

<https://youtu.be/aHiV0gV1yJs> Link for Part 1 of the January 12, 2022, Board of Selectmen meeting

[https://youtu.be/p\\_L\\_Pw8AYTA](https://youtu.be/p_L_Pw8AYTA) Link for Part 2 of the January 12, 2002, Board of Selectmen meeting

The January 12, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen was convened at 5:00 p.m. by First Selectman Beth Heller, via WebEx in accordance with SB2012.

Present via rollcall: First Selectman Beth Heller; Deputy First Selectman Sheila McCreven, Joseph J. Crisco, Jr.; Paul Kuriakose; Dr. David Lober; and David Vogel.

Present for staff: Mr. Genovese, Administrative Officer/Director of Finance; Ms. Ford, Media Specialist; Mr. Weiner, Town Counsel; Ms. Yagla, Assistant Administrative Officer. Absent: Mrs. Shaw, Clerk

### **FIRST SELECTMAN'S REMARKS**

*"Good evening. As you are certainly aware, the Connecticut daily positivity rate has soared into the mid 20's. In order to protect all Woodbridge residents and others who work, visit, shop and enjoy many of our activities in town, last week I signed an Emergency Order requiring everyone wear masks at all indoor establishments, workplaces and public meeting spaces. This became effective this past Monday, January 10. I have received several "thank you's" from businesses and residents. This order will remain in place until further notice. It is the right thing to do to keep the Town of Woodbridge safe. Masks, social distancing, vaccines and tests are the simple steps we need to continue to take to keep ourselves and our community safe. You may read the full order on the Town website.*

*Thank you to our Human Services Department staff, our Police Department members, and our all-volunteer members of our Fire Department for organizing and staffing two COVID-19 at-home test kit distribution events. I was able to help with the distribution on Saturday. This was a very well organized, efficient drive thru effort. Instead of the 1,100 test kits we were told to expect from the State, we received two smaller shipments. We held two events to give them out – last Monday and last Saturday. Both were incredibly cold days! On Saturday, we were also able to hand out N95 masks. The Town also shared N95 masks with staff at the Amity Regional School District, the Woodbridge School District, Ezra Academy, local Day Care Centers, and Town staff.*

*I would urge everyone to please take advantage of the widespread availability of FREE vaccines and boosters, especially given the quick spread of the COVID-19 Omicron variant. You may find vaccines and tests by visiting [ct.gov/coronavirus](http://ct.gov/coronavirus). Masks continue to be required at all times in Town buildings, all town meetings remain virtual, and in-person programming has been scaled back significantly to help to continue to keep our community safe.*

*Our ad hoc appointed 2021 Housing Committee is working diligently on the Town's Affordable Housing Plan. I believe they will release a Woodbridge-specific survey to supplement the regional survey published by SCRCOG soon. We are also planning to offer a town public hearing at some point to listen to our residents' thoughts and ideas. Hopefully this plan will help us find ways to meet our state and federal mandated obligations regarding affordable housing.*

*The Diversity & Inclusion Committee is also working on a survey to better understand the experiences, concerns and priorities of residents. They plan to use the data gathered to prioritize their work. Tonight, I am appointing a new member to that committee – Ke Xu (pronounced Kuh Shway). Thanks to former First Selectman Ellen Scalettar and all the members of this most important committee for all their efforts.*

*As a reminder, the Board of Selectmen recently voted unanimously, that beginning on February 1<sup>st</sup>, a new fee system for bulk trash will begin. Bulk trash are large items such as furniture and construction demolition. The Town's Transfer Station has a scale which is used to charge haulers bringing in residential trash. Also on February 1<sup>st</sup>, the scale will be used for residents and contractors bringing in*

bulk trash items. That fee will be \$0.10 per pound. As a reminder, cash is not accepted at the Transfer Station.

*This modified fee is one way for the Town to prepare for a difficult fiscal future by shifting the cost of the service to those who use it rather than have all residents subsidize it. Currently the Town charges \$20/cubic yard, but the Town is charged by the ton, to dispose of trash. In fiscal year 2021, the Town collected \$4,511 in bulk trash fees but paid out \$69,490 to haul and dispose of bulk trash. The new fee will help to offset the Town's costs. Additionally, the Town will continue to offer bulk trash pickup five months a year by appointment, but with a fee. Starting on February 1<sup>st</sup> there will be a \$50 per appointment fee. That fee will partially cover the Town's cost to run this program, including staff time and disposal costs. This evening, we will learn more about a program the state is promoting called "Pay As You Throw." This is another way for us to reduce trash-related expenses and also hopefully reduce the amount of trash generated in our Town.*

*We have many important items on our agenda this evening so in the interest of time, I will stop here. Welcome to the new year. Let's all keep safe. Thank you".*

## **ACTION TAKEN AT THE MEETING**

### **AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION – Chris Sorensen and Steve Munno**

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – McCreven) to waive the Town Plan and Zoning application fee(s) for the Agricultural Commission's application to revise the Zoning Regulation regarding farm stands.

### **EXTENSION OF ONE-YEAR FARM LEASES to comply with grant application requirements**

Kristyna Hulland, Off Center Farm – The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (McCreven – Heller) to request Town Counsel to investigate the option of the Town working with Ms. Hulland to apply for the Farmland Restoration Grant.

### **FUNDING REQUESTS**

#2122-05 – Allocation Amount: \$10,600.00

To: Fire Dept Part Time Maintenance (1230-00/50330)

From: Board of Finance Contingency (1170-00/56800)

For: Continuation of more frequent cleaning of the Fire House due to COVID-19

(Heller – Crisco) Unanimously Approved

#2122-06 -Interdepartmental Transfer Amount: \$75,664.00

To: Woodbridge Board of Education (1910-00)

From: Revenue – Tuition Revenue (1-6-1910/46800)

For: Transfer payment from the Stratford Board of Education for student-specific costs

(Heller – McCreven) Unanimously Approved

### **ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF TOWN CLERK'S REPORTS**

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** ( ) to acknowledge receipt of the Town Clerk's Reports for the month ending December 31, 2021 and cumulative from July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

**MINUTES**

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller - Crisco) to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2021, Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting.

**APPOINTMENT – Inland Wetlands**

The Board of Selectmen received nominations to fill the vacancy of a voting member on the Inland Wetland Agency for a term ending June 30, 2025.

Ms. McCreven nominated Steven Sosensky who currently serves as an Alternate on the Inland Wetland Agency. Mr. Crisco seconded the nomination.

Mr. Vogel nominated Nick Zito and listed his qualifications: he is a professional in the field - a Forester with the Regional Water Authority, holds a degree in Natural Resource Management and a certification in wetlands delineation. Mr. Vogel noted that Mr. Sosensky, though now registered as “Un-affiliated”, was a registered Democrat. Mr. Vogel said that appointing Mr. Zito would bring a professional to the Agency as well as balance the membership. Dr. Lober seconded the nomination.

**VOTE:** Steven Sosensky – Aye – Heller, Crisco, Kuriakose, McCreven  
Nay – Lober, Vogel

Ms. Heller declared the position filled.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (McCreven – Kuriakose) to move into executive session to discuss the items listed below and to invite Marianne DuBuque to attend for items a. and b.; further to invite Mr. Weiner and Mr. Genevese to attend for items a. thru e.

- a. CGS 1-200(6)(D) Discussion of Arbor Haven proposal to purchase former Country Club of Woodbridge property;
- b. CGS 1-200(6)(D) Discussion of Offer from Woodbridge Land Trust/Woodbridge Park Association for conservation easement at former Country Club of Woodbridge;
- c. CGS 1-200(6)(D) Discussion of offer from Peter LaTronica to purchase 31 Enoch Drive;
- d. CGS 1-200(6)(B), 210 (b)(4) – Strategy and negotiations re Cell Tower Siting Council decision @ 118 Newton Road (pending litigation);
- e. CGS 1-200(6)(C)-Security devices re Dispatch issues- Update – Paul Kuriakose

**ACTION AS APPROPRIATE ON ANY OF THE ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

When the Board came out of executive session, Ms. Heller stated that no motions were made, or votes taken in executive session.

**Item 16a.** CGS 1-200(6)(D) Discussion of Arbor Haven proposal to purchase former Country Club of Woodbridge property:

**MOTION** – The following motion was **MOVED** by Mr. Kuriakose, and **SECONDED** by Mr. Crisco: ***“to authorize the First Selectman, Finance Director/Administrative Officer, and Town Counsel to take the next necessary steps to begin discussions with Arbor Haven in order to finalize purchase price, amount of acreage, open space, mix and amount of residential units, and any other terms and conditions of the offer, in anticipation of a possible referendum whereby voters will decide whether or not to sell the property.”***

**VOTE:** Aye – Heller, Crisco, McCreven, Kuriakose

Nay – Lober, Vogel

Ms. Heller declared the motion carried

**Item 16b.** CGS 1-200(6)(D) Discussion of Offer from Woodbridge Land Trust/Woodbridge Park Association for conservation easement at former Country Club of Woodbridge

**MOTION** – the following motion was **MOVED** by Mr. Kuriakose, **SECONDED** by Ms. McCreven: ***“to reject the offer from the Woodbridge Land Trust/Woodbridge Park Association for \$250,000.00 to place a conservation easement on approximately 140 acres at the former Country Club of Woodbridge property.”***

**VOTE:** Aye – Heller, Crisco, McCreven, Kuriakose  
Nay – Lober, Vogel

Ms. Heller declared the motion carried

**Item 16d.** CGS 1-200(6)(B), 210 (b)(4) – Strategy and negotiations re Cell Tower Siting Council decision @ 118 Newton Road (pending litigation)

**MOTION** – the following motion was **MOVED** by Ms. McCreven, **SECONDED** by Dr. Lober: ***“to retain outside counsel to take appeal of Connecticut Siting Council decision to locate the cell tower at 118 Newton Road”.***

**VOTE:** Aye – Heller, Crisco, Kuriakose, Lober, McCreven, Vogel

Ms. Heller declared the motion carried unanimously

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a non-debatable motion by Mr. Vogel, seconded by Ms. McCreven, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Geraldine S. Shaw