

Corrected
TOWN COUNCIL OF NEW CANAAN
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2009
8:00 PM –Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark DeWaele	Steve Karl
Kenneth Campbell	Tucker Murphy
Kathryn Devereaux	Johnny Potts
Penny Young	Elizabeth Jones
Christine Hussey	Tom O'Dea
Paul Foley	Dick White

ALSO PRESENT: Jeb Walker; Chris Jarboe, Town Attorney; Gary Conrad, Claudia Weber and numerous other town employees, and members of the public.

Dr. DeWaele convened the regular town council meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Item 1

1. To hear a monthly update form the Public Works Department.

Tiger Mann gave an update on bridge and paving projects in Town.

2. To approve the appointment of McGladrey & Pullen as Auditors for the Town of New Canaan.

Gary Conrad gave presentation and requested the above. Motion by Mr. O'Dea, second by Ms. Young. Unanimous.

3. To approve a Proposed Amendment to the Ordinance concerning the Environmental Commission.

Dick White presented the proposed ordinance revision which came about as a result of a recommendation by the commission itself to make it more clear to the public as to what they do and are responsible for.

No member of the public spoke out for or against the amendment. Mr. O'Dea noted that no one objected to the proposed amendment. The council voted unanimously to approve the Amendment.

4. To approve a Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Feeding of Waterfowl.

Dick White discussed the proposed ordinance prohibiting the feeding of waterfowl (draft 3/26/2009).

Dick White explained the proposed ordinance and why it was needed and introduced our Animal Control Officer Maryann Kleinschmitt.

Officer Kleinschmitt described the serious health problems associated with feeding waterfowl, both for humans and the waterfowl.

It was agreed that adequate signage would be installed with the new rules.

After extensive discussion, the motion made by Mr. White passed with Jeb Walker breaking the tie of the Town Council. The following voted in favor: O'Dea, Campbell, White, Foley, Potts, Young and Walker.

5. To approve a lighting upgrade the on the water tower fields in Waveny Park.

Tom O'Dea recused himself from the table and introduced Steve Benko to provide background of the New Canaan Youth Football program needs along with those of NC Lacrosse. Mr. Benko and Mr. O'Dea stated that the large increase in participants over the last few years has meant an increase in the need for field space both for football and lacrosse. Because of daylight savings and less daylight overall during football season, along with the schedule of many of the volunteer coaches in football coming from work in New York (and lacrosse during the spring), the additional lighted field space is desperately needed. NCYF and NC Lax has already deposited with the Town enough private funds to completely fund the upgrade of the current system with energy efficient lighting and a control panel similar to the one utilized at Dunning allowing off-site control and timer. NCYF is willing to provide over \$90,000 of the funding and a guarantee to cover any cost over-run ~~in exchange for the exclusive use of the Water Tower gurf and grass fields from mid-August until the weekend before Thanksgiving.~~ NC Lacrosse has committed \$50,000 to the project for their use of the lights when needed during the other 42 weeks. The lights on the gurf field are being upgraded to lacrosse game quality lighting.

After questioning about costs by Ms. Hussey and identifying some past public private projects that had greater expenses than originally estimated, Mr. O'Dea reiterated that the project will be funded entirely by private funds, at no cost to the Town. Mr. O'Dea also confirmed that NCYF has committed to covering any and all cost over-runs based on the above exclusive use during the ten to twelve week football season.

Upon a motion by Steve Karl, seconded by Paul Foley, the motion passed unanimously.

6. To hear a report by Council Members Kit Devereaux and Steve Karl on their findings as to "best practices" regarding town projects. Mr. Karl and Ms. Devereaux read their report and recommendations. They recommended a single person from Town be responsible for all projects, ideally someone from Public Works. They spent dozens and dozens of hours interviewing a number of TC members, current and former members of BOS, BOF and Town employees. Mr. DeWaele commended Ms. Devereaux and Mr. Karl on their extensive work.

Mr. Karl moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:15 pm which was seconded by Tom O'Dea. It was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom O'Dea, Secretary