

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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Lynne A. Vanderslice
First Selectwoman

Joshua S. Cole
Second Selectman

Kimberley Healy
Selectwoman

Basam Nabulsi
Selectman

Ross H. Tartell
Selectman

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Tuesday March 21, 2023
Comstock Room 31 & via Zoom

PRESENT: First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Joshua Cole, Kimberley Healy, Basam Nabulsi, Ross Tartell

GUESTS: Scott Lawrence, Jason Partenza, Nick Gemelli and Lyndsay Sheehy representing WARF, DPW Director/Town Engineer-Frank Smeriglio, Director Environmental-Mike Conklin, Town Administrator Matt Knickerbocker, CFO Dawn Norton

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 8:24pm.

B. Public Comment

The following members of the public commented on the proposed Turf Field at Allens Meadow:

- Jamie Van Acker of Portland Ave
- Theodora Pinou of Hulda Hill Rd
- Shawn Gregory of Glen Ridge
- Cathy Smith of Pipers Hill Rd
- Tina Duncan of Ridgefield Rd
- Sara Curtis of Cannon Rd
- Mandi Schmauch of Windy Ridge Place

C. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Ms. Healy seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda with the March 6, 2023 minutes amended as noted to show approval of Consent agenda as 5-0 not 4-0. Motion to withdraw the motion moved by Ms. Vanderslice, seconded by Ms. Healy noting that the 4-0 motion is correct, and carried 5-0. Motion made by Ms. Healy seconded by Mr. Nabulsi and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Minutes
 - Board of Selectmen Meeting – March 6, 2023
- Gift
 - Phil & Anne Stevens – Fire Dept Gift Fund - \$5,000

Ms. Vanderslice thanked the Stevens for their generous gift to the Fire Dept.

D. Discussion and/or Action

1. Possible Bonding Proposal – Turf Field on Leased Land at Allen’s Meadow

- Overview

Ms. Vanderslice gave an overview on the proposed bonding for a Turf Field at Allen’s Meadow. She noted the proposal did not include a proposed seasonal bubble. Information on the 11-year history to obtain approval for an additional turf field is available on the town website. Information also included in the attached memo. She also noted attorney Nick Bamonte will attend the April 3, 2023 BOS meeting to discuss the lease and address concerns expressed by residents. Bonding referral must be made by April 10, 2023.

- Watershed Mapping and Testing – Frank Smeriglio and Mike Conklin

Mr. Smeriglio and Mr. Conklin reviewed the Watershed Mapping and Testing for PFAS. Mr. Conklin noted that the town retained an environmental consulting firm to conduct surface water tests at locations in the watershed basin areas around Wilton’s existing turf fields. Mr. Smeriglio provided additional input.

- Status – Landtech Design and Cost Estimates – Frank Smeriglio

Mr. Smeriglio updated the board on the status of the Landtech Design and the Cost Estimates for the Turf Field. He noted the preliminary planning includes geotechnical tests to help pinpoint a location for the field and noted rough costs and schematic drawings will be obtained.

- WARF Financial Contribution Commitment – WARF Leadership

WARF representatives Scott Lawrence, Jason Partenza Nick Gemelli and Lindsay Sheehy presented the need for the turf field and the possible bubble and WARF’s \$500,000 commitment towards the construction of the turf field, noting \$200,000 had already been pledged toward that goal.

Discussion amongst the board on bonding proposal.

2. Approval of Contract with Hardesty & Hanover Construction Services LLC for Construction Inspection Services for Lovers Lane Bridge Reconstruction – Frank Smeriglio

Mr. Smeriglio reviewed the contracts with Hardesty & Hanover for Construction Services for Lovers Lane Bridge Reconstruction and Arrowhead Bridge Reconstruction.

3. Approval of Contract with Hardesty & Hanover Construction Services LLC for Construction Inspection Services for Arrowhead Bridge Reconstruction – Frank Smeriglio
Reviewed along with Item #2 above.

After review and discussion with the board on the contracts with Hardesty & Hanover Construction Services LLC. Motion to authorize the First Selectwoman to execute a contract with Hardesty & Hanover Construction Services for the Lovers Lane Bridge Reconstruction and one for the Arrowhead Bridge Reconstruction moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.

4. Update – Verizon Submitted Application for the Cell Tower at the Bus Barn

Mr. Vanderslice updated the board on the submittal.

5. Appointment of Manager of Assessing & Tax Collection

Mr. Knickerbocker presented the request for appointment of Tax Collector Hollie Rapp as the Manager of Assessing and Tax Collection. After presentation of her

qualifications, discussion and review, motion moved by Ms. Healy to appoint Hollie Rapp as the Manager of Assessing & Tax Collection. Motion seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

6. Inquiry Regarding Consideration of Draft Language Changes to Alcohol Ordinance to Allow Beer Manufacturing

Ms. Vanderslice noted she and Michael Wrinn had met with business owners interested in low volume craft beer manufacturing in Wilton. Discussion amongst the board with encouragement to continue discussions with the business owners. Also willing to consider manufacturing of hard cider.

F. Selectmen's Reports

1. First Selectwoman

- Ms. Vanderslice reminded all of the Townwide Clean Up Event to take place on April 1st, 9:00am to 12:00pm

2. Selectmen/Selectwomen

Mr. Cole

None.

Ms. Healy

None.

Mr. Tartell

None.

Mr. Nabulsi

None.

G. Public Comment

Additional public comments on the turf field:

- Jamie Van Acker
- Barbara Massey Bear of Indian Hill Rd
- Theodora Pinou

H. Adjournment

Having no further business, motion to adjourn moved by Ms. Healy at 10:29pm, seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.

Jacqueline Rochester

Recording Secretary

Taken from Video

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Lynne Vanderslice

Date: March 17, 2023

Re: March 21st Meeting Agenda Items

The following is information for agenda items in advance of Tuesday's meeting.

Possible Proposed Bonding of Turf Field on Leased Land at Allen's Meadow. As discussed at our last meeting there are open items to be discussed before making a decision on April 3rd as to a bonding proposal for a turf field at Allen's Meadow.

- Lease with CT DOT-Attorney Nick Bamonte will attend the April 3rd meeting to present the final terms of the lease.
- Estimated cost and possible funding sources
 - Frank Smeriglio will provide an update on Landtech's work. Final report due date is April 10th.
 - Scott Lawrence from WARF will be at our meeting to share WARF's financial commitment for a contribution to the cost of the proposed turf field.
 - BOS to decide amount of bonding request on April 3rd. Deadline to decide is April 10th.
- Questions from residents
 - Testing data shared by the Norwalk River Watershed Association
 - Mike Conklin will be at our meeting to discuss current surface water testing for PFAS by Thunderbird Environmental LLC. The packet contains a document with their scope of work.
 - Frank Smeriglio will discuss the watershed maps for the area of the testing.
 - Testing results to be available at the end of the month and will be presented and discussed at our April 3rd meeting.
 - Drinking water standards and PFAS
 - The Town of Wilton does not provide public drinking water. Public drinking water is provided by Aquarion and Norwalk's 2nd Taxing District
 - More than 30 years ago, Aquarion dug a well on Cannon Road, abutting 15 Cannon Road, which remains closed.
 - In 2018, Aquarion filed an application with CT DEEP to pump 1+ million gallons from the well. The Town engaged a consultant to analyze. Based on the analysis, the Town opposed the application. Following a CT DEEP public hearing, Aquarion withdrew their application. The well remains closed. Read reporting at the time [here](#) , [here](#) , [here](#) , [here](#) , and [here](#).
 - Beginning in 2013, the EPA has "required providers of public drinking water serving more than 10,000 individuals to test for [6 PFAS](#)." (source CT DPH). The EPA has provided recommendations, not regulations.

- Beginning in 2016, the State of CT adopted “[CT public drinking water actions levels](#)” for 4 PFAS. In 2019, a CT Task Force led by DEEP and DPH released an [Action Plan](#). CT provides recommendations, not regulations. Aquarion’s testing results are easily available on their [website](#).
- This past Tuesday, March 14th, the EPA [issued](#) a proposal to “create a national drinking standard” and regulate 6 PFAS. If adopted, Aquarion and the 2nd Taxing District would presumably be required to meet those standards and, if necessary, install treatment systems. The federal government is already providing funding for treatment systems. CT received \$19 million last month.
- Potential future liabilities
 - Attorney Nick Bamonte will address at our April 3rd meeting

Update -Verizon Submitted Application for the Cell Tower at the Bus Barn. Verizon submitted their application, which should be available on the CT Siting Council [website](#) tonight or Monday.

Inquiry Regarding Consideration of Draft Language Changes to Alcohol Ordinance to Allow Beer Manufacturing. Michael Wrinn and I met with individuals interested in brewing a craft beer in town. They are not seeking on-premise consumption, but would provide samples, as defined and allowed under the CT manufacturing permit.

Such a business would require a change to the Town’s alcohol ordinance and the zoning regulations. Following discussions with the interested parties, both Michael Wrinn and I were of the opinion this could be done in Wilton on a small scale that would be acceptable to residents. The purpose of this item is to obtain a sense of the Board thinking relative to an ordinance change. There may also be interest in a cidery. This two would require a change to the alcohol ordinance and the zoning regulation. The Town’s current alcohol ordinance is [here](#). The state permit for a license to manufacture beer is [here](#) and cider [here](#). The town ordinance can be more restrictive than the permit.