

**Town of Darien**  
**Representative Town Meeting**  
**Rules Committee: Regular Meeting 9-12-16**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** Sarah Seelye (M), Lois Schneider, Seth Morton, Barbara Thorne, Patti Bumgardner, Gary Swenson, Mac Patrick, Martha Banks, Dennis Maroney, Joanne Hennessy, Liz Bacon, Frank Kemp

**Absent:** Ted Hawkins,

**Audience:** Jack Davis, Clara Sartori, Donna Rajczewski, Kate Buch, Adele Coniff, Diane Conologue, Jayme Stephenson, members of the Press.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:08 PM

**Approval of outstanding minutes** - Ms. Seelye called on Mr. Swenson to read the suggested changes to the minutes from May 26<sup>th</sup> after which the amended minutes were approved unanimously.

**Announcements**

Ms. Seelye discussed the passing this summer of 2 RTM members: Mr. Gene Coyle and Mr. Jack Whitehead. It was discussed that the Moderator will have a moment of silence at the next RTM meeting to remember these long-serving RTM members. They will be missed.

**New Chair of the RTM Rules Committee and Acting Moderator** - Ms. Seelye announced that as of September 15<sup>th</sup> she will no longer be living in Darien and therefore will be resigning from the RTM and the position of Moderator. Mr. Morton moved to express the deep appreciation from the Rules Committee for all Ms. Seelye has done. It was seconded by all.

Ms. Schneider, as Nominating Chair, then led the process of electing a Moderator and Rules Committee Chair to complete this term. Ms. Schneider also thanked Ms. Seelye for her leadership and then nominated Mr. Morton as Moderator until Election Day. Mr. Swenson seconded the nomination. Ms. Thorne nominated Ms. Schneider who expressed her thanks for the consideration but declined the nomination. With no additional nominations, Mr. Maroney moved and Mr. Swenson seconded Mr. Morton as Moderator of the RTM for the remainder of this term. He was elected unanimously. Mr. Swenson then nominated Ms. Schneider as Clerk for the remainder of this term to replace Mr. Morton. With no other nominees, Mr. Maroney seconded the motion and the committee passed the motion unanimously.

**District 3 Rules Committee Representative** - With Mr. Morton becoming Moderator and Chair of the Rules Committee, Mr. Maroney raised the point that District 3 would be eligible to select another Rules Committee member for the last Rules Meeting of this term.

**Blight Ordinance** - Mr. Kemp reported on the "Blight Ordinance." He reviewed the history, information gathered, research with other towns and the current recommendations approved by TGS&A. He expressed gratitude for all the work completed on this issue by the TGS&A committee members, other Town officials, Town Administrative staff and legal counsel. Ms. Seelye proposed that all RTM Committees discuss the draft of the ordinance at their next meeting to raise any issues before the item comes in front of the RTM possibly at the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Maroney asked if a public hearing was needed for the ordinance change. Mr. Kemp stated that a public hearing is needed for a charter change, but not for an ordinance change. He then

suggested that TGS&A could have a meeting and specifically invite the public to comment on the proposed ordinance.

There was discussion on number of committees and timing for the assignment for this resolution. Ms. Bumgardner moved and Ms. Hennessey seconded a motion to assign the ordinance to these five committees: Public Health & Safety, Planning Zoning & Housing, Finance & Budget, TGS&A, and Public Works. It was passed with 11 in favor and 1 opposed (Mr. Swenson.)

After the committee discussions, TGS&S will make any changes needed to the draft and it will go to Town Council for review and resolution drafting.

Resolution 16-17 leasing of town land to Felix and Sylvia Callari (BMW) - Ms. Hennessey moved and Mr. Maroney seconded a motion to assign this resolution to Public Works as Primary and Planning, Zoning & Housing and Finance & Budget as secondary committees. This was approved unanimously by the Rules Committee.

Resolution 16-16 special appropriation for body cameras for the Darien Police Department. This issue will be reviewed by the Board of Finance on Tuesday, September 13, 2016. Pending approval by the Board of Finance, Ms. Hennessey moved and Ms. Thorne seconded the motion to assign Public Health and Safety as primary and Finance & Budget as secondary committees. The motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda for September 26, 2016 RTM Meeting** - Ms. Seelye opened the floor for discussion on the agenda for the Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The recommendation was:

16-16 Special appropriation for Police Department body cameras

16-17 Leasing of town property at the Recycling and Refuse Center to Felix and Sylvia Callari

Mr. Maroney moved and Ms. Thorne seconded the items for the agenda which were approved unanimously by the Rules Committee.

### **Other business**

**Committee Assignments** - District 1 has a new member, Sarah Baldwin. Ms. Schneider speaking on behalf of Ms. Bumgardner and herself, recommended that Ms. Baldwin be assigned to TGS&A for the remainder of this term as that is the open slot on District 1's committee assignments. Ms. Thorne moved the committee assignment and Mr. Maroney seconded it. This was approved unanimously by the committee.

**Self-nomination resolution** – will be sent to all sub-committees for discussion. Ms. Rajczewski raised concerns with the difficulty in tracking attendance at sub-committee meetings as the minutes and attendance records are not always submitted on a timely basis. She asked for a review of the approach. The current resolution will be sent to sub-committees for discussion and then reviewed by the Rules Committee.

She also suggested that RTM members who are up for election and not re-upping be reminded that their term is not up until the next election and they are expected to attend meetings thru October.

**email Addresses** - Ms. Banks brought up the request for darienct.gov email addresses be available for all RTM members in the new session. Mr. Morton stated that he would put it on the agenda.

Mr. Kemp moved and Mr. Swenson seconded to adjourn the meeting and the motion was approved unanimously. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:35PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Lois Schneider

Lois Schneider, Acting Clerk