

The February 17, 2021, Special Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen was convened at 5:00 p.m. by First Selectman Beth Heller via WebEx.

Ms. Heller noted that the meeting will be in executive session and therefore there are no materials for the public to view for the meeting. In accordance with Governor Lamont's executive order #7b. section 1, which suspends the open meeting requirements of in-person participation, audio and video of this special meeting will be simultaneously televised on channel 79 and youtube@wgatv79 in order to allow the public to view and listen to the meeting. In person attendance will not be permitted.

The meeting may be view via youtube here: <https://youtu.be/APV85F8Fvfl>

Present via roll call: First Selectman Beth Heller, Deputy First Selectman Mica Cardozo, Joseph Crisco, Jr., Joseph S. Dey III, Dwight C. Rowland, and Sandra T. Stein.

Present for Staff: Town Counsel Gerald T. Weiner, Media Specialist Pua Ford, and Mrs. Shaw, Clerk

Invited to attend: Attorney Marianne DuBuque

Ms. DuBuque said that a few moments ago she received an e-mail from Open Communities asking for the legal justification for the executive session because the agenda listed the "applications" and that is not a proper purpose for an executive session.

Attorney Weiner said that the agenda listed that the executive session was pursuant to C.G.S. 1-200(6)(B) strategy and negotiations for pending or possible litigation.

Ms. DuBuque and Mr. Weiner agreed that Ms. DuBuque would respond to Open Communities that the proper section of the Connecticut General Statutes was cited, strategy and negotiations, and the wording on the agenda arose from their documents, but the Board was not discussing the specific applications.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:05 p.m. the Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to move into executive session pursuant to section 1-200(6)(B) of the Connecticut General Statutes. Town Counsel Gerald Weiner, and Attorney Marianne DuBuque were invited to attend.

At 5:36 p.m. the Board of Selectmen moved out of executive session and returned to the Special Meeting. Ms. Heller stated that no motions were made or votes taken in executive session.

Ms. Heller said that because the Board of Selectmen would like to have a thoughtful and purposeful approach to having housing opportunities in Woodbridge the Board will tonight vote to approve the study charge for the Woodbridge Housing Opportunity Study Committee. The Board previously approved the establishment of the study committee. She noted that following this evening's meeting membership of the committee would be established at a later date.

**ACTION ITEM**

Ms. Heller **MOVED** to establish the study committee. The motion was **SECONDED** by Mr. Rowland.

Ms. Heller read the following:

**Study Committee Name:** Woodbridge Housing Opportunity Study Committee

**Term:** 18 Months

**Study Committee Objective:** To guide the Town of Woodbridge (a) in formulating a long-term plan for the Town to comply with Federal and State housing laws, including Fair Housing laws and (b) in promoting a mix of housing opportunities, including the development of an Affordable Housing Plan, as required by State law.

**Study Committee Tasks:** As part of its work, the Study Committee is being asked to:

1. Evaluate the data and pertinent information in the recent application filed with The Town Plan and Zoning Commission
2. Engage the community in the discussion of key issues, including community values
3. Assess housing needs and identify any barriers to a broad range of housing opportunities
4. Submit a report to the Board of Selectmen that includes potential implementation steps

**Resources:** Planning for Affordability in Connecticut: *“Affordable Housing Plan and Process Guidebook by the CT Department of Housing”*; referrals to all Town agencies for issue identification and suggestions

**Staff:** Town employees with expertise in related subject areas; a qualified consultant with expertise in a broad range of housing opportunities.

Following the reading of the description and charge the Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to adopt the charge to the Committee set forth above.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a non-debatable motion by Ms. Heller, seconded by Ms. Stein, the meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine S. Shaw, Clerk