

The September 14, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen was convened via electronic transmission at 5:00 p.m. by First Selectman Beth Heller. The meeting may be viewed on Youtube at <https://youtu.be/MxLFkFuA4K4>

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

Present for staff: Administrative Officer/Director of Finance Anthony Genovese; Town Counsel Gerald Weiner; Media Specialist Pua Ford; and Geraldine S. Shaw, Clerk.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REMARKS

*"Good evening and welcome to the September 14, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. I will begin this evening with a quick update on our Community Center Building Committee. They are making good progress, and have asked, and I have agreed that the new name of this ad hoc committee will be the "Community and Cultural Center Building Committee." This name now better reflects the many uses for this new building, including recreational, meeting, **and** cultural spaces, as well as a focal gathering point for all residents.*

*Our ad hoc Dispatch Committee, which have had **many** productive meetings over the past year, asked me, and I have agreed, to expand the scope of the committee's charge to include review and discussion of ALL public safety matters related to Fire and Police.*

*I am appointing Sofia Morales as the newest member of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee. This ad hoc group is planning their next event as part of their successful Woodbridge Reading in Community program, with the book, *People Love Dead Jews*, by Dara Horn, on the Center Building Lawn on **Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30 pm**. All are invited. The second "Woodbridge Like Me Day" is scheduled for **Sunday October 9** with a rain date of Monday, October 10th. More information will follow.*

We submitted a STEAP grant on Monday, August 15th asking for \$500,000 to renovate the gymnasium in the Center Building into a modern, comfortable multi-purpose gym and auditorium. As you all know, currently there is no ventilation or air conditioning, and the windows are inoperable. This area, which also serves as part of our emergency shelter system, has been nearly unusable during the COVID pandemic.

Our proposal included upgrades to the electrical service to add HVAC to the space, renovate the restrooms, resurface and re-stripe the wood floors, and install safety padding along the walls. I have spoken with both State Senators Cabrera and Maroney, and State Representative Welander for their support regarding this project.

Good news: the over 55 Toll Brothers project on Bradley Road and Litchfield Turnpike was unanimously approved by the TP&Z Commission last week.

Road paving is on-going, with milling completed, and paving to begin shortly. As a Public Service announcement, this year, the roads included in paving are Homewood Road, Ford Road, Old Mill Road, Oxbow Lane and Oak Hill Lane from Rimmon Road to Highview Drive.

Last month, Tony and I had a meeting with United Illuminating officials, which also included representatives from other towns, regarding their recent application to PURA as they are "making their case" in 2022, as they put it, for a proposed rate hike. I asked for a fact sheet regarding a possible rate increase schedule, and it was finally sent to last Friday. It is included in your packet and we are posting it on the Town website.

Later this evening under our Town Counsel's report, we will be asked to approve a support letter, which I received from Conservation Chair Tim Austin. This letter will be submitted to the Trust for Public Land regarding a property at 124 Seymour Road and involves NO Town funding. When Tony and I met with Tim, I asked him if he knew why the Elderslie Preserve is not named after the Wallace family from whom the Town purchased the property. Just an interesting fact: The Wallace family apparently requested that the property honor their family's origins in the historic town of Elderslie, Scotland near Glasgow. The Mayor of Elderslie came to Woodbridge for the dedication of the preserve. Elderslie is the birthplace of William Wallace, hero of the Scottish people!

On August 11th we received notice from the Cable Advisory Council, informing us that our grant application was approved for \$16,724.48. Thank you Pua Ford for this grant submission, and her tireless efforts as WGATV endeavors to keep our residents informed of all Town events and meetings through Channel 79.

In conjunction with WFSB and Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, Chief Cappiello informed me that our very own Officer Vinny Lynch, our SRO at Beecher Road School, represented the Woodbridge Police Department in the filming of a "School Safety" public safety announcement which was one of several which aired on Channel 3 during their newscasts and programming during August, and will continue this month.

Until we hire a new Assistant Administrative Officer following Betsy Yagla's departure, I will attempt to give you a list of upcoming events:

Thursday, September 15th – the Woodbridge 2030 Task Force invites all residents, business owners and anyone else, for a public information session at 6 pm at the New England Brewing Company. This is a great opportunity to meet the committee members (co-chairs Chris Dickerson and Susan Jacobs, Chris Lovejoy, Garrett Luciani, Jeremy Rosner, and Teri Schatz), along with their consultants from Pirie and SLR to share ideas. Currently, they are concentrating on making the Town's commercial district more attractive for businesses and consumers. The Task Force is in close communication with the Economic Development Commission, which has been focusing on support for existing businesses.

Saturday, September 17th – the Linden Fair from 1 to 5 pm at the "Linden at Woodbridge" 330 Amity Road - \$20 per carload admission, concessions, face painting, petting zoo, music outdoor games, and a Dunk Tank. All proceeds will go to the Alzheimer's Association.

Sunday September 25^h – "Sirens and Sundaes" event at Microbrewery, the newest shop in town, at 1652 Litchfield Turnpike from 2 to 4 pm. The first 200 attendees will be treated to two scoops of ice cream. A Touch-a-Truck event will have various first responder vehicles on site. Who can say no to free ice cream?

Thursday, September 22nd – The 2022 nominees for the 4th annual Living Treasure Award are Dwight Rowland, Susan Jacobs, Richard Jeynes, and the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association. These volunteers represent years of public service in so many areas of the town serving on and volunteering with boards, commissions, ad hoc committees, and building committees, B'nai Jacob, the United Church of Christ, the Land Trust, the Historical Society, Beecher Road School, Amity High School, the Woodbridge Child Care Center, Woodbridge Father's Baseball League. The Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association's membership has provided continuous volunteer work with fire prevention and suppression, response to motor vehicle accidents, storm response, medical assistance calls and aiding other agencies. This wonderful community-building event, which honors Woodbridge seniors who have volunteered their

time over many years, also serves as a fundraiser for The Woodbridge Center. If you would like to honor the award-winners' contributions to the town by attending the event on Thursday, September 22, please contact the Human Services Department to purchase tickets no later than tomorrow, September 15.

Saturday, October 1st – *the 40th Annual Woodbridge Road Race – the Fun Run is at 9 am at the Fitzgerald Walking Trail and the 5K starts at 10:30 am in front of the Library on Meetinghouse Lane. Registration is on-line ONLY up until race time. From 8 am to 12 noon, the Woodbridge Police will have a table at the Road Race near registration, in conjunction with Human Services, collecting donations for the Woodbridge Food Pantry.*

Saturday, October 15th – *The Nicole Donzello Tasting Fundraiser, in honor of my dear friend Nicole Donzello. This event from 7 to 10 pm at the Woodbridge Club at 10 Milhaven Road. Tickets can be purchased online, and features include over 50 wines, over 13 breweries, over 15 restaurants, a DJ, and an auction. Proceeds benefit leukemia patients and their families at Smilow Cancer Hospital.*

Monday, October 31st, Halloween – *Save the Date for the Annual Truck or Treat sponsored by the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association. More info to follow as we get closer to the event.*

I attended the annual Massaro “Dinner on the Farm” event on September 10th. As always, it was a beautiful evening.

Lastly, regarding the Open Communities Civil Lawsuit:

The Town will defend this case and we fully expect to be successful. We are a diverse and wonderful community, which will be demonstrated at trial, and I am committed to contesting the claims made by the lawyers who brought this suit.

Thank you.”

LITTLE LIBRARY FOR PEASE PLACE – Abby Susman

Abby Susman presented her Bat Mitzvah project - building and installing Little Libraries. She is requesting to install one at the Pease Place Playground.

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Lober – Heller) to grant Abby Susman permission to install a Little Library at the Pease Place Playground.

WOODBIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION – Interim Superintendent Christine Syriac

Ms. Syriac reported that:

- Enrollment stands at 850, projected to increase to 991 by 2031
- Because additional space was needed for classrooms, the Recreation Department has moved to the Town Hall lower level
- The Board of Education is working on a 5-year strategic plan
- Ms. Syriac thanked the Board of Selectmen for seating a Building Committee
- CABA is consulting with the Superintendent Search Committee

POLICE BODY CAMS – Police Chief Frank Cappiello

Chief Cappiello explained that the Woodbridge Police Department has the early model of body and dashboard cameras. The technology is outdated, not compatible with the current system used by the courts, and repairs are no longer available. Funding options include use of ARPA funds or a five-year payment plan.

It was the **CONSENSUS** of the Board to discuss at the October meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/DIRECTOR OF FINANCE'S REPORT

Monthly Report – Mr. Genovese reported that the unaudited revenues and expenditures report for fiscal year 2022 result is a surplus of \$743,184 which gives the Town an unaudited unassigned fund balance of \$8,068,840 and represents 15.70% of the FY22 expenditures.

FUNDING REQUESTS

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED** to recommend the following funding requests to the Board of Finance:

2223-01 Intradepartmental Transfer Amount: \$ 4,000

To: Department of Public Works Contracted Services (1310-00/53610)

From: Department of Public Works Road Maintenance (1310-090/55170)

For: To address dead/dying trees that need to be removed or trimmed

(Heller – Crisco) Unanimously approved

2223-02 Interdepartmental Transfer Amount: \$32,000

To: CNR-DPW Heavy Equipment (302-3100/57450/PWHRO)

From: CNR-Truck Replacement (302-3100-57450/TRPL)

For: Purchase of a Boom Mower for maintenance of sightlines and roadways in Town

(Heller – Vogel) Unanimously approved

2223-03 Interdepartmental Transfer Amount: \$10,090

To: CNR-Police Machinery (302-2100/57410)

From: Revenue – Donations (1-6-1100/46410)

For: Transfer donation from the American Endowment Foundation to Capital Budget for purchase of a Speed Awareness Monitoring Trailer

(Heller – Crisco) Unanimously approved

2223-04 Interdepartmental Transfer Amount: \$16,724.43

To: CNR/WGATV Technology (302-1350/57410/TECH) \$16,479.43

WGATV – Technical (1135-00/55120) 1,795.00

WGATV – Professional Development 1,450.00

From: Revenue – Grants (1-2-1100/42600)

For: Transfer grant funds to budget for Professional Development, equipment upgrades and service contract.

(Heller – Crisco) Unanimously approved

2223-0 Interdepartmental Transfer Amount: \$ 5,045

To: CNR Police – Vehicle Replacement (302-2100/57450/RVEH)

From: CNR Woodbridge Board of Education – Construction (302-9100/57500)

For: Funds needed for the purchase of two vehicles as approved in the FY23 Capital Budget

(Heller – Lober) Unanimously approved

2223-06 Interdepartmental Transfer Amount: \$ 9,410.24

To: CNR-Info Systems Machinery (302-1450/57410/TECH)

From: CNR-Prior PO's – Cancellation of PO's (302-46500)

For: Replace aged and stripped wires of fiber optic connection for Human Services Dept. and Police Dept. Radio Room.

(Heller – Crisco) Unanimously approved

2223-07 Interdepartmental Transfer Amount: \$15,804.69
To: CNR-Info Systems Machinery (302-1450/57410/TECH)
From: CNR-Prior PO's – Cancellation of PO's (302/46500)
For: Replace three (3) switches in Human Services, Public Works, and Library
(Heller – Crisco)

BID WAIVER REQUEST

Mason Style Truck – the Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to approve the request for a bid waiver to purchase a Mason Style Truck from Gengras Ford, LLC, Plainville CT under State contract #19PSX0161 for \$90,199.80.

Boom Roadside Mower – The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to approve the request for a bid waiver to purchase Boom Roadside Mower from Tri-County Contractor's Supply, vendor for Tiger Mowers under the Sourcewell National Co-op Contract for \$152,726.10.

Police Vehicles – The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to approve the request for a bid waiver to purchase two police vehicles from "MHQ" under the State contract.

- a. 2022 Ford Explorer 4WD SUV Hybrid
- b. 2022 Ford Police Utility AWD SUV

It was noted that only one Hybrid was purchased due to availability

LOCK IN NATURAL GAS PRICE

It was the **CONCENSUS** of the Board of Selectmen to revisit the request at the October Regular Meeting

BEECHER ROAD SCHOOL POOL – REPAIR

Mr. Genovese reported that an engineer is assessing repairs to the pool and expected to report at the October meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

STRATEGIC PLAN/ARPA COMMITTEE – Ms. McCreven and Mr. Vogel

The Board discussed the Strategic plan, proposed distribution of the ARPA funds, and methods to seek input from the public and other stakeholders.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Vogel – Crisco) to approve the following items under the "Consent Agenda":

- 1) Property taxes in the amount of \$24,118.84 - Pursuant to Section 12-124 to 129 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the recommendation of the Tax Collector.
- 2) Acknowledge receipt of the Town Clerk's Reports for the month ending July 31, 2022, August 31, 2022 and cumulative July 1, 2022 thru August 31, 2022.
- 3) The minutes of the Board of Selectmen July 13, 2022, Regular Meeting
- 4) The minutes of the Board of Selectmen September 8, 2022, Special Meeting
- 5) Applications to hold events on Town Property:
 - a. Boy Scout Troop 907 Mum Sale – September 25, 2022 - Old Firehouse Triangle
 - b. Recreation Dept. Road Race – October 1, 2022 - Fitzgerald, Library Lawn

- c. Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee – Meet/greet - October 1, 2022 – Library Lawn, Green
 - d. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee – Program - October 9/10 – Green
 - e. Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association – Truck or Treat, Fireworks - October 31, 2022 – 100 Center Road, Fitzgerald Property
 - f. Boy Scout Troop 63 – Holiday Tree/greens sale – November 12 – December 25 – The Grove
- 6) Resignation – The Board acknowledged Arthur Katz’s resignation from the Economic and Development Commission

APPOINTMENTS

Town Plan & Zoning Commission Alternate to 2025 – Ms. McCreven nominated Chadi Noujaim, Mr. Crisco Seconded the nomination

Mr. Vogel nominated Joseph Dey, Dr. Lober seconded the nomination

VOTE: Chadi Noujaim – Aye: Crisco, Heller, Kuriakose, McCreven

Nay: Lober, Vogel

As Mr. Noujaim received the majority of aye votes he was declared appointed. The Board did not act on Mr. Dey’s nomination.

Commission on the Use of Publicly Owned Properties to 2023 (“CUPOP”) – Ms. McCreven nominated and Mr. Crisco seconded Javier Aviles to fill the vacancy on CUPOP for a term ending in 2025.

VOTE: Unanimously approved

Library Commission to 2023 – Dr. Lober nominated and Ms. Heller seconded, Cynthia Zakoworotny to fill the vacancy on the Library Commission for a term ending in 2023.

VOTE: Unanimously approved

TOWN COUNSEL’S REPORT – Gerald Weiner

Charge to reconstituted housing committee - The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to approve the new charge to the reconstituted Woodbridge Housing Committee as presented by Mr. Weiner:

ESTABLISHMENT OF AND CHARGE TO THE WOODBRIDGE HOUSING COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE NAME: Woodbridge Housing Committee (“Housing Committee”) is hereby established.

TERM: Effective upon Board of Selectmen (BOS) Approval and continue in existence until terminated by the BOS.

AUTHORITY: The Housing Committee shall be Advisory only to the BOS.

MEMBERSHIP: Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the BOS for a term of Two (2) years.

HOUSING COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES: The Housing Committee is charged with exploring, initiating and developing advice to the BOS about ways to create a more diverse and inclusive community with housing opportunities for people at all levels of income and stages of life.

The work of the Committee includes guidance to the BOS for a) updating, revising and formulating its long-term Housing plan for compliance with Federal and State housing laws including Fair Housing Laws, b) promote a mix of housing opportunities for the Town consistent with applicable law, c) recommend

amendments and or modifications to the Town's Affordable Housing Plan filed with the State of Connecticut on or about June 1, 2022.

HOUSING COMMITTEE TASKS. The Committee work should include:

- 1- Efforts to begin a conversation about ways to create more diverse and affordable housing and bring together Community leaders in order to proactively plan for more affordable and diverse housing;
- 2- Assess housing needs and identify barriers, if any, to a broad range of housing opportunities;
- 3- Strive to ensure a commitment to State and Federal housing laws;
- 4- File an annual written report with the BOS about the Work, achievements, and recommendations of the Committee;
- 5- Initiate an inclusive planning process that provides meaningful opportunities for resident participation in the process, i.e., public meetings and workshops.

STAFF: Town employees with expertise in related subject areas.

Charge to Beecher Road School Infrastructure Upgrade Building Committee: The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – Crisco) to approve the charge to the Beecher Road School Building Committee.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF AND CHARGE TO THE BEECHER ROAD SCHOOL
INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Committee Name: Beecher Infrastructure Upgrade Building Committee;

1. Membership: Jeffrey Hughes, Woodbridge Board of Education Facilities Committee Chair
Sheila McCreven, Board of Selectmen Deputy First Selectman
Donavon Lofters, Board of Finance Member
2. Term: Effective upon Board of Selectmen approval and continue in existence until terminated by the Board of Selectmen;
3. Authority: The Committee shall be advisory to the Board of Selectmen and shall consider and investigate whether any of the work is eligible for State reimbursement;
4. Responsibilities: The Committee shall be responsible for the budget, design, and construction re: repair and maintenance of leaking roofs, asphalt walkways throughout the Beecher Road School campus, North School parking lot, overgrown trees in the various areas of the campus, The Kucinkas Loop, and areas of water incursions into the building;
5. The Building Committee's responsibilities shall also include:
 - a. Advertise through a Request for Qualifications process (QBS Methodology) for architectural/engineering services;
 - b. Recommend to the Board of Selectmen the retention of an architectural/engineering firm to assist the Committee in the design of the proposed project;
 - c. Prepare a construction/design plan with the assistance of the architectural/engineering firm retained by the Board of Selectmen, after taking into account the budget,

- construction challenges, including hazardous materials abatement, and timing of construction during the school-year;
- d. Apply best practices for sustainable design including the use of sustainable and energy efficient products and materials, LEED Certification (if applicable) and the possible use of “green” energy and other techniques and seek grant opportunities to fund or offset the additional potential cost of these initiatives;
 - e. Upon approval of the Woodbridge Board of Education and Woodbridge Board of Selectmen of the construction/design plan, seek bids, with the possible assistance of a construction manager, on all aspects of the construction, in accordance with the Town of Woodbridge Purchasing Policy and State requirements for potential reimbursement;
 - f. Recommend to the Woodbridge Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen the selection of one or more firms to perform the construction, after receipt and review of the bids;
 - g. Oversee construction of the proposed project, with the possible assistance of a professional Owner’s representative;
 - h. Seek reimbursement from the State Department of Education for all eligible costs of the proposed construction project.
6. Funding: All expenditures from the Town capital project budget concerning this project shall be incurred in accordance with the policies of the Town of Woodbridge, the Town Charter, and this charge.

Support letter – 124 Seymour Road: The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY (Heller – Crisco)** to approve and send to The Trust for Public Lane a letter supporting the efforts of the Woodbridge Land Trust and the Woodbridge Conservation Commission to protect the property at 124 Seymour Road as an integral part of the “Greenway”

Change of Local Election to November 7, 2023 – The Board of Selectmen discussed the changes regarding terms of board and commission members and elected officials due to the local election being moved from May to November.

It was agreed that items related to the 2023 local election would be considered at the Board of Selectmen regular meeting on October 12th

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

At 7:06 p.m. the Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller – McCreven) to move into executive session

- a) pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(B) of the Connecticut General Statutes – Discussion of pending litigation, Open Communities Trust, LLC et. al. Vs Town Plan and Zoning Commission of the Town of Woodbridge – Gerald Weiner;
- b) pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(C) of the Connecticut General Statutes – Security Devices related to Dispatch – Selectman Paul Kuriakose

At 7:43 the Board of Selectmen moved out of executive session and returned to the regular meeting.

Ms. Heller stated the no motions were made or votes taken in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a non-debatable motion by Mr. Crisco, seconded by Ms. McCreven, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Geraldine S. Shaw, Clerk