

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 2, 2024

President Letterie calls meeting to order at 6:30 PM

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Costigan, Councilor Munson, Councilor Aiello, Councilor Swope, Vice President Belcher, President Letterie

Absent: Councilor DeMarco, Councilor DaRos

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Munson

MINUTES

Motion by Vice President Belcher to Approve the June 18, 2024, as circulated.

2nd by Councilor Tassinari

Discussion

Councilor Swope questioned the vote from the Tree Committee noted in minutes, this was reviewed and corrected.

Motion Passed

GENERAL INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Swearing in Lt. Rogers as Town of Winthrop's Deputy Chief of Police

Officer Rogers is sworn in by Town Clerk as the Town of Winthrop's Deputy Chief of Police

Kim Dimes-Discussion-Climate

Chair of the Conservation Commission introduces Chris Mancini Executer Director from Save the Harbor to speak on Climate Control and report that a Workshop will be held next Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at the Lyceum Room in reference to the Metropolitan Beaches. Would like any and all to join in....

PUBLIC HEARING

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Carol Facella asks Town Council to consider a No vote on MBTA 3A Zoning

Gus Martucci-Discusses an incident at the June 18th meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Intergovernmental Strategies-

Vice President discusses the meeting. MWRA Mitigation contract was more detailed and discussed. At the next meeting, the Massport Mitigation contract will be discussed in detail.

Council President request the agenda be out of order to discuss the Tree Removal on Grovers Ave

Motion by Councilor Munson to take the agenda out of order.

2nd by Vice President Belcher

Motion Passed

Discussion

Tree Warden Paul O'Donnel reiterates the condition of this tree is not in good health and should be removed.

Nathan O’Leary, owner of the home has provided the Town Council with a separate arborist’s report that also confirms this tree is in poor health.

Questions from the Town Council to Mr. O’Leary in reference to this tree being removed are asked and answered by Mr. O’Leary.

Councilor Swope questions about an easement on his property of a driveway. Mr. O’Leary explains this is not a driveway as it is just an easement to their backyard which has been fenced in and if fence was removed, there are trees that block entrance to any parking in the back yard.

Councilor Swope questions the denial letter that Mr. O’Leary received from the Inspectional Service Department. Mr. O’Leary explains that this denial was due to the building of a deck, and he did not meet the sq. footage.

Council President will now take a motion and vote for the removal of the tree. A yes vote will remove trees, a No vote will not permit removal.

Mr. O’Leary has confirmed that he will pay for the removal of this tree and will purchase 4 more trees for the greenery of the neighborhood and environment. He will put one in front of his home, his neighbors and the other two are the discretion of the town.

Councilor Tassinari wants it to be noted that you cannot buy a tree to removal a healthy tree, that is not permitted.

Councilor Aiello also points out to Mr. O’Leary that whoever is advising him is incorrect as for saying you can pay to have a healthy tree removed and pay for others to replace it. Mr. O’Leary points out that this is not the advice he was given, he asked for advice when the other tree fell what the procedures were to try and replace it.

Council President asks the Town Council if they would like to do (2) motions:

- (1) The Removal of the tree
- (2) Accept a donation from Mr. O’Leary for removal of this tree and the cost to buy 4 more trees.

Motion by the Council President that the Town Council approve the recommendation from the Tree Warden to remove the tree in front of 170 Grovers Ave.

2nd Vice President Belcher

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes: Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Costigan, Councilor Munson, Councilor Aiello,
Vice President Belcher, President Letterie

No: Councilor Swope

Absent: Councilor DeMarco, Councilor DaRos

Motion Passes

Motion by Town Council President that the Town of Winthrop accept a donation from the O’Leary’s which would include the purchase and planting of (4) new trees, one of which will be in front of 170 Grovers Ave. another in front of 185 Grovers Ave. and the remaining two would be at the towns discretion. The Town will also accept a donation from O’Leary’s of the cost to remove the current tree in front of 170 Grovers Ave.

2nd Vice President Belcher

Discussion

Councilor Costigan discusses the caring of the 4 new trees...who will be responsible for the condition and what happens if all 4 dies?

Councilor Tassinari had discussed this with Director Calla and the DPW will take care of these trees for 3 years.

Councilor Swope wants to make sure they are replaced if within 3 years one of these trees dies.

Council President agrees with the two trees on Grovers Ave but disagrees the owner should be responsible for where the town puts the other trees.

Vice President Belcher states she believes some of this information is out of the scope of the Town council and we should tread lightly.

Councilor Aiello states that the water bags are sometimes not filled and wants to make sure these bags are filled, can this be guaranteed?

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yes: Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Costigan, Councilor Munson, Councilor Aiello, Councilor Swope
Vice President Belcher, President Letterie

Absent: Councilor DeMarco, Councilor DaRos

Motion Passes

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager Marino updates the Town Council that he will be presenting the Water Rates at the July 16th meeting.

Floodplain Ordinance has been submitted to the State and accepted.

Police Chief Goodwin swearing in on July 16th

Yirrel Beach had some clean up done on it and he thanks the public that did it on their own.

Investigating Basketball courts as potential sight for the new Fire Station

Next 3A Meeting is on July 16th.

He has met with a company reviewing the cost of zoom for the Sr. Center, will keep all updated.

Trash will be delayed one day due to July 4th.

One extra barrel after the 4th of July holiday

Council President discusses MBTA 3A and good information we have received from our citizens and asks Town Manager if he has looked into this.

The Town Manager reports that he has reviewed 40B compliance.

The Sumner tunnel is closed from July 5th to August 5th, Ferry is \$2.40

Horrible Parade is 9am on July 4th.

Councilor Swope discusses trees being "girdled" and asks about other trees and what can be done...

She took pictures of (3) other trees that were cut down due to being hollow. She disagrees that a tree should be cut down due to being hollow. She reviewed Pathfinder and believed too many trees have been cut down for an exorbitant of costs. She asks if the trees we are planting are making up for the trees that are being removed?

Town Manager reports that there have been trees planted .

Councilor Swope questions the arborist of Pathfinder. She requests a report on what trees have been cut down in this town.

Councilor Munson asks the number of trees

Town Manager reports approx.. 80 right now

Councilor Munson asks about the letter Carol Facella's letter on 3A and asks if whether the condo docs supersede 3A or do they defer to 3A?

Councilor Aiello feels the tree law is very clear and reflects that he also believes the (3) trees that were just removed has violated state law. He believes that Pathfinder using their arborist is conflict of interest . He would like to go back at least 18 mos. and see what documentation on these trees being cut down there is.

Vice President thanks the DPW and Town Manager for the flashing Stop Sign at Delby's corner.

Councilor Swope encourages all to read Carol Facella letter on 3A

COMMISSION OF DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

No Meeting

UPDATE POLICY MAKING COMMITTEES

None

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Committee – Tree Removal-170 Grovers Ave.-Discussed

Short Term Rental Discussion continued until July 16, 2024 Town Council Meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by the Town Council President to refer to the Finance Committee that the Town Council transfer \$80,000 from Cap. Stabilization / Stormwater Engineering Phase II

Appointments and Re-Appointments

Motion by Council President Letterie to re-appoint Chris Aiello to the Tree Committee

Motion Passes – Councilor Aiello Abstains

Motion by Council President Letterie that the Town Council accept the appointments made by Town Council President of :

BOARD OF REGISTRAR'S

James Gallagher

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Denise Quist (1 Yr.)

Kathleen Kane

Jonathan Rodis

COUNCIL ON AGING

Heather Martin

Mary Vitale

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Linda Rainville

Mariann Salza

Goldie Boncore

Guy Hillman

PARKS COMMITTEE

Nicole Vatcher

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Debbie Chavis

MOTION PASSES

Motion to accept the appointments made by Town Council President of

Jeanne Maggio and Mary L Cooney to the Board of Health for a term of 3 years

Motion Passed

Motion by Vice President Belcher to accept the appointments made by Town Council President of Dawn Letterie to the Scholarship Committee

2nd by Councilor Aiello

Motion Passed- Council President Abstains

Town Council Decorum-

Council President refers to the decorum of the Town Councilor and the decorum of the public during the Town Council Meetings....

Councilor Aiello refers to our last meeting and a number of contentious issues. He would like to make a public apology to resident Jack Dowd (Mr. Dowd does not accept) but Councilor Aiello would still like to make this as he states he violated his own value system. His responsibility is to listen to the public. He violated this and he is very apologetic that he did this. He crossed a line and he is extremely sorry.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marci Hamilton P2-Thanks all for the help with Tileston Road flooding.
She went on the Ferry and encourages all to do the same.
Thanks all for what is done on the Town Council.

Town Council President wants to publicly thank the DPW for their hard work on all town flooding

Karin Chavis P2- Comments she attended Sen. Edwards coffee hour and mentions a tour that was done with Sec. Agustus. Last meeting the Town Manager states a questionnaire would be put out on site of Fire Station?

Council President reiterates there will be a question going out to the residents on this subject.

Council President discusses the tour that was done and did get clarification that we do have a credit of 220 units which brings our numbers from 882 to approx.. 600 units.

Bill Schmidt P5-Thanks Councilor Swope and Councilor Aiello for information about the trees.
Glad to hear that the Basketball court be considered for the new Fire Station
Requests when information is sent on the Fire Station include all costs information.

Council President thanks Mr. Schmidt and Jeannie Holgersen for their commitment to the Board of Health for the last several years.

Jack Dowd P2 – Request a copy of the correspondence from Gus Martucci in reference to the incident that happened at the June 18th Meeting.

He refers to the seawall in Revere and what it would cost to fix.

He would like to clarify that he does not want his comments answered or allow an answer. Put it on the next agenda if there is a question.

Peter Gill P3-Would like the Town Council to consider the location of Expert Auto for the new Fire Station

PUBLIC RELATIONS / UPCOMING EVENTS

7-16-24 Winthrop Planning Board Meetings/MBTA 3A Zoning with RKG Associates, Sr. Center 6:00PM

Winthrop Farmers Market Dates: June through October- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month Ingleside Park 9AM – 1PM

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Vice President Belcher at 8:00 pm

2nd by Councilor Aiello

Passed Unanimously

Public Documents used in the meeting are available at Town Managers Office.

Documents Used in this Meeting: Handwritten Notes / Committee Openings Documents Roll Call Log

Written Motions / Verbal Motion

Respectfully submitted.

Denise Quist

Town Clerk

Council Clerk
