

October 10, 2020


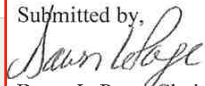
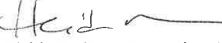
Good morning Colchester BOS members (*and members of the Ethics Commission*),

I am writing (*once again to the BOS*) to express concerns and also forewarn of a potential ethics complaint. The following is a detailed accounting of how the public record of Board of Selectman meetings is currently being adulterated by the First Selectman and by the improprieties of the recording clerk (*who is also the First Selectman's Executive Assistant*). Being the recording clerk for a public meeting requires unbiased objectivity. Being the Executive Assistant to First Selectman is inherently a subordinate role. In this instance, with this First Selectman and with this Executive Assistant, the wearing of two very different hats for the latter has created problems and conflicts.

Additionally, as the official record of meetings is the minutes, when the BOS knowingly approves adulterated minutes with known improprieties, the BOS as a whole becomes complicit and the integrity of the BOS even further erodes.

It is my opinion that corrective action should include a formal statement of censure and also replacement of the recording clerk of BOS minutes by an individual not directly overseen by the First Selectman. This might allow the minutes of future BOS meetings to be drafted unadulterated and approved with credibility.

The first, most obvious instance of impropriety is documented in the chart below. By itself it may seem benign, however when viewed in the context of other improprieties it demonstrates a concerning pattern of behavior requiring corrective action by the Board and perhaps the Ethics Commission.

Date of BOS Meeting	Record of Attesting to writing of minutes. (or absence thereof)
May 28, 2020	Not signed. Respectfully Submitted by: Heide Perham, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman
June 4, 2020	Not signed Respectfully Submitted by: Heide Perham, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman
June 9, 2020	Respectfully Submitted by:  Heide Perham, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman
June 18, 2020	Not signed Respectfully Submitted by: Heide Perham, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman
July 16, 2020	Not signed Respectfully Submitted by: Heide Perham, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman
Aug 19, 2020	Submitted by:  Dawn LePage, Clerk
Aug 20, 2020	Not signed Respectfully Submitted by: Heide Perham, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman
Sept 3, 2020	No record of who the recording clerk was submitting and attesting to these minutes.
Sept, 10, 2020	Respectfully Submitted by:  Heide Perham, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman
Sept, 15, 2020	No record of who the recording clerk was submitting and attesting to these minutes.
Oct, 15, 2020	No record of who the recording clerk was submitting and attesting to these minutes.

The next instance of impropriety is documented in the chart on the next page. While boards and commissions exercise varying levels of detail in minutes, the obvious disparity shown in BOS minutes demonstrates manipulation of the minutes that is egregious. This is an arrogant abuse of power by the party(ies) drafting the minutes. It's painfully obvious that the information included in the minutes for citizen's comments is being cherry picked. Frankly, I'm embarrassed as a citizen of Colchester to have to bring this to your attention. It is shameful.

Date of BOS Meeting	Who spoke and topic(s) mentioned	Record from minutes of meeting
8-20-2020	<p><u>Art Shilosky</u>: Executive Session protocols</p> <p><u>Elizabeth Allard</u>: Diversity and Inclusion Commission.</p> <p><u>Zander</u>: Diversity and Inclusion Commission.</p> <p><u>Shannon</u>: Diversity and Inclusion Commission.</p> <p><u>Taras Rudko</u>: Diversity and Inclusion Commission.</p>	<p>23. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Art Shilosky asked for clarification regarding the reason the board entered Executive Session. Elizabeth Allard and students Zander and Shannon from Youth Uprise expressed their opinion that the Diversity and Inclusion Commission should move forward. The students read a statement.</p> <p>Note: Selectman Rudko and First Selectman Bylone had a brief debate about whether or not Selectman Rudko could speak as a citizen.</p> <p>Although in the BOS bylaws guidelines for citizen's comments do say "The Board will not respond to comments made during Citizens' Comments, with the exception that the Chairperson only may respond if, in the discretion of the Chairperson, such comments require an immediate response." First Selectman Bylone exercised her authority as Chairperson to not follow those guidelines. She instead allowed Selectman Rudko to speak as a citizen for two minutes.</p> <p>However his citizen's comment is not noted in the minutes.</p>
9-15-2020	<p>Senior Center Building Committee Members: Michael Hayes, Anthony Tarnowski, Marjorie Mlodzinski, Kevin Hastings, Sean Nadeau as well as Patty Watts spoke regarding the Senior Building Project.</p> <p>John Knapp said he got promoted.</p> <p>Michael Hayes spoke regarding Exemption for Volunteers.</p> <p>Ron Silberman spoke regarding Old Hartford Road intersection</p> <p>Robbie Avery thanked volunteers.</p> <p>Selectman Rudko attempted to make a citizen's comment regarding Colchester's recent Proclamation about Racism.</p> <p>First Selectman Bylone objected and read from Bylaws the "Guidelines" for Citizen's Comments.</p> <p>Selectman Rudko asserted his right to speak as a citizen and First Selectman Bylone grated him the floor and began the 3-minute clock.</p>	<p>3. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Several residents called in and expressed their support for the Owner's Representative for the Senior Center Building Project.</p> <p>12. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: It was noted that the Exemption for the Volunteers was not actual tax dollars but is applied to the assessment for their personal property. A resident brought up the need to modernize intersection of Old Hebron and Old Hartford Road. Resident thanked the volunteers. A statement was read concerning the minutes.</p>
10-1-2020	<p>Dave Dander acknowledged the work done by the Chatham Health District in response to COVID.</p> <p>Dave Dander expressed his view that the BOS is approving sanitized minutes of their meetings.</p> <p>Selectman Rudko again make a citizen's comment regarding Colchester's recent Proclamation about Racism.</p>	<p>12. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: D. Dander and T. Rudko made comments.</p>

Sincerely,

David Dander

Dave Dander