

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 22, 2013**

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

STAFF: Karl Kilduff, Administrative Officer

CALL TO ORDER.

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:58 p.m. A quorum was present.

REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION.

Ms. Jane Branigan, the Parks and Recreation Commission Chair, came forward and greeted the Board Members. She then distributed a report to the Selectmen and reviewed the highlights of that with those present. (See Attached)

Mr. Bayne asked if the paddle court at Weed Beach were being utilized. Ms. Branigan said that it has been rented by the paddle club. She added that she expected it to be used during the winter, also.

Mr. Lundeen asked how the sailing team has dealt with the loss of the shed. Ms. Branigan said that the team had adapted to the situation. Mr. Campbell asked how many are enrolled in the camp. Ms. Branigan said that she didn't know the exact figure but said there was a waiting list.

Mr. Bayne asked about the dog run at Cherry Lawn. Ms. Branigan said that an area was set aside for the dogs. The dog owners would like fencing, but the department currently does not have the money. Ms. Branigan said that she had encouraged the dog owners to raise some funding. Ms. Stevenson asked Ms. Branigan to provide some additional feedback about this issue before the budget discussions begin. A discussion followed about dogs off leash in the various parks.

Mr. Lundeen asked about the gift subcommittee and wondered if funds could be put there for the dog area fencing. Ms. Branigan said that usually the gifts are chairs or benches for the beach.

Ms. Branigan then praised Ms. Swiatek and said she was a wonderful Parks and Recreation director.

Ms. Stevenson then thanked Ms. Branigan for her report.

**PRESENTATION FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION ON STUDENT
ENROLLMENT NUMBERS.**

Ms. Hagerty-Ross came forward and introduced Ms. Shea, Ms. Sartori, Ms. Stein, members of the Board of Education and Dr. Falcone, the Superintendent of Schools. Ms. Shea then came forward to reviewed the enrollment report included in the information packet. She gave an overview of the process used for monitoring the enrollment projections. Ms. Shea pointed out to the Board that starting in 2015, the projected enrollment will begin to exceed the current existing facility capacity.

While the in-town births have dropped over the past years, the kindergarten enrollment remains high, which indicates that there are families migrating into town. The number of classes at capacity is projected to increase. The current projection does not include any additions from the Heights or Kensett developments. It is expected that the capacity for the current facilities will be reached by August of 2014.

There were several questions regarding the relationship of in-town births vs. the kindergarten enrollment. Ms Shea pointed out that previously the in-town birth rate was an excellent indication of what the kindergarten enrollment would be. She reminded everyone that there is a five year lag between birth and kindergarten enrollment.

Mr. Bayne asked about the projections for the future. Ms. Shea reviewed the upcoming projects. She cautioned everyone that the Golden project at Stop & Shop, The Heights and Alan O'Neill units are difficult to evaluate at this time.

Mr. Bayne asked about the use of the Edgerton property in view of the absorption rates for the class. Ms. Shea said that the Board has not discussed the Edgerton property. Ms. Hagerty-Ross said that the Board does not have enough information at this time to discuss the use of the Edgerton property.

Mr. Bayne said that he would like to ask the Board to come up with some long term solutions and plans. Ms. Hagerty-Ross said that there were no firm numbers from Kensett yet and the Golden property was still in the discussion stage.

Ms. Stevenson asked Ms. Hagerty-Ross and Ms. Shea if they could do a theoretical projection. Ms. Shea pointed out that in the past, the Town never had such a large influx of new housing units. Discussion followed.

Ms. Stevenson said that she takes her guidance from the Board of Education regarding Edgerton and that the Edgerton property may need to be considered for repurposing.

Mr. Bayne asked how the Board had gotten to this point so quickly. Ms. Shea said that there had been a steady increase in second and third grade enrollment. While the yearly projection figures were accurate, the five year projections were not as accurate.

Ms. Shea reminded everyone that the Board did not find out that the Kensett was not age restricted until the past spring. Also the number of units at the Heights was actually doubled. Ms. Hagerty-Ross pointed out that with the economic downturn, the numbers of people selling their homes had slowed down somewhat. The economic downturn also moved a number of students from private schools back into the public schools.

Ms. Stevenson said that it was her understanding that the Board's goal was to preserve the neighborhood schools. Ms. Hagerty-Ross agreed and said that if redistricting becomes a necessity, it would need to be done. Mr. Bayne asked if Darien ever had this high enrollment. He was told that in 1968 there were 5,200 students. Discussion followed about the changes in education during the last 50 years.

Ms. Stevenson then thanked the Board of Education for their consideration regarding the two construction projects at Royle and Tokeneke.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT.

Ms. Stevenson thanked Mr. Campbell for acting on her behalf while she was vacationing during the past week.

Recently, there was a special meeting of the SWRPA MPO to discuss recent legislative action that will require the local Regional Planning Agency to convert to a Council of Governments by 2015. There are many unanswered questions around this mandate that the 8 CEO's are sorting through before any recommendations are made to our respective legislative bodies. The only clear point is that we are mandated to take some action or risk losing all state regional planning funds.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT.

Mr. Kilduff reported that there had been work on repairing the damage from Sandy at Weed Beach. The damaged sailing shed has been demolished, and the oil remediation has started.

The Norton Heights Fire Department had their slab replacement bid opening recently.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Mr. Walter Casey came forward and said that when he first moved to town 48 years ago, the enrollment projection was the hot topic of discussion.

Mr. Casey distributed the attached letter, which he proceeded to read into the record. (See attached).

NEW BUSINESS.

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

Mr. Bayne said that he would like to go on record by saying that he was not excited about this project, but would vote for it.

**** MR. LUNDEEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:**

PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §8-24, THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY REFER TO THE DARIEN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A REPORT ON THE POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF 1.245 ACRES OF OPEN SPACE LOCATED AT 41 HECKER AVENUE.

**** MR. NIELSEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Transfers

Police Department:

RESOLVED

That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance:

FROM:

TO:

Acct. No.	Account	Amount	Acct. No.	Account	Amount
10302213-82007	Admin-Prof Svcs	\$5,000	10302273-83007	Training - Op Supplies	\$9,807
10302273-82006	Training - Tuition	\$4,807			
	Total	\$9,807		Total	\$9,807

**** MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE FOR REFERRAL TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE THE ABOVE TRANSFER AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MR. CAMPBELL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

AGENDA REVIEW.

Ms. Stevenson said that she had not received any feedback from the commuters who walk to Talmadge Railroad Street. It was pointed out that it is still daylight when many of the commuters arrive home. Also once the leaves are off the trees, the neighbors will know whether the newly installed lights are too bright. This item will be included on an upcoming agenda for discussion later in the year.

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS.

Consider and Take action on the following appointments:

Appointment to the Tokeneke and Royle Elementary Building Committee.

**** MR. LUNDEEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ADOPTED CHARGE OF THE TOKENEKE AND ROYLE ELEMENTARY BUILDING COMMITTEE, THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY APPOINTS THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO THE TOKENEKE AND ROYLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING:

**DAVID GENOVESE
BRUCE HILL
GWEN MOGENSEN
DEBRA RITCHIE
KATIE STEIN.**

**** MR. NIELSEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE TOKENEKE AND ROYLE ELEMENTARY BUILDING COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

Special Meeting of July 8, 2013.

**** MR. NIELSEN MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 8, 2013.**

**** MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 8, 2013 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Regular Meeting of July 8, 2013.

The following corrections were noted:

Page 2, under **Administrative Officer's Report**, first bullet point, please change the following from: "There was a SWERPA Forum," to "There was a SWRPA Forum".

Page 4, under **Agenda Review**, paragraph 3, line 1: please change the following from:
"for funding of these lights."

To: "for funding of the demolition of the Edgerton Senior Center."

Town of Darien
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
July 22, 2013

**** MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 8, 2013 AS CORRECTED.**

**** MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 8, 2013 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

July 23, 2013	Planning and Zoning Commission Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m.
July 30, 2013	Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m..
August 5, 2013	Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MR. BAYNE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services