

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, May 2, 2017 – 7 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

Members Present: First Selectman Carmen Vance; Deputy Selectman Steven Everett; Selectman William O'Brien; Selectman Robert Hellstrom; Selectman Robert Bogue.

Also Present: Town Administrator Mark Walter; Henry Beck; Ann Dunnack; Mary Roickle; Andrea Drabicki; Bryan Tarbell; Christine Sposito; Kelly McKenna; Keith Herzig; Fire Marshal Mike Lester and numerous other citizens.

CALL TO ORDER: C. Vance called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **MINUTES: BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2017:** R. Bogue MOVED to approve the minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:1 with C. Vance abstaining.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 5.1 **2017 Annual Steeple Chase Tour:** R. Bogue MOVED to approve the 2017 Annual Steeple Chase Tour to travel through Columbia on August 19, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
 - 5.2 **Suspense List:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the 2017 Suspense List as presented. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
 - 5.3 **Establishment of Town Meeting for amended ordinance #6-4:** S. Everett explained that amended ordinance 6-4 was passed by the BOS at its meeting on April 4, 2017 (4:1:0 with C. Vance, S. Everett, R. Hellstrom and R. Bogue in favor and W. O'Brien opposed) based on the Lake Management Advisory Committee recommendations and proposal with intent to keep the lake as clean as possible, keep invasive species and those who are not authorized to use the lake, out of the lake.

S. Everett stated that residents have expressed that communication from the town to the town's people must be improved and the BOS have and will take this into consideration He explained that this has been put to petition and garnished a lot of signatures to repeal the motion to approve this. Now, the BOS must "right a wrong" and find a solution which satisfies everyone.

Henry Beck reviewed the proposed changes to the procedures and the ordinance. He explained that the revisions apply to everyone equally, whether you reside on the lake or not. Andrea Drabicki of Route 87 asked how those with deeded properties will be affected. H. Beck stated the same rules will apply to them as well. He explained that the suggested revisions allow access to the water at any hour, provided proper education and certification is received. H. Beck stated the self certification system is through the honor system. Everyone will read the rules and procedures, etc. H. Beck stated the self certification system is through the honor system, where those seeking certification will understand and abide by the rules and procedures, etc.

M. Walter stated that currently the town is looking into possibly installing a key card system that will be time stamped and show who "checks in." S. Everett asked if there is a reason why we need a gate guard. C. Vance stated yes, because not everyone will have a card. Bryan Tarbell asked if it is possible for those who want access may purchase their own key card? Discussion followed.

Andrea Drabicki of Route 87 spoke to the BOS. She expressed that she does not feel as though the town is doing enough to notify citizens of what is going on and that the lack of communication is a big issue. She stated for the record, that “public outreach and education must be presented first prior to creating an ordinance” and asked the BOS what they plan on doing to achieve this.

M. Walter stated that the town utilizes bulk email blasts from both the Recreation Department and the Administration Office, and also places information on the website. A. Drabicki spoke about the public information session that took place at the Library and thanked S. Everett for his attendance.

A. Drabicki expressed a major concern she has with Attorney Beck handling this issue while he also lives on the lake and is a member of the Lake Management Advisory Committee (LMAC). She feels this is a conflict of interest. H. Beck explained that another attorney has been working on this but was unable to attend this evening’s BOS meeting.

A. Drabicki asked why the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) was not involved in this process. H. Beck explained he has no objection consulting with the EAC. B. Tarbell expressed that this is a very sensitive and passionate subject and stated that the EAC will work with supporting other boards and committees to come to a resolution. S. Everett stated that he knows public advertising is important and the BOS will work on improving this. However, the BOS relies on committees to bring information and concerns to them. The BOS will listen! He explained that the BOS welcomes citizens input and ideas.

Keith Herzig of Route 87 likes to see that the town can work together and resolve issues. He stated that he feels a better job in regards to signage needs to be taken into consideration. He asked when the gate will be open and stated that he would not be opposed to paying to get access to the lake. S. Everett stated that gate has been opened since petition passed.

Christine Sposito of Doubleday Road spoke in favor of fees for lake-goers, also.

Kelly McKenna of Route 87 asked how to sign up for email blasts. Kim Bona stated that individuals may sign up by going to the home page of the town website www.columbiact.org.

Ann Dunnack of Lake Road stated that she is signed up, but is having issues with receiving email blasts. K. Bona will look into this.

C. Vance **MOVED** to schedule a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 7 pm in Yeomans Hall for the following clauses:

CLAUSE 1: To act upon a resolution to repeal the amendments adopted by the Board of Selectmen at its meeting on April 4, 2017 to Town Ordinance 6-4 entitled “Town of Columbia Activities and Conduct at the Columbia Town Beach and the Launching of Watercraft from the Shoreline of Columbia Lake and Penalties for Violation of Such;” and then to amend the original ordinance, as so restored, in accordance with the form of those amendments presented to the meeting, copies of which have been available at www.columbiact.org and in the Town Clerk’s office since legal notice for this Town Meeting was published. Call 860-228-0110 to request a copy of proposed amendments.

CLAUSE 2: To act upon a resolution to repeal the amendments adopted by the Board of Selectmen at its meeting on April 4, 2017 to Town Ordinance 6-4 entitled “Town of Columbia Activities and Conduct at the Columbia Town Beach and the Launching of Watercraft from the Shoreline of Columbia Lake and Penalties for Violation of Such” in response to the petition of qualified voters of the Town which has satisfied the requirements of Section 2.6 of the Town Charter.

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

C. Vance **MOVED** to add item **NEW BUSINESS** item 5.4 to the agenda entitled, “Chamber of Commerce Business of Year” **MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

- 5.4 Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year:** R. Bogue MOVED to nominate “Crossroads Physical Therapy” as Columbia’s 2017 Business of the Year. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:**
- 6.1 Application of Ellen and Bob Turner for seawall repair at 106 Route 87:** W. O’Brien MOVED to approve the application of Bob Turner for seawall repair at 106 Route 87. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**
- 7.1 Appointment of Jason Nowasad as Building Official effective July 1, 2017:** R. Hellstrom MOVED to appoint Jason Nowasad as Building Official and to enter into an agreement between Lebanon and Columbia for Building Official services effective July 1, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 5:0. Mike Lester stated he is saddened we will be losing Jim Rupert.
- 7.2 Hire of Julia Alicea as Substitute Lifeguard:** S. Everett MOVED to hire Julia Alicea as a Substitute Lifeguard for the 2017 summer season. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** Paul Ramsey explained that he and the Open Space Committee have been speaking with Kelly Boling from the Trust for Public Land. P. Ramsey explained that K. Boling is interested in contacting landowners within the Wellswood Community Forest project to see what type of reception is received in terms of their land going to conservation purposes. Discussion followed. S. Everett stated he is ok with this as long as there is no legal binding involved. P. Ramsey said there is not. R. Hellstrom feels that this is a unique piece of land / woods that is worth preserving. The BOS concurred and granted permission to the Trust for Public Land to move forward with this.
- M. Walter stated that resident Dan Armini donated a POW flag to the town and has requested that it be flown outside Town Hall. C. Vance suggested raising it at the Memorial Day Ceremony.
- 9. CORRESPONDENCE:**
- 9.1 State Police Monthly Activity Report – April 2017**
- 10. BUDGET:**
- 10.1 Transfers:** None.
- 10.2 Refunds:** S Everett MOVED to approve the following refund:
- | AMOUNT | FROM | TO |
|----------|------------------|-----------------|
| \$143.54 | Town of Columbia | Cynthia Pitcher |
- MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** C. Vance MOVED to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$36,545.95 including regular bills, emergency bills, credit cards and paychex. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.
- 12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** None.
- 13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
- 13.1 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);** None.
- 14. ADJOURNMENT:** C. Vance MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:20 pm and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly A. Bona