections remains higher than projected.

D. FY19 Budget

Stille reported the budget is being implemented and provided an overview of the Town's tax relief programs. Nobody has taken advantage of the new tax deferral program. In talking with other Towns, Stille found this is common due to the property lien. The current tax dollar loss equivalent of those who have sought relief is \$516,775, dairy farm abatements are \$376,250 of that amount. The reimbursement from the State is just under \$5,000.

There are a number of staff reaching retirement age which could have a large budget impact if more than one person retires at once. Stille asked that the selectmen authorize her to transfer funds into the Separation Funds as necessary.

Motion: Move to authorize Joyce Stille to move funds into the Separation Fund.

By: Morra

Seconded: Miller

Voting:

For: Pierog, Miller, Morra, Sullivan

Against: None

Abstain: None

E. Consider and Act on Budget Transfers and/or Appropriation Requests.

Stille reported that a poll vote was taken and approved the top two items. Poll votes then need to be ratified by the Board of Selectmen at the next meeting. These funds were transferred to finish School Road.

Motion: Move to ratify the transfer of funds in the Highway budget: \$12,000 from Fuel to Road Repairs and \$15,000 from Equipment Maintenance to Road Repairs.

By: Morra

Seconded: Sullivan

Voting:

For: Pierog, Miller, Morra, Sullivan

Against: None

Abstain: None

Budget	Amount	From Line Item		To Line Item
Highway	\$12,000.00	Fuel	to	Road Repairs
	\$15,000.00	Equipment Maintenance	to	Road Repairs
	\$1,000.00	Repairs & Maintenance	to	Road Repairs
	\$1,000.00	Diesel Fuel & Gasoline	to	Road Repairs
Administration	\$2,050.00	Regular Payroll	to	Other Payroll
Seniors	\$1,500.00	Other Payroll	to	Vendor Payments
Fire Commission	\$2,500.00	Purchased Services	to	Equipment
	\$400.00	Medical	to	Other Contracts
	\$100.00	Purchased Services	to	Professional Business
	\$200.00	Medical	to	Repairs
	\$100.00	Equipment New	to	Uniforms
	\$200.00	Medical	to	Uniforms
	\$160.00	Repairs & Maintenance	to	Purchased Services
Fire Marshal	\$669.49	Other Payroll	to	Equipment New
Town Building Operations	\$490.00	Professional	to	Uniform
	\$270.00	Overtime	to	Regular Payroll
	\$2.00	Professional	to	Uniform
Bentley Memorial Library	\$830.00	Other Payroll	to	Equipment
Police	\$100.00	Contracts	to	Repairs & Maintenance
	\$2,000.00	Contracts	to	Repairs & Maintenance

F. Discussion on former Route 6 Expressway land between Notch Road and Notch Road Extension

A map and draft resolution were reviewed. This is for the former Route 6 Expressway land taken by the State between Notch Road and Notch Road Extension that may be returned to the property owners. To return these parcels to the property owners, a Special Town Meeting (mid-September) will be necessary to discontinue the right of way and convey the parcels back to the property owners.

Stille reported that a meeting was held with the property owners. Three of the five owners attended and are excited to get their property back. It is difficult to explain, especially if trying to sell the property, that use of the seized portion of the property has been used for years although not in ownership.

7. Ongoing Business:

A. Subcommittee Reports

A Facilities and Public Safety subcommittee meeting was held.

- There was a discussion on signage with the resulting recommendation being to use the 25.5" Welcome to Bolton sign.

Motion: Move to approve the recommended 25.5" Welcome to Bolton sign.

By: Sullivan

Seconded: Miller

Voting:

For: Pierog, Miller, Morra, Sullivan

Against: None

Abstain: None

- Fire Department training area is currently at the back section of the property for training in cutting up cars and extrication drills. This area is difficult to clean up and maintain. The proposal is to use the grassy area and extend the area off the parking lot by building it up with fill and paving the entire area. This would measure 34' x 48'. Other locations were discussed, but this is the preferred option. The necessary work would be done by Town staff. No millings will be used. The fire department is obtaining guardrails and concrete barriers as donations. This matter will also have to go to the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion: Move to approve moving forward with the proposal for the Fire Department training area.

By: Morra

Seconded: Sullivan

Voting:

For: Pierog, Miller, Morra, Sullivan

Against: None

Abstain: None

- Town Garage Addition is proposed as a 50' x 80' 4-bay non-heated structure. LoCIP funds would be used. Pass-through doors will connect the two structures. If there is adequate funding a wash bay will be included in the construction. Stille reported that this matter does not need to be heard by the IWC; it is on the agenda for the next PZC meeting.

Motion: Move to approve moving forward with the proposal of the Town Garage Addition and wash bay if sufficient funding.

By: Sullivan

Seconded: Morra

Voting:

For: Pierog, Miller, Morra, Sullivan

Against: None

Abstain: None

- Bolton Heritage Farm Commission has submitted a proposed Memorial Master Plan for development to include landscaping, garden areas, benches, trees/shrubs/bushes, plaques, and an expansion of the Rose Trail. Although it was hoped the trail would be ready for the running season the work will be started in the fall.

Motion: Move to approve the Bolton Heritage Farm Memorial Master Plan and the expansion of the Rose trail.

By: Sullivan

Seconded: Morra

Voting:

For: Pierog, Miller, Morra, Sullivan

Against: None

Abstain: None

The Human Resources subcommittee held a meeting; minutes from that meeting are included in the packet. Discussion items included additional funding of the Separation Fund and the draft job descriptions of the Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshall. Ongoing discussion will take place.

A copy of the letter to Todd Levine from the Bolton Heritage Farm Commission was included in the packet as an FYI. It has been learned that Mr. Levine is no longer responsible for this matter and contact information for the new person was provided. Additional information will be forthcoming.

C. Revenue Sources

The last Town Aid Road check from the State has been received totaling a little more than \$100,000.

8. First Selectman's Report:

A. Economic Development Incentives

Stille, Carson, and Pierog went to the CRCOG meeting in West Hartford. They toured a property on New Park Avenue that a private investor built. The first floor contains a meeting space, community room, a gym, and the administrative offices. The floors above contain one and two bedroom apartments with two full baths. Some of these are under rent assisted living. The building is adjacent to the high-speed rail and on a bus line. This older building has been renovated to be extremely useful.

At the Land Use Board meeting, the EDC was asking that economic incentives be used to entice businesses to move to Bolton. This will need to be discussed at the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee first.

B. Other

None

9. Administrative Officer's Report:

A. CRCOG

1. Crumbling Foundations

Organizational items are being worked through for monies through the State. The goal is to fund some repairs by the end of the summer. Thresholds will be established. Bolton has had adjustments for eleven houses with assessments totaling \$1.2 million, equating to \$47,000 in taxes. There is the potential for a refund if the work has already been done, although these will likely be low on the totem pole.

2. Recognition

Received from CRCOG as Bolton being one of the many towns for regional cooperation for Tolland County regional dispatch.

3. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

The draft plan from CRCOG continues to be reviewed before being finalized. This will come to the Board of Selectmen when finalized.

B. Nathan Hale Greenway

This was spoken about under agenda item 6A.

C. Statewide Emergency Drill

Bolton participated on June 20, 2019, under the scenario of a tropical storm. The drill took place from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. New Town Staff were involved, which was valuable training.

Stille mentioned that a couple of residents have asked about the possibility of a blight ordinance. The Selectmen have looked at this issue three times prior, but have never moved forward. Without an ordinance, the Town is limited to what it can do. By consensus, it was agreed that the Finance and Administration Subcommittee will consider a blight ordinance.

10. Appointments:

The proposed appointments list was reviewed. Two Boards have individuals who have decided not to continue to serve. The alternate members will be asked if they want to move to full member status before backfilling starts.

Motion: Move to approve the list of Appointments as presented below:

By: Morra

Seconded: Miller

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS (Full Member)

John J. Morianos Jr. (D)

9 Cook Dr.

5 years – 7/1/23

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Full Members)

Brenda V. Cataldo (D)

16 Brookfield Rd.

3 years – 7/1/21

Rodney E. Parlee (U)

76 Brookfield Rd.

3 years – 7/1/21

INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION (Full Member)

James Loersch (U)

83 Brookfield Rd.

3 years – 7/1/21

OTHERS:

Municipal Agent for the Elderly: Carrie Concatelli, Director of Senior and Social Services, 2 years -- 7/1/20

Animal Control Officer: Craig Segar, 1 year – 7/1/19

Assistant Animal Control Officer: Jerold Casida, 1 year – 7/1/19

Assessor: Helen Totz, 2 years – 7/1/20

Voting:

For: Pierog, Miller, Morra, Sullivan

Against: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Move to appoint Alan Bicknell to the Conservation Commission. Term to 7/1/2020.

By: Morra

Seconded: Miller

Voting:

For: Pierog, Miller, Morra, Sullivan

Against: None

Abstain: None

11. Adjournment:

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

By: Morra

Seconded: Miller

Voting:

For: Pierog, Miller, Morra, Sullivan,
Against: None
Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne B. Filip

Yvonne B. Filip, Board of Selectmen Recording Secretary

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto.