

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, July 17, 2012, 7 p.m.**

**Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Carmen Vance; Selectman Richard Szegda; Selectman William O'Brien; Selectman Robert Bogue; and Selectman Robert Hellstrom.

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz and others.

CALL TO ORDER: C. Vance called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **MINUTES:** R. Bogue MOVED to approve the 7/3/12 regular meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED 3:0:2 with W. O'Brien and R. Hellstrom abstaining. R. Szegda MOVED to approve the 7/10/12 regular meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - 4.1 Recreation Waiver/Liability Release Form: C. Vance reviewed the materials provided in the agenda packet. J. Luiz recounted his conversation with Attorney Tom Gerarde. Attorney Gerarde explained that the Connecticut State Supreme Court ruled a few years ago that a program participant's act of signing a waiver not to sue the town would not stand up in court. Attorney Gerarde said that CIRMA's model waiver still contains the waiver of suit language because CIRMA hopes that the Court's ruling will be overturned. C. Vance said that she drafted a waiver based on her review of waivers from neighboring towns. R. Szegda and W. O'Brien spoke out in opposition to the existing waiver utilized by the Columbia Rec Department. R. Hellstrom and audience member John Schroder spoke in favor of C. Vance's proposed waiver. R. Szegda MOVED that the BOS adopt the draft Rec waiver as drafted by C. Vance. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. J. Schroder will be issued a beach pass at a pro-rated amount.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 5.1 Blight Complaints: C. Vance discussed some recent complaints that were submitted to the Town Hall about two properties in town that appear to be in unkept condition. The properties have overgrown vegetation and what appears to be trash on the ground and abandoned vehicles on site. W. O'Brien expressed to the BOS that there are other means available to the town to deal with these

complaints besides the establishment of a blight ordinance. R. Szegda said that he does not feel that the recent complaints warrant the establishment of a blight ordinance. R. Hellstrom encouraged the BOS to consider the establishment of a blight ordinance because Columbia is a suburban town as opposed to a rural town.

6. COLUMBIA LAKE/DAM/BEACH

6.1 Application for Constructing Structures on or over the Lake by H. Newbern: C. Vance MOVED to approve the application with the recommendations made by The Lake Management Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

6.2 Application for Constructing Structures on or over the Lake by C. Foster: C. Vance MOVED to approve the application with the recommendations made by The Lake Management Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

7. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

7.1 Hire of Transfer Station Attendant: No action taken.

7.2 School roof replacement committee: Member of the BOS discussed a list of possible candidates for the school roof replacement committee.

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: J. Luiz has completed department head performance evaluations and the STEAP grant application. He is assisting two FiPAC members in developing a clearer communication to the Superintendent as to a format and schedule for financial reporting.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 News Release from CL&P regarding tree trimming

9.2 Letter from L. Power to R. Kenefick re: Historic Documents Preservation Grant

9.3 Permit Comparison Report for FY 11-12

10. BUDGET

10.1 Refunds: None

10.2 Transfers: None

11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: R. Szegda MOVED to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$73,305.92. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

13.1 C. Vance MOVED to enter into Executive Session with J. Luiz present to discuss pending litigation pursuant to CT State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B). MOTION CARRIED 5:0. Executive Session began at 7:30 pm and ended at 7:42 pm.

14. ADJOURNMENT: C. Vance MOVED to ADJOURN at 7:43 p.m. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

Respectfully Submitted by Jonathan Luiz.

Received: July 18 2012
At 2:10 PM
Attest: David E. Myhall ASST
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk TC