

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Tuesday, April 16, 2024**  
**Immediately Following the Public Hearing at 6:30 pm**  
**Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room & Virtual**  
**323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

**Members Present:** Steven M. Everett, First Selectman; Judy Ortiz, Deputy First Selectman; Lisa Napolitano, Selectman.

**Members Present Remotely:** Christopher Lent, Selectman; William O'Brien, Selectman.

**Also Present:** Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator; Henry Beck, LMAC

**CALL TO ORDER:** S. Everett Called the meeting to order at 7:47 PM.

1. **RULES OF CONDUCT FOR HYBRID VIRTUAL MEETING:** S. Everett read the rules of conduct for hybrid virtual meeting. .
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was previously recited in the Public Hearing.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the Agenda as Presented. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - 4.1 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2024.** S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2024. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
5. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
6. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - 6.1 **Chapter 190 of the Code of Town Ordinances – Lake and Beach Use:**
    - **Article II Vessels on Columbia Lake.**
    - **Article III Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake.**
    - **Article IV Conduct at Town Beach.**

Discussion started with Article II Vessels on Columbia Lake. S. Everett said that we are clear on what Lake Management Advisory Commission (LMAC) put together for the proposed lake ordinance changes but is not comfortable moving forward with any kind of change in the horsepower that is allowed on the lake and will need further discussion. S. Everett said he is in favor of the suggestion from the Public Hearing regarding changing the language from vessel to motorboat when referring to a non-powered vessel that is longer than 26 feet.

M. Walter asked could anything over 26 feet come before the BOS for exemption. H. Beck said that is possible. The language could read any vessel over 26 feet must have BOS approval based on public safety and lake conservation.

There were no discussion for Article III or Article IV.

S. Everett made the following MOTION:

Pursuant to Section 3.3(a)(1) of the Charter, the Board of Selectmen hereby adopts the proposed amended and restated ordinance entitled “Lake and Beach Use - Article II - Vessels on Columbia Lake” including Sections 190-2 through 190-9, inclusive, as presented with the following change: 190-6 paragraph H any motorboat exceeding 26 feet in length as listed on its original title is prohibited to launch on the lake. Motorboats exceeding the 26 feet limit prior to November 2, 2023 must possess a valid, posted exemption sticker per Section 190-6I, in addition any vessel over 26 feet must have Board of Selectmen approval based on public safety matters.

Pursuant to Section 3.3(a)(1) of the Charter, the Board of Selectmen hereby adopts the proposed amended and restated ordinance entitled “Lake and Beach Use – Article III - Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake” including Sections 190-11 through 190-17, inclusive, as presented.

Pursuant to Section 3.3(a)(1) of the Charter, the Board of Selectmen hereby adopted the proposed amended and restated ordinance entitled “Lake and Beach Use – Article IV - Conduct at Town Beach” including Sections 190-18 through 190-23, inclusive, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 6.2 Town Launch Gate Key Program.** S. Everett said that LMAC was tasked with finding out answers on the issuance of gate keys. S. Everett said that we are enhancing the camera availability at the beach and boat launch area.

S. Everett MOVED in the short term, on a temporary basis, LMAC advises the BOS to reinstate the Gate Key Program with the following changes to better enforce the Gate Key Inspection Regulations when a violation occurs:

- Eliminate the three-strike enforcement portion of the regulations, replacing it with the immediate forfeiture of one's gate key for a rolling 12-month period of time as ordered by the BOS.
- For a second offense, immediate forfeiture of the gate key with a potential for not having access to the lake for an indefinite period of time as determined by the BOS, with no less than a rolling 12-month period of time.

Recreational or other town employees as designated by the BOS will be required to record, monitor, and document camera footage of all launches on a daily basis.

MOTION CARRIED 4.1 with Chris Lent Opposed.

- 6.3 Charge for Subcommittee for the Columbia Road and Culvert Evaluations.** S. Everett explained the charge of this committee is to review and prioritize problem drainage issues in the town. Input with high level evaluation and creative solutions provided to the Town Engineer consultant for their consideration and the Director of Public Works review. Subcommittee members that have said they would serve are Bob Millerd, Mary Roickle, David Geissert, and Paul Kordonowy. S. Everett MOVED to Accept the charge for the subcommittee for the Columbia road and culvert evaluation and the members are accepted. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 7. NEW BUSINESS:**
- 7.1 2024 Boat Mooring Lottery.** All applicants for the boat moorings and kayak slips will receive a mooring. The kayak/canoe rack have nine applicants and there are only 8 slots. Richard Ranger is the only applicant that was not given a slot in the kayak/canoe rack.
- 7.2 Discussion Regarding Municipal Advisor Request for Proposal.** M. Walter said we put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Municipal Advisory Services. Bond Counsel provided the language for the RFP. M. Walter explained that if we get the grant for the Horace Porter School HVAC project, and the work needed on Pine Street and the other road/culverts projects we will need a Municipal Advisor to prepare to go out to bond. After reviewing the proposals, Phoenix Advisors and Munistat were similar in their costs and Unibank’s approach cost by cost per million. Phoenix and Munistat had mostly Connecticut clients and Unibank had mostly Massachusetts. M. Walter’s recommendation is to bring both Phoenix Advisors and Munistat for an interview.
- 7.3 Authorize and Appropriate ARPA funds for the Beach Paver Walkway Repairs and Closeout for Town Hall HVAC Project.** S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the Proposed Closeout of the Presented American Relief Funds Project as of 4/10/2024 by Allocating Additional Funding from Available American Relief Funds. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 7.4 Discussion and Approval for the Republican Town Committee to hold two flag sales at the Transfer Station on May 27<sup>th</sup> and September 2<sup>nd</sup>.** S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the Republican Town Committee to hold two flag sales at the Transfer Station on May 27<sup>th</sup> and September 2<sup>nd</sup>. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 7.5 Discussion to support flag display to honor those killed on 9/11. Women worked for veterans affairs in Marlborough and is now retired. From Portland thru Columbia put up American flags for first responders who were killed on 9/11.** S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the Donation of \$800.00 towards purchasing 425 flags that would be displayed on Route 66 from September 7<sup>th</sup> through September 14<sup>th</sup> each year honoring First Responders who were killed on 9/11. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
- 8. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:** None.
- 9. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:** None.
- 10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** None.
- 11. CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

12. **BUDGET:**
  - 12.1 **Transfers:** S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the TRANSFERS Totaling \$619.00 as presented. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
  - 12.2 **Refunds:** None.
  
13. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the Payment of Bills Totaling \$133,960.39, Consisting of 2023-2024 Emergency, 2023-2024 Regular, Credit Card, and Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
  
14. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** G. Stryker asked if we could have additional signage for fisherman that would state One Key, One Boat. This is to discourage a boater to sneak in behind someone who had a key to open the gate.
  
15. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** M. Walter thanked the Lions Club on such a great job with the new lighting for the Town Green sign and the new plantings around the gazebo.
  
16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel per State Statues Section 1-200(6)(A). S. Everett MOVED into Executive Session at 8:27 pm and invited M. Walter to attend. MOTION CARRIED 5.0. Executive Session ended at 8:41 pm.**
  - 16.1 **Legal:** S. Everett MOVED to Authorize Mark Walter, the Town Administrator to rent a dumpster for services. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
  
17. **ADJOURNMENT:** S. Everett MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie