



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

Board of Selectman Minutes

Regular Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, December 3, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

Members Present: First Selectman Mary Bylone, Selectmen Rosemary Coyle, Denise Mizla, Denise Turner and Taras Rudko

1. CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: T. Rudko motioned to Delete 6E from the Consent Agenda, seconded by D. Turner. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
4. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – H. Jean Smith spoke about the decorated tree on the green
5. CORRESPONDENCE
6. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2020 Joint Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance Meeting
 - B. Approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting
 - C. Reappointment of Debbie Marvin to the Police Commission for a Term to Expire 11/15/2023
 - D. Reappointment of Carol Vaillancourt to the Police Commission for a Term to Expire 11/30/2023
 - E. Reappointment of Roberta Avery to the Commission on Aging for a Term to Expire 12/1/2023
 - F. Tax Abatements
 - R. Coyle motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by D. Turner. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
7. Boards and Commissions – Interviews and/or Possible Appointment and Resignations
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action on the Appointment of Steven Durel to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a Term to Expire 12/15/2022: R. Coyle motioned to rescind Steven Durels appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term to expire on 12/15/2022, seconded by D. Mizla. **MOTION CARRIED** 4-0-1 with T. Rudko abstaining.
 - B. Possible Appointment of Timothy Francis to the Agriculture Commission for a Possible Term to Expire 11/19/2023: D. Mizla motioned to appoint Timothy Francis to the Agriculture Commission for a Possible Term to Expire 11/19/2023, seconded by R. Coyle. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
 - C. Possible Appointments to Parks and Recreation Commission

- I. R. Coyle motioned to appoint Dan Eveleigh as a member to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire 11/1/2023, seconded by T. Rudko. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- II. R. Coyle motioned to appoint Nola Weston as a member to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire 11/1/2021, seconded by D. Mizla. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0-1** with T. Rudko abstaining.
- III. D. Turner motioned to appoint Anna Ackroyd as an alternate for a term to expire 1/1/2022, seconded by D. Mizla. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- IV. T. Rudko motioned to appoint Tim Daniels as an alternate for a term to expire 11/30/2021, seconded by B. Bylone. **MOTION FAILED 1-4-0** with T. Rudko in favor.
- V. D. Mizla motioned to appoint Roseane Tousignant as an alternate for a term to expire 11/30/2021, seconded by R. Coyle. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0-1** with T. Rudko abstaining.
- D. Possible Appointment of Lindsay Floyd to the Historic District Commission for a Possible Term to Expire 11/30/2023: T. Rudko motioned to appoint Lindsay Floyd to the Historic District Commission for a Possible Term to Expire 11/30/2023 with the caveat that she must attend the next Historic District Commission meeting, seconded by R. Coyle. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- E. Possible Appointment of Gerald Dillenbeck to the Economic Development Commission for a Possible Term to Expire 12/3/2025: Gerald Dillenbeck withdrew his application
- F. H. Jean Smith was interviewed for the Historic District Commission for a Possible Term to Expire 11/30/2023: D. Turner motioned to appoint H. Jean Smith for a Possible Term to Expire 11/30/2023, seconded by T. Rudko. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- G. Stephanie Smith was interviewed for the Planning and Zoning Commission for a Possible Term to Expire 12/15/2022
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Sports League Endorsement Policy: D. Mizla motioned to remove section 4.4 and accept the revision of 4.3 in the policy for Field Scheduling, seconded by D. Turner. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
9. Discussion and Possible Action on the Platform Upgrade to the Police Pension Plan Administration: T. Rudko motioned to approve the platform upgrade to the police pension plan administration and authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents.
10. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Tim Daniels spoke against the process of the Parks and Recreation Commission.
11. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT:
 - Colchester COVID cases are currently at 30 cases per 100,000, there have been 67 new cases in the past two weeks.
 - Town Hall is closed to the public, but fully operational, until January 3 when it will be reevaluated.

- Working on getting ongoing COVID testing set up at the Citizens Bank in front of Town Hall. Beginning union negotiations.
- There will be a field presentation forum on Monday, December 14 at 6 p.m. via Zoom.
- First Selectman's first year report will be going out on Friday, December 4.
- Approximately 400 homes lost power due to the storm Monday, November 30. FS let the Board of Finance that the budget for tree removal has been exhausted.
- There continues to be an increase in building permits coming into the Planning and Zoning Department.

12. LIAISON REPORTS: D. Turner - no meetings to attend

T. Rudko – No meetings

D. Mizla – Youth Services Advisory Board – They continue to have hybrid programming, with the limited capacity at the youth center due to COVID. They are selling hand crafted ornaments. Working on the Resolution Run which people will run on their own and video themselves running.

R. Coyle – Chatham Health is overwhelmed with local COVID cases and contact tracing. There are 300 new cases within the district. They are preparing for the vaccination to be released and how that will be distributed. Long Term Recovery Committee – Last meeting they invited Tiffany Quinn to discuss physical space where people can do in person programming.

First Selectman – Unable to attend the Police Commission meeting but the commission was unable to purchase a pickup and will be purchasing an SUV instead.

13. ADJOURN: T. Rudko motioned to adjourn, seconded by R. Coyle. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Heide Perham

From: Hennick, Thomas A <Thomas.Hennick@ct.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 4:18 PM
To: Taras Rudko
Cc: Heide Perham; First Selectman
Subject: RE: applicants for Park and Rec commission

Hello Taras,

Thanks for your thoughtful response and question. But based on how the fact that Heide is the only person receiving and reviewing the tally sheets, I don't see any undue influence or lack of transparency in the process as presented. I will concede that my opinion is based on there being a certain level of trust among board members.

Be well,
Tom

From: Taras Rudko <trudko@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 11:10 AM
To: Hennick, Thomas A <Thomas.Hennick@ct.gov>
Cc: Heide Perham <hperham@colchesterct.gov>; **Subject:** RE: applicants for Park and Rec commission

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Tom,

Thank you for your timely response below. I do not wish to belabor this point nor go back and forth, however my general point of contention is in your list below item "2) Sheets will not be shared or reviewed by any board member until the meeting." would provide the potential for undue influence. These rankings are going to Heide in the First Selectman's office ergo to the First Selectman "potentially". Would it not be more transparent to just conduct this business in its entirety during the meeting and avoid any potential for questionable behavior?

Thank You,

Tars W. Rudko
Member Board of Selectman

From: First Selectman
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 3:22 PM
To: Taras Rudko <trudko@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: Heide Perham <hperham@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: FW: applicants for Park and Rec commission

Taras

I had Heide send your concern to Tom Hennick and I have attached his reply.

In the same vein, I would ask that you refrain any response to an email related to Board of Selectman by replying to all as you did below. This is in violation of the FOI requirements around conducting board business outside of the public meeting.

As you requested, this full email exchange will be included in the correspondence attachments for the December 3rd meeting of the BOS.

Thank you,

Mary

Mary Bylone
First Selectman Colchester CT
860-537-7220 office



From: Heide Perham <hperham@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 2:35 PM
To: First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: FW: applicants for Park and Rec commission

From: Hennick, Thomas A <Thomas.Hennick@ct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 2:30 PM
To: Heide Perham <hperham@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Re: applicants for Park and Rec commission

Hello Heide,

While Selectman Rudko raises an important point about conducting town business in secret, my opinion is that what the first selectman has suggested here would not be violative of that credo or of the FOI Act. From my vantage point, asking the selectmen to rank the candidates for the Park and Rec Commission without consulting each other, then sending their rankings to you to prepare a tally sheet for tomorrow's meeting would constitute, in essence, meeting preparation and nothing more. There are several thoughts I would offer:

- 1) This ranking must not constitute a vote.
- 2) Sheets will not be shared or reviewed by any board member until the meeting.
- 3) The ranking sheets and your tally sheet are public record.
- 4) The vote is made in public.

I applaud Selectman Rudko on his caution and concern about conducting improper meetings, but I think in this case there would be nothing improper from an FOI standpoint. It never hurts to check though.

I hope this helps.

Tom

From: Heide Perham <hperham@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Hennick, Thomas A <Thomas.Hennick@ct.gov>
Subject: FW: applicants for Park and Rec commission

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FYI, please advise

From: Taras Rudko <trudko@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 11:16 AM
To: First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>; Board of Selectmen <BoardofSelectman@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: Heide Perham <hperham@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: RE: applicants for Park and Rec commission

Mary,

I can appreciate your enthusiasm. I would have thought that having the FOI representative in and all the chatter about the town hall conducting illegal meetings would have given you a moment of pause.

Your ask below is conducting town business outside of a town meeting... Any voting must be conducted during the meeting. Responding to this correspondence with a "vote" or ranking provides your office potential undue influence on the selectman prior to the meeting.

I will provide my responses in public during the meeting. I would also request that you include this thread in its entirety as a public correspondence for December 3rd's meeting.

Taras W. Rudko

Member Board of Selectman
Town of Colchester

From: First Selectman
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 3:18 PM
To: Board of Selectmen <BoardofSelectman@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: Heide Perham <hperham@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: applicants for Park and Rec commission

Please do not reply to all **Send response to Heide ONLY*****

Hi Everyone

I am excited we have 5 applicants for the Park and Rec Commission and people from a variety of backgrounds is a big plus. I heard a lot of enthusiasm from the group. We are slated to make a selection this coming Thursday and since we have to pick only 4 and also, who will be a regular member and an alternate, I am asking for each of you to consider the interviews we conducted at the last meeting and rank the applicants from 1-5, with 1 being your top pick. I will have you respond to Heide and she will fill in a tally sheet with each of our votes which we will use at the meeting in our discussion. I am not saying this will determine the selection. Just trying to provide some information to help us make the decision. We will still have discussion. The votes will be a public document. Please respond by 3 pm on Thursday, Dec 3 to Heide. You can just forward this email with your response to her.

Please Rank in order of preference, with 1 being your top pick:

Dan Everleigh	
Tim Daniels	
Roseanne Tousignant	
Nola Weston	
Anna Ackroyd	

Mary

Mary Bylone
First Selectman Colchester CT
860-537-7220 office

