

# MINUTES

## WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

### SWIFT MIDDLE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2009, 7:15 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Elaine Adams, Chairman  
David Demirs  
Richard Fusco  
Carl Mancini  
Raymond Primini, Vice Chairman  
Paul Rinaldi  
Thomas Winn

**ABSENT:** Gary Bernier  
Richard DiFederico

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Charles Berger, Town Engineer  
Charles Frigon, Town Manager  
Frank Nardelli, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director

#### 1. Convene Special Town Meeting

Ms. Adams, Chairman, Called the Special Town Meeting to Order at 7:15 p.m.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Primini, sec. Mr. Fusco) to nominate Elaine Adams for Moderator of the Special Town Meeting.

**Discussion:** **Ms. Adams:** Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

**MOTION:** (Mr. Primini, sec. Mr. Fusco) to nominate Lynn LaForme for Secretary of the Special Town Meeting.

**Discussion:** **Ms. Adams:** Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Adams, Moderator, read aloud the Call of the Meeting as follows:

**WARNING AND NOTICE**  
**TOWN OF WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT**  
**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**  
August 17, 2009

The legal voters of the Town of Watertown and those entitled to vote in Town Meetings are hereby WARNED AND NOTIFIED of a Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, August 17, 2009 at 7:15 p.m. at the Swift Middle School Media Center, 250 Colonial Street, Oakville, Connecticut to consider an appropriation of \$36,000.00 from the Sidewalk Fund for for the installation of sidewalks on Echo Lake Road between Adams Road and Ice House Road.

Dated in Watertown, Connecticut this 10th day of August, 2009.

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Charles Frigon, Town Manager

**RETURN OF**  
**WARNING AND NOTICE**  
**TOWN OF WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT**  
**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**  
August 17, 2009

I hereby certify that on August 10, 2009, I left a duplicate copy of the attached WARNING AND NOTICE of a Special Town Meeting of the Town of Watertown, Connecticut, to be held on August 17, 2009 with Virginia Russo, Assistant Town Clerk.

I further certify that on August 10, 2009 I caused a copy of said Warning and Notice to be published in the REPUBLICAN AMERICAN Newspaper, which has a substantial circulation in said Town.

I further certify that on August 10, 2009, I caused to be set upon the signpost nearest the office of the Town Clerk and all other places with signposts designated by the Town, a written copy of said Warning and Notice signed by me as Town Manager.

I further certify that all the above acts were done at least five (5) days before the holding of the Special Town Meeting on August 17, 2009.

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Charles Frigon, Town Manager

**TOWN CLERK'S CERTIFICATION  
AS TO WARNING AND RETURN OF WARNING**

I hereby certify that the attached WARNING AND NOTICE of the foregoing RETURN OF WARNING are duly recorded in the records of the Town of Watertown, Connecticut and that Charles Frigon. was the Town Manager of the Town of Watertown on the date the WARNING and RETURN OF WARNING were signed.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009.

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Virginia Russo, Assistant Town Clerk

**Ms. Adams:** At this time I'd like, we have Chuck Berger here, from our Engineering Department, Chuck Frigon is also very familiar with this, if we can have an overview of the Sidewalk Fund and what it can only be used for and how it came about because I think there are some people here who probably never heard of it before. Chuck or Chuck?

**Mr. Berger:** I'm the Town Engineer. I've been working for the Town for a little over 6 years now, so I don't have a whole lot of history cause I know the Sidewalk Fund goes back a ways, but I can tell you from my perspective since I got here. When I first got here the Sidewalk Fund was something the Planning and Zoning Commission working with the developers, did not require sidewalks in certain areas of Town as part of the subdivision development. In lieu of not requiring those sidewalks to be installed, there were causing donations made to a fund equal to the value of the sidewalks that would have been required at that site. Over the years some of the developers became concerned about that, I believe there were even some lawsuits and the Planning and Zoning Commission no longer does that, however there does exist a Sidewalk Fund with money in it from this activity, probably started, I don't know when it started but it stopped probably about 4 or 5 years ago and I believe those funds can only be used to install sidewalks.

**Ms. Adams:** Right.

**Mr. Berger:** They are limited just to install sidewalks where the Town deemed them to be appropriate. During Planning and Zoning Commission process in the past where they deemed it not to be appropriate, they would deposit the money into the fund, later to be withdrawn for things like Main Street sidewalks and other important projects to the town. It's my understanding that the practice is no longer utilized.

**Ms. Adams:** The money can only be used specifically for sidewalks, it cannot be used for anything else.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Primini, sec. Mr. Mancini) I make a motion to appropriate \$36,000.00 from the Sidewalk Fund for the installation of sidewalks on Echo Lake Road between Adams Road and Ice House Road.

**Discussion:** **Al Mickel, 95 Woodvine Street, Watertown, CT 067995**

**Mr. Mickel:** How much money is in the Sidewalk Fund?

**Mr. Nardelli:** About \$264,000 in that fund.

**Mr. Fusco:** Who decides who gets this money, Chuck?

**Mr. Berger:** I believe that's a decision that probably starts in the Public Works Office, goes up to the Public Works Subcommittee, to this Body. The reason that this project came to be is during the approval process for the Echo Lake Subdivision on Echo Lake Road there was a significant discussion between the Parks & Rec Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission as well as the Town Council. It's long been a desire of the Parks & Rec Commission to do more around Echo Lake, secure a trail and some easements that create a walking trail around Echo Lake of which this, the Echo Lake subdivision abuts Echo Lake, and it's also an appropriate place to put sidewalks along the frontage of that, so there were two competing uses there and it really, for lack of a better word, it didn't seem fair to the developer to make him install sidewalks along the front as well as construct a trail and donate land around the lake, so during the approval process, or what came out of the approval process was the developer was responsible for constructing a trail around the lake, and through basically a joint decision I believe of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Parks & Rec, and this body, the sidewalk fund would be used by the Town to complete the sidewalks along Echo Lake Road and up to a portion of Ice House Road.

**Mr. Fusco:** Another part of the question is who is going to benefit from this and we're going to have to plow this, right the Town is going to have to end up plowing those sidewalks and maintaining them, but who benefits from this sidewalk? It's not like it's going through a place that's really busy or there is a parking lot next to it, it's just a road on each side.

**Mr. Berger:** There are two issues in what you said. The responsibility for plowing the sidewalk will rest with the property owner who's property the sidewalk is in front of, some of which is the Town of Watertown property and we will be responsible for that. As far as who benefits from it, it's for the overall sidewalk plan where we are trying to create loops from the downtown area, and this connection with the trail to be constructed around Echo Lake property with the Echo Lake Subdivision will complete a loop from the downtown area, up Echo Lake Road, across Ice House Road and back down French Street for a complete loop, versus sidewalks stopping and starting and that's what we are trying to do is create loops in our sidewalk system.

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**Mr. Fusco:** It's the overall plan fits in that?

**Mr. Berger:** Yes.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: (Mr. Primini, sec. Mr. Demirs) to Adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Special Town Meeting Adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine H. Adams, Moderator

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn M. LaForme, Clerk