

The October 27, 2021, Special Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen was convened at 5:06 p.m. via WebEx electronic transmission by First Selectman Beth Heller in accordance with SB1202.

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

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

CITATION OF APPRCIATION PRESENTED TO JACK HASAGAWA AND NANCY POLK

Ms. Heller said that Nancy Polk and Jack Hasagawa were not able to attend this evening and arrangements will be made to make the presentation in person. However, Ms. Heller read the following remarks and the Citation:

“I am honored this evening to present a citation to Nancy Polk and Jack Hasagawa from the Board of Selectmen. Their home on Litchfield Turnpike, which was the house of Thomas Darling’s grandson, James Alexis Darling, was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places. This home has been praised for its “architecture, and the contribution it makes to a well-preserved agricultural setting.” I quote now from the AWHS newsletter, “Happily the fields surrounding the house belong to the Town of Woodbridge, so its citizens can take pride in helping preserve this view of their town’s 19th century agricultural heritage.”

The Town of Woodbridge



***Office of the First Selectman
Official Citation***

*Be it hereby known to all that
The First Selectman
offers her sincerest congratulations to*

Mr. Jack Hasegawa

and

Ms. Nancy Polk

*On the occasion of
the listing of their 1842 Greek Revival farmhouse*

*at 1932 Litchfield Turnpike on the
National Register of Historic Places
We thank them for their stewardship of this
historic Woodbridge property*

Given this _____ day of _____ 2021

Beth Heller, First Selectman

AMITY WOODBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY GRANT APPLICATION (“AWHS”)

The Board of Selectmen agreed that the Town was not prepared to commit the matching funds required for the AWHS to apply for an Historic Restoration Fund Grant until the amount to be committed is approved by the Board of Finance and the Town. The Board also requires more information about the terms of the grant in regard to the “easement on the property”.

MOTION: The Board of Selectmen considered the resolution moved by First Selectman Beth Heller, seconded by Mr. Crisco:

“I, hereby move that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Amity Woodbridge Historical Society to apply for an Historic Restoration Fund Grant to the State of Connecticut Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The Town of Woodbridge has not appropriated any matching funds as required by the Grant terms, and any authorization for the matching funds, still to be determined, is specifically subject to Board of Finance approval and approval by Woodbridge voters at its Annual Town Meeting. Any approval of the Grant is further subject to Town Counsel review and Board of Selectmen acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Grant.”

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

Ms. Heller declared the resolution adopted.

DISCUSSION OF THE RFP REQUESTED BY WOODBRIDGE RESIDENTS FOR THE FORMER COUNTRY CLUB OF WOODBRIDGE

Dr. Lober said that he understands that Mr. Urbano’s request for an RFP was primarily for the club house and then secondarily the five (5) acres around it.

Mr. Genovese directed the Board’s attention to paragraph two of the draft RFP which mentions inclusion of the club house.

Ms. Heller recommended that the Board delay issuing the RFP until a decision is made on the Arbor Haven proposal.

Dr. Lober said that the Board has an obligation to honor the agreement with Mr. Urbano to issue the RFP. Town Counsel Gerald Weiner told the Board that following the meeting with Mr. Urbano and some of the concerned residents, the Town agreed to draft an RFP for the Board’s consideration – there

was no agreement to issue an RFP. Mr. Vogel recommended issuing the RFP as the Town may receive a proposal valued at much more than that offered by Arbor Haven.

Ms. McCreven said that the Commission on the Use of Publicly Owned Property approved a resolution requesting that the Board of Selectmen pause on any decision until it receives the report from the housing committee.

MOTION: Ms. McCreven moved, seconded by Mr. Crisco: *“I hereby move that with regard to the draft RFP for development of approximately five (5) acres of land at the former Country Club of Woodbridge dated November 1, 2021, that the Board of Selectmen pause any action on the RFP until the Board receives further information including a report from the “housing committee (Woodbridge Housing Opportunity Study Committee).”*

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

Ms. Heller declared the motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF THE NEW STATE ELECTION LAW

Ms. McCreven said that moving the biennial election to November would increase participation.

Mr. Vogel thanked Ms. Heller for including the voting item on the agenda. He argued against changing to November elections. He said there was no real data that the change would increase participation; the spring election could have been moved at anytime and it was not.

Dr. Lober also saw no reason to move the election to November, unless Ms. Heller and Mr. Weiner were seeking five additional months in office and the resulting salaries.

Ms. McCreven said that the Commission on Publicly Owned Properties strongly supports a November election date.

MOTION: Dr. Lober moved, seconded by Mr. Vogel “that the Town of Woodbridge Biennial Election remain in May”.

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

Ms. Heller declared the motion defeated and the Town of Woodbridge Biennial Election will move to the November voting cycle effective with the next Town Biennial Election, November 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

On a non-debatable motion by Ms. McCreven, seconded by Mr. Crisco, the meeting adjourned at 6: 04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Geraldine S. Shaw, Clerk