

MINUTES

WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL LECTURE ROOM MONDAY, April 18, 2011, 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Elaine Adams
Richard DiFederico
Katherine Duplissie
Richard Fusco
Linda Masayda
Raymond Primini, Chairman
Paul Rinaldi
MaryAnn Rosa
Thomas Winn

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Chuck Frigon, Town Manager
Frank Nardelli, Finance Director/Assistant Town Manager

1. Convene Special Town Meeting

Chairman Primini called the Special Town Meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: (Richard Fusco sec. Thomas Winn) to nominate Raymond Primini for Moderator of the Special Town Meeting.

Discussion: **Mr. Primini:** Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?
The nominations are closed.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: (Richard Fusco sec. Thomas Winn) to nominate Susan King for Clerk of the Special Town Meeting.

Discussion: **Mr. Primini:** Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?
The nominations are closed.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Primini, Moderator, read aloud the Call of the Meeting as follows:

WARNING AND NOTICE
TOWN OF WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
April 18, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

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, April 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Watertown High School in the Lecture Room, 324 French Street, Watertown, CT to authorize an appropriation of \$200,000 to the Steele Brook Greenway fund for the development and construction of a greenway along Steele Brook. Funds will be reimbursed one-hundred percent through a Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant from the State of Connecticut.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 12th day of April, 2011.

Charles Frigon, Town Manager

**RETURN OF
WARNING AND NOTICE
TOWN OF WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
April 18, 2011**

I hereby certify that on April 12, 2011 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 April 18, 2011 with Lisa Dalton, Town Clerk.

I further certify that on April 12, 2011 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 April 12, 2011, 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 April 18, 2011.

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 A. 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 12th day of April, 2011.

Lisa Dalton, Town Clerk

MOTION: (Mary Ann Rosa, sec. Thomas Winn) I make a motion to appropriate \$200,000 to the Steele Brook Greenway Fund for the development and construction of a greenway along Steele Brook.

Mr. Primini read Section 7-6 Eligibility to Vote.

Mr. Chuck Berger – Town Engineer

This is for the Steele Brook Greenway in the Town of Watertown. This project goes back to 1993 put together by the Planning & Zoning Commission and adopted by the Town, talking about the needs and desire to create better public access along the Steele Brook corridor. In the past decade the Planning & Zoning Commission has been working closely with the Watertown Land Trust and developers as development projects came before them and several areas of trails have been developed in the northern section of town as part of the development proposals. At the staff level in town we have begun focusing our efforts on the lower and middle sections. The lower segment begins at the Pin Shop Pond and extends northward upstream to the bridge going over to the Unico Field to the Old Fire District Sewer Treatment Plant. The middle segment extends from the bridge up to Heminway Pond and those are the areas we are focusing our attention on. The northern segment goes from Heminway Pond North and have not spent much time on that to date. Our initial focus has been on the middle segment because that area contains the old railroad right of way as well as property behind the Siemon's Company, which has been active and vocal supporter of the project. Our first phase of that project is proposed to begin at French Street where the sign was placed a year and a half ago. The money requested to be appropriated comes from the Small Town Economic Assistance Program Grant from the State of CT which will be 100% reimbursed. Our current plans are designing and preparing to apply for permits for the project. Within the next month or so as far as construction we are working on two options, one is to utilize some of the money to buy materials and have highway personnel perform the work the other option would be to put a bid package together and hire it out. We believe we have plenty of money for Phase I and for the first phase the money can only be spent on the greenway and any leftover money will continue our efforts and probably head downstream towards Unico Fields.

Mr. Rinaldi how long will the process take?

Mr. Berger this will be a multi year project done in phases.

Mr. Rinaldi how long will it take to spend the \$200,000?

Mr. Berger 2 years

Roy Cavanaugh – Director of Public Works

There is STEAP grant money for the Steele Brook Greenway, the town has also in the past been successful at getting outside assistance from both the federal, state and local level for the greenway project. We received an American Beautiful Grant for tree plantings, Siemon's Company has donated time and effort to make this a reality and we have received offers from individuals for tree plantings and assistance on developing the trail.

The question has come up who is going to maintain the trail, I sat down with the Park's Director and we have developed a maintenance program with a maximum cost estimate of approximately \$5,000 per year.

We are improving the quality of life in our efforts as we continue to grow and develop the town. This is an environmental legacy that we are all going to leave our children. I can see numerous civic improvements happening here from Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts with service projects.

Joe Casa – Smith Pond Road

What type of greenway is it going to be asphalt or gravel?

Mr. Berger the first segment is a 10 foot wide stone dust trail and we will see how it goes and will build it such that it can be asphalt in the future.

Ms. Palmer – 267 Bryant Road

On the money we are considering appropriating, do we get any of this money back as we spend the money or do we have to wait until we spend the whole 200 before we get any of it back.

Who is going to cover the cost of maintaining this property up and whose jurisdiction does it follow under?

Mr. Cavanaugh part of the STEAP grant program as we spend the money, we apply for reimbursement and provide proof of invoices to the State of Ct, Office of Policy and Management, they cut a check two weeks to a month after we document the expenses.

We anticipate that the Park's Department will be responsible for picking up the garbage on a bi-weekly basis and once a year dress up the processed gravel with labor and materials the cost approximately \$5,000 a year.

Kevin Killeen – 430 Northfield Road

The real issue about grants is that they come from us we have to pay for them. Such a time as this I am opposed to both federal and state grants at the board level and continue to do that for this project. I do not think the projections of costs for the greenway have been thoroughly examined. I have the sense that \$5,000 annually is not going to be adequate, perhaps the small section that has been identified. It is worrisome to me that while we as a town have struggled to maintain our Board of Education budget that we are now at this time focused on greenways. I think what it will do over time will burden us with further taxes down the road.

Mr. Primini again read the Section 7-6 Eligibility to Vote.

Aye: 20 public, 9 board members
Nay: 17

MOTION PASSES

Special Town Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.