

Representative Town Meeting
Town of Darien Rules Committee
Draft Minutes October 3, 2016

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
DARIEN CT.

Present: Seth Morton (M), Lois Schneider, Barbara Thorne, Gary Swenson, Mac Patrick, Dennis Maroney, Ted Hawkins, Frank Kemp

Absent: Patti Bumgardner, Martha Banks, Joanne Hennessy, Liz Bacon

Audience: Donna Rajczewski, Wayne Fox.

Call to Order 8:07PM

Mr. Morton proposed an **addition to the agenda** to discuss a potential town release of property interest. Motion moved by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Ms. Thorne. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of minutes of September 12, 2016 – Ms. Schneider provided one change. The motion for approval of the minutes as adjusted was made by Mr. Swenson and seconded by Mr. Maroney. The minutes as amended were then approved 7 in favor and 1 abstention (Mr. Hawkins.)

Announcements - None

Resolution regarding conveying any town interest in Hazel Street - Mr. Fox introduced a potential issue that may need to come before the RTM for the next meeting. Eversource wants to address a failing gas main on Hazel Street and they claim that the Town may own a portion of the street. Research needs to be completed to see if this is the case. For the next RTM meeting, it is requested that the warning include an item that the Town release any interest it may have in Hazel Street. Depending on the outcome of the research, this item can be addressed in the meeting. Eversource needs ownership of the property clarified and would like to complete the work before winter.

Primary Committee: Public Works, Secondary: PZ&H

Mr. Maroney moved the motion and Mr. Swenson seconded putting this item on the agenda with the assigned committees for the October 26th RTM meeting.

Mr. Maroney then made a motion to change the order of the agenda for this meeting to discuss self-nomination since Ms. Rajczewski was present. This was approved unanimously.

Self-nomination change - There was a continued discussion on the issue of self-nomination and how it would work. Among the questions discussed was how the attendance at sub-committee meetings would be tracked which could add a large burden on the Town Clerk. The committee reiterated the desire for a change to encourage attendance. In addition, Mr. Kemp suggested the Rules Committee step up and coordinate attendance tracking and communication with Chairs of Standing Committees.

It is the responsibility of District Chairs and Committee Chairs to support attendance at meetings. Within 48 hours of a committee meeting any votes are to be sent to the Town Clerk and are posted on the web. Attendance could be determined from this or attendance can be added to this requirement – to be discussed.

Mr. Kemp handed out additions to the Resolution. Ms. Thorne brought up the question if all committees should be represented on Rules. Mr. Morton brought forth that the Rules committee has a role in making this work and should focus on:

- 1). Attendance
- 2). More discipline in minutes and attendance.

It was also suggested that annual sub-committee reports should be done in June based on budget process timing.

Ms. Rajczewski reminded us that people are still on RTM until the next Election Day and they still need to participate even if they are not continuing on the RTM.

Mr. Kemp proposed some changes to the proposal in front of us to address the discussion points: 1). include only elected RTM members to the Self-nomination attendance requirement as this group would have 1 ½ years to satisfy the attendance requirements. The letters go out in July, thus only meetings thru June can be considered. 2). The resolution would be effective December 1, 2016 and 3). Standing Committee Chairs can decide appropriate attendance requirements for their committee. With that, he made a motion to accept the amended proposal, to have it turned into a resolution for the next RTM meeting, and place this item on the agenda for October 24th. Waiting longer would set us back as there would be new members to the RTM and the process would need to be reviewed.

Mr. Maroney 2nd It was approved by the committee with a unanimous vote.

Blight Ordinance – Mr. Kemp reviewed the process and provided an update from the recent TGS&A meetings including public comment. Version 2.0 in front of us is a result of the meetings and comments.

Mr. Kemp moved draft 2.0 of the blight ordinance to be accepted and on the agenda for the October 24th meeting. Mr. Swenson 2nd.

Discussion followed on the number of criteria that were needed to determine blight based on feedback from discussion at committees. Mr. Kemp mentioned that many towns only used 1 and that no action would be taken without the approval of the Blue Ribbon panel. With that understanding, the committee accepted the draft as presented.

The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The request was made to have the warning package includes links to the resolution with the FAQ.

Committee assignments

Self-nominations: TGS&A Primary no specific secondary (encourage all committees to comment based on discussions in their meetings)

Blight: TGS&A primary; Secondary PHS, PZ&H Public Works all others invited to participate

Set Agenda for October 24 RTM Meeting

1. Hazel Street
2. Blight Ordinance
3. Self-Nomination Rules

Mr. Maroney moved the agenda and committee assignments. Mr. Swenson seconded. The vote was unanimous

Other Business

Town email addresses In Ms. Banks absence, Ms. Schneider brought up the issue of town email addresses for all RTM members. The group then discussed the issues surrounding RTM members use of email addresses and the League of Women Voters' desire to publish the emails. Ms. Thorne introduced a letter from the Selectman from several years ago that all RTM members were to have a town email address. (And use them)

Mr. Maroney suggested bringing in a tech expert to the RTM organizational meeting to answer questions and handle problems. Also it was agreed that email address information be included in the announcements for the October 24th meeting. It was discussed that the Town should make sure emails exist for all RTM members and reissue the email letter to RTM members after the election.

Mr. Morton moved and Mr. Kemp seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:24 PM which was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lois Schneider".

Lois Schneider, Acting Clerk