

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, November 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Killingworth Town Hall/Remote Access Available**

BOS Members in Attendance: First Selectman Eric Couture, Selectmen Joel D'Angelo and Eric Nunes

BOS Members Absent: None.

Visitors: John Schroeder, Elizabeth Disbrow, Bill Tobelman, Linda Dudek, Ken Wodatch, Richard Pleines, Eileen Unger Pleines (Via Remote), and Jamie Sciascia (Via Remote)

Called to Order: First Selectman Couture called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: None.

Motion #1 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to move up on the Agenda New Business: A. Chestnut Hill Driveway and B. Killingworth Historical Society, 1. Cemetery Signage and 2. 250th Anniversary of Declaration of Independence

New Business:

A. Chestnut Hill Driveway

John Schroeder, the Architect working to help design the home of property owner, Heidi Campbell, located at 40 Chestnut Hill, came to the Board tonight in order to seek approval on the following three items:

- 1) There are four trees on Town property but only two have been identified for removal and/or dying which has been confirmed by the Town Tree Warden, Robert Bruce Fagan. Mr. Schroeder explained that the other trees conflict with an existing driveway opening in the stone wall which runs along the front of the property line and also doesn't give adequate clearance for the Town required driveway width. Presently, there are two existing driveway openings which could allow for a circular driveway ultimately allowing access to the front door of the house so the removal of this second tree would be required. Also, the stone wall would need to be rebuilt to some capacity since it abuts the tree;
- 2) There is a utility pole on the opposite side of the road from the property and Ms. Campbell would like to bring the utilities underground from the pole to the property line and then underground to the house;

- 3) Ms. Shroeder is putting in a gravel driveway and would like to make a cobblestone apron versus the requirement of using asphalt at the end which she believes would ultimately enhance the character of this scenic rural road and would also provide both a functional and aesthetic purpose.

The Board raised questions about the underground utilities, the removal of trees and the responsibility of cost, and possible restrictions of two driveways given this is a scenic rural road.

After discussion, the Board agreed to hold a Special Meeting in order to clarify some outstanding questions. Selectman D'Angelo suggested holding the Special Meeting relatively soon in order to not delay the building process of the property owner. Couture/Nunes concurred. Couture noted the Special Meeting will be scheduled by early next week and other items will be added onto the Agenda.

B. Killingworth Historical Society

1. Cemetery Signage

Ken Wodatach, Vice-President, of the Killingworth Historical Society spoke about the Historical Cemeteries in Town and proposed to the Board that he would like to include a sign on each cemetery as well as the date when each were established. Mr. Wodatach spent the last three years upgrading older cemeteries and would like to continue with this project noting there are three to four cemeteries in Town that most people don't know exist. Discussion about what the signs would be mounted on, if there are requirements of specific signs and/or standard letters took place. Couture advised that the Budget as it currently stands wouldn't allow this project to be taken on at this time; however, he would work on getting quotes in order to get an estimated cost so this project can be added to the list of small capital projects for the upcoming year. Mr. Wodatach and First Selectman Couture spoke briefly about incorporating QR Codes onto the Signs as well.

2. 250th Anniversary of Declaration of Independence

First Selectman Couture reported that the 250th Anniversary of Declaration of Independence is coming up and the Killingworth Historical Society approached Couture about working with some members of the Clinton Historical Society, and their Committee to organize the celebrations for that day. Couture brought forward a motion to the Board in order to formally designate the Committee celebrations to the Killingworth History Society and its partner organizations to plan the celebrations.

Motion #2 - First Selectman Couture ***Moved*** and Selectman D'Angelo ***Seconded*** a motion to designate the Killingworth Historical Society, and its partner organizations in the Town of Clinton, as the Agent of the Town for the 250th Anniversary of Declaration of Independence Celebrations.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #3 - Selectman D'Angelo ***Moved*** and Selectman Nunes ***Seconded*** a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen that was held on Monday,

October 28, 2024 as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Refunds:

Motion #4 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to approve the following Refunds, all for overpayment, and allow them to follow its normal course as presented.

Refunds -

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Tracey Frith	27 Charles Mary Drive Higganum, CT 06441	\$6.30	Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Budget Report:

First Selectman Couture reported that a copy of the Budget Report was sent in the Board’s packet. Director of Finance Regolo was currently meeting with the Board of Finance along with the Auditors; therefore, wasn’t in attendance at tonight’s meeting. Couture gave a brief update on Parmelee Farm, explaining that in speaking with the Chair Scott Hawkins, who explained the reason behind being at 80% percent of their budget, was due to a lot of maintenance items that took place at the beginning of the year. Couture also noted that Parmelee Farm’s budget was cut during the Budget Cycle. Parmelee Farm will continue to be closely monitored.

Department Reports:

First Selectman Couture reported that the Board received various Department Reports (Building Permits, Health, Board of Education) in their packet. At the request of Resident State Trooper Richard Mulhall, the Police Report was kept out due to those documents being public and knowing Trooper Mulhall’s whereabouts on a daily basis is a concern. Resident State Trooper Mulhall provided an update about the two incidents that occurred at the Town Circle recently. He advised that his investigation is coming to a close but unfortunately the video footage that was captured doesn’t clearly identify who was involved in the incident.

Both Selectmen D’Angelo and Nunes thanked Resident Trooper Mulhall for his due diligence and for doing his work to the fullest in the investigation.

Old Business:

Capital Projects Update:

First Selectman Couture met with a DAS Contractor from the Department of Administrative Services for the two of the projects with the most outstanding funding: 1) the Barn and 2) the Pickleball Courts, advising he is waiting on quotes from both projects. Once received, Couture

will schedule special meetings with the Board for further review and discussion. Couture reviewed the design and the location of where the Pavilion at KRP would be built as well as Bids received with the Contractor. The Contractor advised that the figures outlined in the Bids were more in line with what the Pavilion would cost and Couture shared this information with Jim Duffield at Park and Recreation. Further, Couture noted that all ARPA funds must be expended by December 31, 2025 and under contract by the end of December 2024. The Board had discussion about the allocation of funds for the Pickleball Court as well as the Barn, what the process is if some portion of the funds are not allocated to a certain project and/or under contract, what would the next steps be thereafter. Couture stated that the delay was getting quotes back for these projects, hoping once received he will be able to schedule a Special Meeting.

PFAS Update - Couture has scheduled a meeting with GZA about getting the bid specs done, noting the timing was delayed due to RSD17 hiring a new Facilities Manager and the process is now able to move forward.

Couture gave updates on the following: 1) Roll Off Containers will be ordered soon, and is in the process of getting price quotes of what those look like; 2) Town trucks are prepared for the upcoming Winter Season.

B. 2025 Appointments:

First Selectman Couture is still in the process of hearing back from Committee members who are currently serving to see whether or not they wish to continue to do so in their positions. Couture suggested reaching out to HK News to hold his “First Selectman Corner” piece with them in order to get communication out to the Community of the Committees with open positions. Once Couture hears back from more Committee members, next steps would be to reach out to the Town Committee Chairs in order to fill these vacancies.

Public Comment:

- Elizabeth Disbrow commented, as a Member of the Historic Review Committee, about several items: 1) Elizabeth feels the Cemetery Signage is a great idea as well as incorporating the QR Codes. She stated that the more people that can either drive by or walk around Town and learn about the rich history of the Town is a great idea; 2) Elizabeth commented about the scenic road of Chestnut Hill Road, how the ordinance states with the trees being 200 years old, that no tree shall be cut down in a stonewall; however, stated that with the circular driveway being 12 feet noted there are other options to look at.

Couture advised that after doing research this is a grandfathered piece of property where the frontage is less than 200 feet noting that options are available. He recommended the Board review the regulations.

- Richard Pleines commented on the following items: 1) Richard inquired as to why the Town hasn't been using the OpenGov Finance Software since it was purchased to make

everything more transparent. Couture advised that the process for Robin Zagorodny to input all the permits into the system has been extremely time consuming; however, she is in the process of finishing that up now; 2) Richard inquired about the status of hiring the Director of Public Works. Couture advised that the Hiring Committee is meeting tomorrow night, noting there have been more candidates that came forward. Couture advised that the candidate that the Board brought forward declined the position.

Selectmen's Comments:

Eric Nunes -

- Nunes commented that they need to prioritize the Chestnut Hill Driveway and given his lack of knowledge with the Scenic Road Bylaws, he would like to do his due diligence; however, doesn't want to take too much time on it in order to hold the process up.
- Nunes acknowledged Clerk Sciascia on how she does an excellent job on the Minutes.

Joel D'Angelo -

- D'Angelo reminded the Community about the list of Committees/Commissions and Boards and that this Town runs on volunteerism whether members are on there for one year or many years and then cycle off. D'Angelo expressed how thankful he is to all of them for their commitment to the Town. D'Angelo further stated if anyone is interested in volunteering on any of the open positions and is listening tonight, that there are spots that need to be filled and to please stop into Town Hall.

First Selectman' Comments:

Eric Couture -

- Couture echoed what Selectman D'Angelo said about volunteers and how the Town runs on them, noting that it is the best part about the Town of Killingworth and also one of the biggest challenges; however, he wouldn't want it any other way.

Couture wished the Community an enjoyable few weeks as the weather gets cooler.

Adjournment: First Selectman Couture *Moved* to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk