

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 7, 2013**

ATTENDANCE: First Selectman Jayme Stevenson; David Bayne, David Campbell,
John Lundeen, Gerald Nielsen.

STAFF: Karl Kilduff, Administrative Officer.

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

REPORT from the State Senators Robert Duff and Carlo Leone

First Selectman Stevenson introduced State Senators Robert Duff and Carlo Leone and asked them to give an update on what has been happening in Hartford as it relates to the Town of Darien and to address concerns and comments from the Selectmen.

Senator Duff stated that he represents the 25th Senatorial District, which includes Norwalk and Darien serves as chair of the Energy & Technology Committee, vice chair of the Children's Committee, and as a member of the Regulations Review Committee. He stated that the last session brought the Legislative together in bi-partisan to address the Sandy Hook tragedy and response to gun safety, health reform and school safety. He added that tremendous efforts were done to craft legislation aimed to reduce gun violence and better protect our children. He reported that once this legislation was passed, the focus was on the state budget, policy issues and the bi-partisan spirit that carried over to assist with now a state that functions better and is working very well. He described efforts in energy conservation and planning, historic preservation, consumer protection and transportation and energy legislation to help reduce energy costs for consumers and encourage the use of renewable power sources. Senator Duff reported that they are very proud of the work done this year to make the state's energy supply cleaner, cheaper and more reliable, and there will now be more affordable and alternative energy options available than ever before, and efforts to conserve or be more efficient in the use of energy will have an even greater pay-off.

Senator Carlo Leone stated that he has had opportunity to work in a leadership role in the House as a member of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding, Regulations Review and Transportation Committees. He stated that he wanted to echo many of the comments made by Senator Duff that in the wake of the tragedy in Newtown they entered the session with a very difficult start. He described an overwhelming effort to focus on the responsibility to act and formed bipartisan task force to craft legislation to work collectively to push the bills forward and they remain committed to work together.

Senator Leone described the programs that will increase existing tax credits for firms that hire veterans with service-connected disabilities who have been unemployed six months or longer.

First Selectman Stevenson thanked Senator Leone for his work with veterans; then asked the Selectmen if they had questions or comments to address to the Senators.

Mr. Nielsen asked about job creation in Fairfield County and about reports in CBIA and other industry reports about office building vacancy up 8% that negatively impact business in Fairfield County. Senator Duff stated that there was a recent special jobs session bills and all legislative efforts are supported by CBIA and their advocates do have had an impact on programs in lower Fairfield County. He described the small business programs such as J.E.T. and partnerships with Stamford Innovations Center and efforts to close the achievement in education that all impacts business and industry. He added that other areas such as transportation and utilities such as connections to natural gas help business lower costs and improve and the attractiveness of the area.

Senator Leone stated that they are working to match businesses with workers that are have been displaced through no fault of their own and to assist with subsidies to assist unemployed to learn skill sets to re-enter business world and provide a level playing field. He added that like most states, we are just beginning to recover from the global recession, and tough decisions still need to be made. The next two-year budget must include not only spending cuts, but also investments that grow jobs and protect Connecticut's working families and seniors.

Mr. Bayne asked about Metro North and the major disruptions and if there are any ideas on how Hartford can make Metro North more accountable and reliable to avoid these unnecessary disruptions for commuters. Senator Leona stated that they are committed to improve the quality and reliability of service but noted that the State of CT does not have voting voice on the MTA. He added that he recently crafted a letter to the MTA for the DOT to use in working with them to apply pressure and the Governor was recently at Grand Central shining a spot light on the issues that commuters face today.

Senator Duff stated that he appreciates the legislator efforts and aggressive nature with a united front to sue Con Edison for the recent transformer power outage. He added that station upgrades and new cars need to be a priority and they intend to maintain constant communications and concerted efforts to work together for the best interest of citizens that are commuters.

Mr. Bayne asked about the railroad parking issues in Darien and the lease that has expired in 2012 yet the Town Administrator has yet to get answers from Con DOT, and he asked for assistance from the legislators.

Senator Duff replied that the state is fully aware and it is alarming that this is the situation and they are taking steps to address this but there is no magic bullet that can fix this administrative blockage. He added that they need to fix this on a long term as there has been a poor job for years and recently have made strides as a good start but more needs to be done.

Senator Duff stated that they started twenty years ago and fully funded over the past three years which is helping turn around and the growth rate of spending is in the right direction, but they need to get finances in order.

Mr. Campbell asked about tolls on the highways and while the state does need to maintain highways and bridges he hopes it does not come to lower Fairfield County as it would only worsen the traffic situation. Senator Leone stated that while it does need an act of congress to install tolls along federal highways, there is a great deal of rhetoric on the need for tolls to maintain the infrastructure and there are reports being done.

Mr. Lundeen asked about changes in regional government and proposed changes from the local perspective seem threatening and asked why these are being pursued and what the net benefits are.

Senator Duff replied that there is a push towards efficiencies that come from regionalization and there are ways that Towns and Municipalities can be more effective with levels of service, but he agrees that it takes away the authority of the Town's management of affairs. He spoke about the SWERPA and CAGs (Council & Government) that need to follow up on a footprint and boundaries to maintain oversight without municipal control.

First Selectman Stevenson stated that she is part of the sub-committee for House Bill 13-247 and explained the preliminary agreement with the Housatonic Valley and the schedule of what municipality partners with area. She added that many of these towns have little in common and there is no explanation or rational why such agreements are being forced upon the municipalities. She stated that there is a financial dis-incentive to be a CAG , and by 2015 and it will be the law of the land, and the Towns wish to preserve local control with very little latitude and a local tax may be next in order to address the required services. She added that with regard there has been an extension of two years to have funds to manage 8-30G applications on affordable housing appeal legislation. She added that there is a moratorium from the stated until 2014 and the intention of this legislation is to create a regional government structure that can coordinate planning and delivery of state and local services as well as facilitate receipt and distribution of federal transportation dollars.

Senator Leone reported that transportation issues touch all lives whether it is the overflow traffic off I-95 or issues on the rails. He stated that the goal of new efforts is to create infrastructure to bring business to Darien and hoping to not impact negatively with bottlenecks along the Post Road. Regarding 8-30G more and more towns are felling pressure to appeal to change the % of affordable housing for smaller communities and with local support this takes time and should have started the process years ago.

Senator Duff reported that the governor just announced a \$2 million loan for "Gini's House" through the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development as part of a half-billion dollar commitment toward rebuilding the state's housing stock.

Mr. Bayne asked about the Dept. of Environmental Protection efforts and if there is a comprehensive strategy with the Dept. of energy perspective. Senator Duff reported that he has joined Governor Malloy, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and other state and local officials to announce Connecticut's first energy efficiency project financed through the Commercial & Industrial Property Assessed Clean Energy program(C-PACE).

Senator Leone stated that he wanted to acknowledge Senator Duff for having a Clean Energy policy which we never had before and the key measure with energy and environmental efforts are to combine in a positive approach along with outside investment with that strategy to have agencies work together in a very positive direction.

Report from the Architectural Review Board

Ms. Susan Lawrence, Chairman of the Architectural Review Board gave an overview of the mission and practices of the Board. She outlined that the ARB is acting in an advisory capacity and operates in accordance with Darien Zoning Regulations and guidelines with collaboration from the Planning & Zoning Department, the Department of Public Works, the Beautification Commission, the Darien Historical Society. She stated that when evaluating applications makings its decisions, they review the architectural design to ensure harmony with the neighborhood and surrounding uses, and to preserve and improve the appearance and beauty of the community.

Ms. Lawrence described the objective that Darien is committed to maintaining its intrinsic character that is derived from its historical origins and structures have an important place in this development, particularly in the National Register District, and new building styles should reflect integration, and to promote consistency with aesthetic considerations create compatibility in size and scale with surrounding buildings.

She explained that the ARB operates in the same capacity with the review of sign or awning permits. They evaluate to ensure such details are compatible with the historical context and to ensure consistency with material, color and surface texture elements and coordinate color, materials, architectural form and detailing to achieve continuity.

She listed that Ex-Officio Members are Peter Solheim, Building Official; Jayme Stevenson, First Selectman; Jeremy Ginsberg, Planning and Zoning Director; Robert Steeger, Director of Public Works; and the active members are Marian Castell, Cheryl Greene, Alison Hughes, Rita Gadsden, Valerie Cruice and alternates: Sean Brown, Timothy MacDonald.

First Selectman Stevenson thanked Ms. Lawrence for the report.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

First Selectman Stevenson read her report as follows:

I extend a warm welcome to the delegation from Shanghai Girls School #3. I had the pleasure of greeting the 12 students and 2 teachers who are here in Darien for 2 weeks. Please consider Darien your home away from home.

10/3 — hosted the first 3 grade field trips to the Recycling Center

Thank you to RCAC and the Department of Public Works for organizing

I've received notification of 2 resignations from the EMS Review Committee. This Board will discuss how we wish to address this committee's charge at a future meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Kilduff stated that his report was a summary provided to the Selectmen for tomorrow's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss and Take Action on Mandatory Referral to the Planning & Zoning Commission Pursuant to CGS 8-24 for a Report on Possible Land Acquisition of 4 Short Lane

First Selectman Stevenson reviewed the supporting documents and stated that the Parks and Recreation Department supports the acquisition of the property at 4 Short Lane from both an environmental and a recreational position within the guidelines for meeting the community's recreational needs and driving Park and Recreation budget requests. The acquisition of the property, (listed in The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan and the Town Plan of Conservation and Development as one that should be acquired) could provide a much desired recreational benefit to the neighborhood and community at large. The parcel is surrounded on all sides by Town of Darien property, most of which is part of Weed Beach. The immediately abutting portion of Weed Beach was not a target for improvement in the recent master plan of development as combining with Short Lane was not available. Inclusion of this property would have presented more opportunities for recreational development and access to the park/beach areas.

**** MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:
PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §8-24, THE BOARD
OF SELECTMEN HEREBY REFER TO THE DARIEN PLANNING & ZONING
COMMISSION FOR A REPORT ON THE POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF 0.57±
ACRES OF LAND LOCATED AT 4 SHORT LANE.**

**** MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED THE MOTION.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discuss and Take Action on Mandatory Referral to the Planning & Zoning Commission Pursuant to CGS 8-24 for a Report on Possible Land Acquisition on 32 Hoyt Street

**** MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:
PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §8-24, THE BOARD OF
SELECTMEN HEREBY REFER TO THE DARIEN PLANNING & ZONING
COMMISSION FOR A REPORT ON THE POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF 0.23± ACRES
OF LAND LOCATED AT 32 HOYT STREET.**

**** MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discuss and Take Action on Placement of Cameras in Darien Harbor - Item Tabled.

First Selectman Stevenson stated at the request of Harbormaster Tom Bell, who could not be in attendance tonight due to a schedule conflict, the item has been tabled until the next meeting.

Agenda Review

First Selectman Stevenson stated the on the next agenda would be Affordable Housing Trust Fund Commission, News 12 CT Camera Police Communications Tower 7; Harbor Cameras.

In addition she spoke about a letter regarding the potential relocation of the Probate Court from Town Hall to the lower level of 35 Leroy. There was discussion, and based on a consensus of the Board it was worth pursuing feasibility work to engage an architect to develop a plan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Special Meeting of September 30, 2013

**** MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2013 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

OTHER BUSINESS

**** MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD THE
FOLLOWING ITEM: PENDING LITIGATION.**

**** MR. BAYNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ** **MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF PENDING LITIGATION.**
- ** **MR. BAYNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting went into executive session at 9:05 p.m. and was reconvened into public session at 10:10 p.m.

There was no action taken.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

October 8, 2013	Joint Department Heads Meeting at 8:30 a.m.	70
October 8, 2013	Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.	
October 8, 2013	Planning & Zoning Commission General Meeting at 8:00 p.m.	
October 15, 2013	Board of Finance Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.	
October 16, 2013	Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.	
October 21, 2013	Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.	

Adjournment

- ** **MR. LUNDEEN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** **MR. NIELSEN SECONDED.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services