

**RTM Education & Recreation Subcommittee Minutes**

Sullivan Independence Hall

May 16, 2012

Present: Leonora Campbell, Julie Gottlieb, Allen Marks, Mary McCullough, Nicholas Mirabile, Carol Way

Absent: Marc Patten, Carolyn Richmond, Chad Stewart, David Weber

5. To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen:

“RESOLVED, that in accordance with a request from the Director of Community and Economic Development, applications received under the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) program be, and hereby are, approved, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Community and Economic Development be, and hereby is, authorized to serve as municipal liaison and as overseer of implementation of the program.”

*Mark Barnhart, Director of Community & Economic Development presented information for the 2012 Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) program. The Town solicits program proposals from municipal agencies and community non-profit organizations for funding consideration. The program allows businesses to claim a State tax credit for cash contributions made to qualifying community programs conducted by tax exempt or municipal agency. Supporting documentation was provided including a list of the organizations to which application materials were mailed.*

*Moved: Carol Way*

*Seconded: Julie Gottlieb*

Item 5:

Member	In Favor	Against	Abstain	Member	In Favor	Against	Abstain
Leonora Campbell	X			Marc Patten			
Julie Gottlieb	X			Carolyn Richmond			
Allen Marks	X			Chad Stewart			
Mary McCullough	X			Carol Way	X		
Nicholas Mirabile	X			David Weber			

6. To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen:

“RESOLVED, that in accordance with a request from the Director of Community and Economic Development, a PY-38 (October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013) Community Development Block Grant Application in an amount to be finalized by HUD, be, and hereby is, approved, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman be, and hereby is, authorized to execute documents necessary to facilitate the Town’s participation in said program.”

*Mark Barnhart, Director of Community & Economic Development presented the Program Year 38 Annual Plan, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Mr. Barnhart stated that based on estimates recently provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Town of Fairfield expects to receive \$431,202 in CBGB entitlement funds for the upcoming program year. This amount represents a decrease of \$79, 749 or a 16% decrease over the current year allocation. The proposed budget also includes \$5,000 in estimated program income. The town may not allocate more than 15% of its entitlement to public service category activities ad that general administrative costs cannot exceed 20% of the allocation.*

*Moved: Leonora Campbell*

*Seconded: Allen Marks*

**Item 6.**

Member	In Favor	Against	Abstain	Member	In Favor	Against	Abstain
Leonora Campbell	X			Marc Patten			
Julie Gottlieb	X			Carolyn Richmond			
Allen Marks	X			Chad Stewart			
Mary McCullough	X			Carol Way	X		
Nicholas Mirabile	X			David Weber			

7. To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen:

“RESOLVED, that in accordance with a request from the Land Acquisition Commission, the Town of Fairfield acquire the property at 2012 Cross Highway (1.19 acres) from the State of Connecticut at the cost of \$1000.”

*Thomas Steinke, Director, Conservation Commission presented information regarding the proposed conveyance of State of CONNDOT surplus property at #2021 Cross Highway to the Town of Fairfield under Connecticut Special Act 11-16 Section 3(Open Space). Supporting documents outlined the property identifiers, acreage, appraised value, tax revenues, past land use, current site conditions, State of CT conditions for conveyance(\$1,000), environmental assessment, and anticipated expenses to the Town of Fairfield.*

*Moved: Allen Marks*

*Seconded: Nick Mirabile*

**Item 7.**

Member	In Favor	Against	Abstain	Member	In Favor	Against	Abstain
Leonora Campbell	X			Marc Patten			
Julie Gottlieb	X			Carolyn Richmond			
Allen Marks	X			Chad Stewart			
Mary McCullough	X			Carol Way	X		
Nicholas Mirabile	X			David Weber			

9. To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Finance:

“Resolved, that the Bond Appropriation entitled, “A Resolution Appropriating \$250,000 for the Costs Associated with the Improvement and Renovation of Riverfield Elementary School and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds to Finance Such Appropriation” consisting of three pages, be and hereby is, approved.”

*There was no presentation, no discussion, and no action was taken.*

10. To hear, consider and act upon an ordinance, in accordance with Section 9-169 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as recommended by the RTM Redistricting Committee.

*There was no presentation, no discussion, and no action was taken.*

RTM Finance Committee Meeting Minutes for 5/14/2012

Committee Members in attendance:

Finance Committee Monday, May 14, 2012	Item#5	Item#6	Item#7
Peter Ambrose	Y	A	N
Shiela Marmion	Y	Y	Y
Tom McCarthy	Y	Y	Y
Bruce Ryan	Y	A	N
Dave Mackenzie	Y	Y	N
Ken Lee	-	-	-
Hal Schwartz	Y	Y	A
Hank Ference	Y	Y	N
Ellen Jacob	Y	Y	N
Heather Dean	Y	Y	A

FOUR RESOLUTIONS WERE REFERRED TO THIS COMMITTEE BY THE RTM FOR REVIEW/ACTION PRIOR TO THE MAY GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE 21<sup>st</sup>.

Respectfully submitted; Thomas E McCarthy (Secretary).

5. To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen:

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Community and Economic Development be, and hereby is, authorized to serve as municipal liaison and as overseer of implementation of the program.”

Comments: Addressing the Finance and PW&P Subcommittees in joint session, Mr. Mark Barnhart (Director of Community and Economic Development) summarized the program sponsored by the State Department of Revenue Services which offers tax breaks to local businesses that provide support or assistance to eligible non profit organizations. He noted that this program is not a particularly rich source of funding and last year only Wakeman Boys&Girls partnering with Bigelow Tea took advantage of it. This resolution passed with 7 in favor and 2 abstaining.

6. To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen:

“RESOLVED, that in accordance with a request from the Director of Community and Economic Development, a PY-38 (October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013) Community Development Block Grant Application in an amount to be finalized by HUD, be, and hereby is, approved, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman be, and hereby is, authorized to execute documents necessary to facilitate the Town’s participation in said program.”

Comments: Addressing the Finance and PW&P Subcommittees in joint session, Mr. Mark Barnhart (Director of Community and Economic Development) gave a brief overview of the program which is intended to meet national objectives targeting low income needs. He added that by requirement 15% needed to be dedicated to public service, and 20% would be allocated to fund one full time employee who would administer the program on behalf of the town. He responded questions from representatives Dean, Jacobs, McCarthy and others

relating to specific elements of affordable housing activities. He identified the dollar amount (\$431K) and noted that the funding has been reduced from each of the prior two years (\$80K & \$100K). He opined that he sometimes finds it difficult to understand the States criteria by which it decides how funding gets allocated across different municipalities under this program. In single session Representative Mackenzie expressed concern that Mark needed to more assertive with the State in advocating for Fairfield's share of the program funding. Representative Ambrose and others expressed concern that there were conditions (hooks) associated with accepting the funding which would involve provisions/commitments for affordable housing. This resolution was unanimously approved in single session.

7. To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen:

“RESOLVED, that in accordance with a request from the Land Acquisition Commission, the Town of Fairfield acquire the property at 2012 Cross Highway (1.19 acres) from the State of Connecticut at the cost of \$1000.”

Comments: Conservation Director Tom Stienke presented a high level over view of the property, noting it's value was assessed at \$39K. He went on to note that, as is it would not fulfill zoning requirements for new construction. He added that a foundation and well from an old homestead remain on the property and therefore it might represent some small historical value. Representatives Mackenzie and Ambrose questioned the need to acquire the property, and opined that liabilities might well out weigh any benefit to the town, still others indicated that they would be somewhat inclined to acquire the property predicated upon the understanding that it could be reserved for passive recreational use.

This resolution failed with 5 opposed, 2 in favor and 2 abstaining

8. To hear, consider and act upon an ordinance, in accordance with §9-169 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as recommended by the RTM Redistricting Committee.

Comments: Representative Ference informed the members of this committee that an agreement had not yet been reached on the matter of redistricting. The Republican proposal to reduce the number of districts from 10 to 8 and thereby reduce the size of the RTM had not as yet been accepted. He noted that an alternate approach was under discussion. He added another important element of the plan was to align the town districts with newly drawn state districts so as to avoid split districting to the extent it is possible. No vote taken.

FAIRFIELD RTM  
LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES: MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012

Present (8): Bateson, Becker, Braun, Brogan, DeMartino, Garskof, Hoffkins, Varian

Meeting called to order at 7:12pm.

L&A Committee Votes on Items on the Call for RTM Meeting on 5/21/12:

4. To consider and act upon the following appointment to the Ethics Commission as recommended by the Board of Selectmen: Martha S. Brooks (D), 1821 Jennings Road, Term July 2011 - 2013  
*(Referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation & Administration)*

Appointee Brooks appeared before the Committee and gave a brief description of her CV and intent to serve. Rep. Braun questioned Ms. Brooks ability to effectively separate herself from addressing ethics issues given her close affiliation with the DTC and employment history. Ms. Brooks assured the Committee that she would be able to independently evaluate any ethical issue and if not recuse herself from any such proceeding that she could not.

Vote: 8:0:0 in favor of appointment

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Community and Economic Development be, and hereby is, authorized to serve as municipal liaison and as overseer of implementation of the program."  
*(Referred to All Standing Committees)*

Presented by Mark Barnhart Dir. Of Comm. and Ec. Dev. Barnhart gave a brief overview of the program, how its executed and managed and answered questions concerning the mailing list.

Vote: 8:0:0 in favor of the Resolution

6. To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen:  
"RESOLVED, that in accordance with a request from the Director of Community and Economic Development, a PY-38 (October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013) Community Development Block Grant Application in an amount to be finalized by HUD, be, and hereby is, approved, and  
FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman be, and hereby is, authorized to execute documents necessary to facilitate the Town's participation in said program."  
*(Referred to All Standing Committees)*

Presented by Mark Barnhart Dir. Of Comm. and Ec. Dev. Barnhart gave a brief description of CDBG program. No agency has been defunded since last year. Grant amount has been reduced from prior year. Barnhart stated that the final amount of the grant is \$431,202. Discussion on the Micro Enterprise program and Program Administration was had.

Vote: 8:0:0 in favor of the Resolution; with the intent to amend the resolution to document the final amount of the grant.

7. To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen:

“RESOLVED, that in accordance with a request from the Land Acquisition Commission, the Town of Fairfield acquire the property at 2012 Cross Highway (1.19 acres) from the State of Connecticut at the cost of \$1000.” *(Referred to All Standing Committees)*

Presented by Conservation Director Tom Steinke. Steinke gave a brief history of the acquisition. Discussion was had on the tax revenue if held by a private owner, amount was minimal. Committee wants the well permanently capped immediately upon acquisition. Bateson had concerns about the LAC involvement cited within the resolution and would be abstaining until it could be further addressed. Varian noted differing addresses; Steinke stated the correct address was 2120. Discussion was also had about tree trimming liability on the Merritt Parkway side of the property and Steinke did not know of any plans to address this as the state typically addresses tree pruning within the Parkway right of way. Steinke also stated that this property was to be designated as passive use.

Vote: 3:0:5 (Yes; Varian, Braun, DeMartino) in favor of the Resolution, with the intent of correcting the street number of the subject property.

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm.

May 14, 2012

Kathryn L. Braun

Kathryn L. Braun, Secretary

Legislative & Administrative Standing Committee Of the Representative Town Meeting