

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 24, 2023
Preston Town Hall - Lower Level**

Call to Order - Sandra Allyn-Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

1. Roll Call

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier

Jerry Grabarek

Ken Zachem

Also Present

Kimberly Lang - Recording Secretary

Members of the Public - 1

2. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. May 10, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Ken Zachem motioned to approve May 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Correspondence

a. Letter: from FEMA regarding Preston's Flood Maps stating that the Town can use their preliminary Flood Maps due to no significant changes. This information was shared with Town Planner Kathy Warzecha.

b. Letter: from Reliance Health in Norwich stating they have established a Recovery Coach Collaboration with Norwich and sharing what services they offer.

4. Reports - None

5. Appointments and/or Resignations

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier stated that at the last meeting of the Board of Assessment Appeals they nominated and approved recommending that Mary Gardner to fill the vacancy on their Board. She has been an Assessor since 2011, and will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to their Board.

Ken Zachem motioned to approve the appointment of Mary Gardner to fill the current vacancy on the Board of Assessment Appeals with a term ending November 21, 2023. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. New Business

a. Budget Update

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared a draft of the Notice of Special Town Meeting to be held Wednesday, June 7, 2023 and a Referendum, Thursday June 15, 2023. She pointed out the highlighted sections would be filled in with new information depending on the outcome of the May 25th Referendum.

b. Grant Update

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that the *Summer Enrichment Grant* was approved and will provide a variety of activities and services to the upcoming summer program. She thanked Amy Brosnan, Parks & Recreation Commission, and Youth Services Bureau for their joint efforts to secure this grant which will add \$178,000 over the next two years to their summer programming to provide activities and experiences for the children of Preston.

The Connectivity Grant is due July 30, 2023 which the Town may be applying for with SCCOG on a regional basis.

The next grant is a Community Investment Fund which would be for Phase III on the *Poquetanuck Cove & Village Heritage Trail*.

She reviewed the *Poquetanuck Cove & Village Heritage Trail* project. Stating that Phase I, which covers from Sly Fox Den to the Community Park and the Tri-Town Trail, includes traffic calming methods such as flashing lights, crosswalks, sidewalks, and decorative period lighting in a hope to slow traffic through the area. The \$3,000,000 construction cost will be paid for with a LOTCIP grant. The engineering costs for Phase I are covered with a CIF grant. Phase II of the project will make needed improvements and further connect the area by expanding from the Community Park to the Housing Authority creating a kayak launch on Hallville Pond and making improvements to create public parking and another kayak launch area on the cove. This Phase of the project is being funded by a *Recreational Trail Grant*. Phase III of the project will connect the area from Sly Fox Den to the Riverwalk site.

The emphasis of this project is safety for pedestrians, recreational opportunities, and to encourage economic growth while preserving this historic district of the Town. She then shared that they are presently reaching out to both state and federal legislators and various organizations in the area for letters of support for this project to obtain yet another CIF grant to help cover the cost of Phase III. They are looking for letters of support to be turned in by June 8th so that all the components of the application can be compiled and submitted together.

David Masalin, 137 Route 2A, stated that it's encouraging that there will be a sidewalk and he feels with public parking in the park and at the beginning of the village that will give people the opportunity to see something they like, park, and then walk to it using the sidewalks so that will encourage businesses.

c. Covid Update and Meeting Locations

With the May 11th COVID restrictions finally lifted, it was shared that it is hoped that by mid-June to return to normal meeting locations. The meeting times and dates need to be verified to confirm that there are no conflicts with scheduling. Since the pandemic some boards, committees, and commissions have changed their meeting times and/or days. Once any conflicts are resolved then meetings at the Town Hall will resume.

d. Draft Municipal Facilities, Building Needs & Assessment Advisory Group

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared the draft for establishing the Advisory Group whose purpose will be to evaluate all the town properties and to prioritize the needs of each property and determine if the property in question should be upgraded, added to, built new, repurposed, or sold. The Advisory Group will be made up of 7 members - one representative from the Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, Board of Finance, Planning and Zoning Commission, and 3 members of the public. They will have 2 year terms and will continue until the charge is completed or until such time the Advisory Group is discharged.

7. Old Business - None

8. Tax Refund

- a. Rob Hiatt - 2013-02-0040267 - \$210.89
- b. Edward W & Lori J Hnatiuk - 2016-01-0000926 - \$36.00
- c. Edward W & Lori J Hnatiuk - 2017-01-0000926 - \$39.06
- d. Edward W & Lori J Hnatiuk - 2018-01-0000926 - \$39.66
- e. Edward W & Lori J Hnatiuk - 2019-01-0000946 - \$40.36
- f. Edward W & Lori J Hnatiuk - 2020-01-0000945 - \$40.42
- g. Edward W & Lori J Hnatiuk - 2021-01-0000947 - \$41.82

Ken Zachem motioned to approve a tax refund to:

- 1. Rob Hiatt - 2013-02-0040267 - \$210.89***
- 2. Edward W & Lori J Hnatiuk - 2016-01-0000926 - \$36.00***
- 3. Edward W & Lori J Hnatiuk - 2017-01-0000926 - \$39.06***
- 4. Edward W & Lori J Hnatiuk - 2018-01-0000926 - \$39.66***
- 5. Edward W & Lori J Hnatiuk - 2019-01-0000946 - \$40.36***

6. *Edward W & Lori J Hnatiuk - 2020-01-0000945 - \$40.42*

7. *Edward W & Lori J Hnatiuk - 2021-01-0000947 - \$41.82*

Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

9. Public Comment and Questions

David Masalin, 137 Route 2A, stated that he would be interested in helping with the Advisory Group that was described. He stated that he is a projects manager for the Navy and although he's not an engineer, he does have experience in managing large projects to completion.

10. Adjournment

Ken Zachem motioned to adjourn at 6:45 P.M.. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Recording Secretary

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PRESTON, CT.

2023 MAY 26 A 8:47

Julie Keith
PRESTON TOWN CLERK