

MINUTES

WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

May 2, 2011

WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL LECTURE ROOM 324 FRENCH STREET WATERTOWN, CT 06795

A Special Town Meeting was held at Watertown High School, Lecture, on Monday May 2, 2011. Raymond Primini called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm and solicited for the election of a Moderator for the meeting.

MOTION: Richard Fusco sec. Elaine Adams to nominate Raymond Primini as Moderator of the Special Town Meeting.

Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: Richard Fusco sec. Mary Ann Rosa to nominate Susan King as Clerk of the Special Town Meeting.

Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The Moderator read the following:

**WARNING AND NOTICE
TOWN OF WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

May 2, 2011 – 7:15 p.m.

The legal voters of the Town of Watertown and those entitled to vote in Town Meeting are hereby WARNED AND NOTIFIED of a Special Town meeting to be held on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 7:15 p.m. at Watertown High School in the Lecture Room, 324 French Street, Watertown, CT to authorize an appropriation in the amount of \$126,600 to the Heminway Pond Dam Fund to assist in the design of the removal of Heminway Pond Dam. Funds to be reimbursed through an EPA Section 319 Grant.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 28th day of April 2011.

Frank J. Nardelli, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director

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

I hereby certify that on April 28, 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 May 2, 2011 with Lisa Dalton, Town Clerk.

I further certify that on April 28, 2011 I caused a copy of said WARNING AND NOTICE to be published in the TOWN TIMES newspaper which has a substantial circulation in said Town.

I further certify that on April 28, 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 Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director.

I further certify that all the above acts were done at least five (5) days before the holding of the Special Town Meeting on May 2, 2011.

Frank J. Nardelli, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director

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

AS TO

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 Frank J. Nardelli Jr. was the Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director of the Town of Watertown of the date the WARNING and RETURN OF WARNING were signed.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 28th day of April, 2011.

Lisa Dalton Town Clerk

Meeting reconvened from April 18, 2011.

MOTION: (Katherine Duplissie sec. by Thomas Winn) I move to authorize an appropriation in the amount of \$126,600 to the Heminway Pond Dam Fund to assist in the design of the removal of Heminway Pond Dam.

Discussion: Chuck Berger – Town Engineer

This project dates back to early 2000's, the Siemon Company was interested in donating a 14 ½ parcel to the town which includes the dam, pond and the associated dry land areas for the purposes of greenway as well as some recreational development once the dam is removed. The Steele Brook watershed there are a number of issues along the Heminway Pond Dam immediately downstream of the dam yet up stream of Echo Lake Road in the summer time the brook tends to turn a bright orange color which is an impaired section of water according to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and they are interested in resolving that issue. Flooding issues along Steele Brook and the Pin Shop Pond Dam is not without a number of issues that we had to deal with. In 2004 we had a meeting with DEP trying to put together all the pieces that would become part of the Steele Brook watershed and try to address all the issues that presented themselves. DEP recommended that we apply for a Section 319 Grant from EPA to do a watershed base study as well as the feasibility study of removing the Heminway Pond Dam. EPA & DEP determined it would help address not only the potential reuse of the pond bottom but also the impaired section of water immediately downstream of the dam and as part of this grant agreed to fund the design of it. That is what tonight is about to appropriate the federal and state share of this grant and we did successfully obtain the grant to initiate the design of the project which will be 100% reimbursed by the state and EPA agency. The total cost of the design effort is estimated to be \$211,000 broken down, 60% federal and state, 40% town. The 40% town share comes from the following 3 items \$34,400 of in kind services, \$15,000 donated land rights, \$35,000 cash contribution which makes up the total town share. We are ready to begin design and negotiations with the consultant and move forward.

Ms. Palmer – 267 Bryant Road

Ms. Palmer asked if there was any estimate of what it is going to cost for the actual replacing of the dam?

Mr. Berger the feasibility study that was done estimated the cost between \$700,000 and 1.1 million dollars. It is our intention to seek state and federal grants to cover as much of that as possible.

Roy Cavanaugh – Director of Public Works

The \$700,000 - 1.1 million dollars does include restoration in some of the upland areas after the dam removal. The dam removal itself is rather small part of the whole area in the end we want to be able to reuse the property for whatever town purposes we put to it. This

grant money cannot be used for any other purposes it is coming through the EPA Section 319 and they have been very supportive of this program and this is the third grant we have received for this and is in keeping with the long term state and federal program for dam removal. Sadly the Heminway Pond Dam is a legacy from our industrial days. It is the policy and goal of the state to remove this dam and restore streams to the original condition. We are looking at gradual improvements of facilities in conjunction with the trail.

Ms. Palmer being a business owner on Knight Street I have major concerns about the flooding we go through. There is many years still to go on this portion of the brook which means we are still many years down the road before we even begin to get looked at and my suggestion is next time that a business in town wants to give you a legacy maybe you should think about what it is going to cost you and let them fix before they gave it to you.

Mr. Rinaldi I wanted to clarify, I thought when you remove the dam it is not going to be replaced.

Mr. Cavanaugh it is a dam removal it is not going to be replaced and restored to its original condition. To address the points raised there is ongoing efforts on lower Steele Brook continuing, we are in communication with the Army Core of Engineer and they have agreed to take a look at the whole thing over again. We did evaluate the potential liabilities associated with taking the dam back from Siemon's and felt the potential benefits down the road outweighed the cost incurred and also it would be easier for the Town of Watertown to obtain these federal and state grants, than Siemon's a private company which is the largest taxpayer in town.

Mr. Fusco by removing this dam does this create more of a flooding problem or does it stay the same or is it better in your opinion.

Mr. Cavanaugh it is the opinion of the specialist study that overall it will improve the stream flow and the stream quality. It will make the situation better; it will restore the natural condition.

BY VOICE MOTION PASSED
Nay: 2

Adjournment

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Special Town Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond F. Primini, Moderator

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk