

**Town of Darien
Representative Town Meeting
Rules Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2009**

December 9, 2009

Attendance:

Present: Karen Armour, Liz Bacon, Joanne Hennessy, Mark Adiletta, Gary Swenson, Flora Smith, John Price, Maria Cleary, Anita Rycenga, Seth Morton, Dennis Maroney, Mary Guimond

Absent: Marc Thorne

Call to Order: Ms. Armour called the meeting to order at 8:05PM

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of October 19, 2009: The Minutes were accepted unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of November 16, 2009: The following changes were requested: Add: Anita Rycenga as an attendee, Delete: Bohdana Puzyk, as an attendee, Add: Mary Guimond as Absent. That the 2nd to last line under Agenda for the State of the Town should say, "The motion was seconded by Ms Cleary." Also, "The motion passed 10 For, 2 Against (Rycenga, Hennessey) "; That the 2nd to last line under Order of Presentation at State of the Town meeting should read "The motion was seconded by Ms Rycenga".

These changes were adopted unanimously.

Mr. Price asked for electronic distribution of Minutes for both the Rules Committee and the RTM. Ms Armour took it under advisement.

Ratify Appointment of Nora McIlree(IV) to Finance and Budget Committee: Ms Cleary moved in favor and Mr. Swenson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Action on Request from Bill Peters(IV) to move from Finance and Budget Committee to Public Works Committee: Mr. Swenson moved in Favor, Mr. Maroney seconded. The motion passed 11 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention (Ms Bacon).

Tax Exemptions for Handicapped Vehicles and Tax Abatement for Affordable Housing: Ms Armour said that the language for these ordinances needed to be reviewed by Town Counsel. In addition she would talk to Karl Kilduff, Town Administrator, and the Board of Finance to determine the status of these items. It was noted that in a prior meeting the Rules Committee assigned Finance and Budget, primary, with Public Health and Safety and TGS&A secondary to the vehicle ordinance. The Rules Committee also assigned The Affordable Housing Ordinance to the Finance and Budget Committee, primary, with Planning, Zoning and Housing and TGS&A secondary. Ms Smith noted the state of the Economy and the issue of enacting tax abatements when the Town is trying to preserve tax revenues. Ms Armour noted the Rules Committee role is to assign Committees without ruling on the merits of the proposal.

Cell Phone Tower: It was noted that the Cell Phone Tower item was assigned earlier to Public Works, primary, PZ&H and Finance and Budget, secondary.

Approve interlocal agreement to allow joint activities with New Canaan and Stamford on DUI task force: Public Health and Safety was assigned, primary, with Finance and Budget, secondary. Mr. Maroney moved in favor, and Ms Rycenga seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Accept gift from Darien Community & Technology Foundation for police console: Public Health and Safety was assigned, primary, with Finance and Budget, secondary. Mr. Maroney moved in favor, and Ms Cleary seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Space: A discussion ensued about Open Space and a letter from Town Counsel outlining steps for the Planning and Zoning Commission to enact open space ordinances relating to Country Clubs. It was noted that the PZ&H Committee has a study group examining the subject.

Revision of Town Charter and Ordinances: A discussion ensued about revising the Code of Ordinances versus the Town Charter. It was noted that the Rules committee last year set revising the Code of Ordinances as a priority over revising the Town Charter.

Blight Ordinance: Ms Armour reported receiving a letter from an RTM member to the TGS&A Committee relating to the need for a blight ordinance. Mr. Morton moved "that the Moderator refer the letter about the blight ordinance to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Swenson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms Armour noted that the Agenda for the January Meeting of the RTM was discussed, but was not created.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seth W. Morton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Seth W. Morton

Clerk