

Town of Darien
Representative Town Meeting
Rules Committee
Regular Meeting –5/19/2014
Minutes

Present: Sarah Seelye (M), Jim Patrick, Seth Morton, Joanne Hennessy, Lois Schneider, Liz Bacon Peter Kelly, Gary Swenson, Ted Hawkins, Martha Banks, Dennis Maroney, James Howe, Frank Kemp (9:16PM)

Absent: None

Audience: Board of Education Sarah Hagerty Ross Ch.; Peter Graham-Darien Athletic Foundation, Various DAF representatives. Debbie Bussey, Emily D’Andrea from the Garden Club of Darien

Call to Order: Ms. Seelye called the meeting to order at 8:07PM

Approval of Minutes:

April 28 Minutes: Minutes were approved subject to fixing minor grammatical errors, moved and seconded, Passed Unanimously

Special Appropriation- Ms. Seelye introduced Ms. Hagerty Ross to discuss a request from the Board of Education for a special appropriation of \$807,000 for unbudgeted expenses related to Special Education. The funds have already been spent and the amounts to meet State requirements are included. Mr. Swenson had heard that the required amount was \$848,000, but the number requested is less because the Board of Education found savings in other budget line items.

Assign Committees: Mr. Hawkins moved that Education be primary and F&B be secondary. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Gift from the Darien Athletic Foundation

Ms. Seelye introduced the DAF donation. Mr. Graham began a presentation, but the Committee felt it was not necessary, given previous presentations on the subject.

Mr. Morton noted a need to replace the turf periodically. Mr. Graham said that turf fields need to be replaced after 10 to 12 Years at about 30% of original cost.

Mr. Kelly expressed concern about drainage. Mr. Graham noted turf is a drainage vehicle.

Ms. Bascom raised the question of increase in intensity of use. What recourse does community have in light of increased usage? Ms. Hennessy, who lives near the High school, expressed satisfaction with the projected level of usage.

Assign Committees – Mr. Howe moved that Education be primary, with PHS, Park and Rec. and F&B, secondary. After discussion, Mr. Howe amended his motion to remove Park and Rec as a secondary committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Garden Club of Darien Plantings

There was a Presentation by Debbie Bussey and Emily D’Andrea from The Garden Club of Darien They are using funds raised to repair parks and beaches in the Town. They intend to work at Cherry Lawn Park to replace Cherry Trees. The work includes grinding stumps of old trees. They will be planting various varieties of Cherry Trees in the Park this spring. They will spend \$30,000 to start, then \$2000 a year for four succeeding years. There was general discussion from the committee.

Assign Committees: Mr. Maroney moved that Park & Rec be primary with F&B secondary. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Ms. Seeyle noted there will be a June 3 presentation by The League of Women Voters regarding COGS and Darien’s role.

Assignment of new RTM Members to Committees:

Mr. Morton from District 3 nominated Tom Foley to the PHS Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hawkins from District 6 nominated Joe Chirico to Park & Rec. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Public Works Committee Presentation- Marl Adiletta Chairman- He discussed curbside leaf pickup in plastic bags. He noted many private roads are excluded from leaf pickup. He noted that the Darien Recycling Center is at capacity for recycling. The Town is shipping 2800 tons of vegetation out of town each year. DPW does not have the capability to pick up more leaves within a tight weather window, which can make the job difficult. The Public Works Committee would not support a motion to modify existing pickup services.

Mr. Swenson introduced a discussion on Town Services. The Rules committee had an overall sense of discomfort with the Budget process which results in high tax increases and less services.

Announcements- Ms. banks will be making a presentation on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Commission.

Ms. Banks expressed a need for new format for the explanation of items to come before the Rules Committee to make the issues easier to understand.

Set Agenda for June 9, 2014 RTM Meeting

1. Darien Garden Club

2. Board of Ed Acceptance Gift from DAF
3. COG
4. Radio Replacement
5. Board of Ed Appropriation

Mr. Howe moved to set the above agenda. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Meeting adjourned at 10:15PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Seth W. Morton".

Seth W. Morton
Clerk