

**TOWN OF COLUMBIA**  
**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, October 2, 2018 – 6:45 pm**  
**Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room**  
**323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

A Special Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in the Town Meeting of the Town of Columbia, Connecticut was held in the Adella G. Urban Administrative Office Conference Room on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 6:45 pm.

**Present:** First Selectman, Steven M. Everett, Deputy Selectman, Robert Hellstrom; Selectman, William O'Brien; Selectman, Lisa Napolitano; (Selectman, R. Bogue arrived at 6:49pm).

**Also Present:** Town Administrator, Mark Walter; George Murphy, DPW Director; Brian Paul, Tree Warden.

**Moderator:** Millie Ramsey.

**Clerk:** Jennifer C. LaVoie.

**Citizens:** Ann Dunnack; Ingrid Wood.

The meeting was called to order by S. Everett at 6:46 pm.

The meeting was then turned over to the Moderator who read the legal advertisement from *The Chronicle*, which included the following CLAUSE:

**CLAUSE 1:** To appropriate \$50,000 from the General Fund to set up a Tree Removal Capital Account to cover the estimated cost of tree removal due to tree damage from gypsy moth and other insect infestations.

The Moderator turned the meeting over to S. Everett, First Selectman for comments.

S. Everett stated that in *The Journal Inquirer* and *The Hartford Courant* there were recent articles pertaining to the topic of taking dead or dying trees down. He further stated that the Town of Columbia is being proactive instead of reactive. S. Everett asked if any of the BOS had any comments and W. O'Brien stated that he fully supports the removal of dead and dying trees. S. Everett then asked if any of the Audience of Citizens had comments or questions.

A. Dunnack, 103 Lake Rd. asked if this will be limited to trees on town or state land, or does it apply to trees at Rec. Park, Szegda Farm or any open space or trails within Columbia. S. Everett stated that the priority is along the roadside that endanger the power lines. G. Murphy added that this would only occur on town roads and that the town does not have jurisdiction to remove any trees from state-owned property.

Ingrid Wood, 322 Route 87 asked if this can be broadened to include trees that come down due to lightning strikes or any other reason - not just from insect infestation as stated in the Clause. S. Everett stated yes; any tree that DPW deems weak or dying will be taken down as time prevails and by priority. S. Everett invited G. Murphy, DPW Director to add his comments regarding the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department

on removing dead/dying trees. G. Murphy stated that the tree warden is certified by the State of CT and the removal of tree's are under the tree warden's authority. He added that the tree warden is above reproach according to the statutes.

S. Everett MOVED to approve the appropriation for \$50,000 from the General Fund to set up a Tree Removal Capital Account to cover the estimated cost of tree removal due to tree damage from gypsy moth and other insect infestations. W. O'Brien SECONDED the MOTION.

M. Ramsey re-read the MOTION and the record and called for a vote. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with R. Bogue abstaining.

S. Everett MOVED to ADJOURN the meeting at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie