

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WARDEN AND BOARD OF
BURGESSES THURSDAY, February 22, 2024
4 NIBANG AVENUE and VIA ZOOM

A Regular Meeting of the Warden and Board of Burgesses was held on Thursday, February 22, 2024. Notice of the meeting was posted in a timely manner on the Fenwick kiosk and on the website.

PRESENT: Warden Newt Brainard, Frank Keeney, Duby McDowell,
General Manager Jeff Champion (GM), and Zoning
Enforcement Officer/Land Use Administrator Marilyn
Ozols (ZEO) and Treasurer, Richard Neely.

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Pam Christensen, Margaret Wade and Chris Millard

ABSENT: None

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Present: Bruce Baird

Present via Zoom: Bill Webster, JD Rehm, Kathy Rehm

1. Call to Order

The Warden called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Moment of Silence: Patsy Jones

A Moment of Silence was observed in memory of Patsy Jones.

3. Approval of Burgess Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2024

A Motion was made by F. Keeney, seconded by D. McDowell, to approve the January 18, 2023 minutes with a correction.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Open Forum for Fenwick Residents to Speak

None

5. General Manager's Report

Golf Course

January-February daily ticket sales were lower due to cold and snowy weather. Year to Date revenue remains strong.

All but two season ticket holder renewals have been collected. Newly added season ticket holders have been assessed a one-time \$500 golf course improvement fee, 100% of which will be used for golf course improvements.

EV Charging Stations

Environmental Systems Corporation (ESC) approached the Borough about the feasibility of installing EV charging stations. After a discussion, it was decided to decline the proposal for now, citing the lack of available parking spaces.

Tee Box Rebuilds

The 4th and 8th tee boxes are completed except for a decision on cart path material.

Water Fountains

The Practice Green fountain was rebuilt satisfactorily. Repair and rebuild of the remaining fountains has been ordered for the spring of 2024. Two families have offered to cover the costs. There will be enough funds remaining to complete the project.

Practice Green is Edward I. McDowell, Jr., Old#1 is Bulkeley, Morgan, Gardner, the Pier is Chmiel family, the Tennis Court is the Rehm family and the fountain on #2 is the Millard family.

Seawall Sidewalk Repair

This project is complete. The Borough's cost share is \$20k, with 36k budgeted. Invoices sent to individual residents have been paid in full.

Road Repair Pettipaug

This project is completed. The LoCIP fund in the amount of \$9,976 from the State of CT has been paid to the Borough. J. Champion suggests that future projects be identified. Roads include Fenwick Ave repaving, Agawam Ave East and West, Mohegan Ave and Sequassen Ave. J. Champion was requested to get updated quotes for paving Fenwick Avenue from the flagpole to the gate and redoing Agawam from Pataquasset to Fenwick (pavement or gravel).

Harbor Engineering

Gus is still working on permits from DEEP for the Crab Creek Bridge and the 4th tee box. We are still waiting for divers to be scheduled (Atlantic Marine) to look at the pier.

The first payment for engineering expenses of \$24k (with an approved budget of \$28k) have been paid. The remaining anticipated fees are as follows: 1. Bridge Condition Assessment (complete). 2. Forth Tee Box Seawall Assessment (complete). 3. Pier Inspection ~ \$9k. 4. CT-DEEP Maintenance Application ~ \$3k. 5. Project Meetings Coordination & Support ~\$1k.

Moore Meadow

Anderson Irrigation and Dibble completed the irrigation project. The invoice has been paid and reimbursement is in the works.

Play Class & Waterfront Instructor

Following a meeting with last season's sailing instructor, it is evident that an assessment needs to be done of the sailboat fleet to address the need for safe boats. Play Class signups are slated to begin April 1.

Comcast Internet

There have been an inordinate number of Internet disruptions in the office over the last few months. Comcast will do a complete system review and make recommendations.

6. Treasurer's Report

R. Neely submitted a summary financial report and Treasurers' report. The Borough remains on strong financial ground. The external audit for Fiscal Year 2023 was recently completed.

Going forward, R. Neely recommends establishing 1. Working Capital Reserve account. 2. Operational Reserve account. 3. Adverse Times account and 4. Capital Projects account.

7. Future Road Repair Projects – see #5 GM report

8. Capital Projects List – Additions, Deletions, Discussion and Priorities

F. Keeney presented a list of potential Capital Projects. He asked Burgess members to: 1. Make additions and/or deletions to the list. 2. Rate the project as to priority: a) #1 – to be completed in 1-2 years. b) #2 – to be completed in 3-5 years and c) #3 – to be completed in 5-10 years.

9. Fenwick Golf Course Practices and Procedures

F. Keeney asks that the Burgesses review the Master Golf plan created in 2013 by Tony Pioppi, golf author and historian, which was approved by the Burgesses. The concern is how to proceed with modifications to the greens and bunkers, based on the Master Plan recommendations. After a lengthy discussion, N. Brainard suggested that the Park Commission formulate a plan of how to proceed. F. Keeney stated that changes would not begin until the fall of 2025 and reiterated that he would like everyone to review the adopted recommendations, which are on the golf course page of the Borough website.

10. Resiliency Report

- The Borough is working on two plans at the same time. The Resiliency Plan is addressing changing weather patterns and sea level rise for the area from the Hammonasset River to the Connecticut River and the Hazard Mitigation Plan is a plan required by FEMA in order to enable access to FEMA disaster funds that must be updated every five years. The plans have overlapping jurisdictions but are being developed cooperatively. The Resiliency Plan is expected to be completed for July 1 and the Hazard Mitigation Plan is expected to be completed in early fall. Both are proceeding on schedule.
- There was a public information meeting for the Hazard Mitigation Plan on February 7; the next one is on May 15. The consultants for the Hazard Mitigation Plan (GZA) are pulling together the information and meeting with staff and the steering committee on a regular basis.
- The consultants for the Resiliency Plan (Colliers) are distilling all of the information and meeting regularly with the executive committee. The next public information meeting is also scheduled for spring.

11. Board, Commission, and Committee Reports

Park Commission – Frank Keeney – Nothing further to report

FIF – Margaret Wade – No meeting

P&Z – Margaret Wade – Meeting scheduled 3/6/2024

ZBA – Chris Millard – Meeting scheduled 2/27/2024

HDC – Pam Christensen – Meeting scheduled 3/2/2024

Harbor Management – No meeting

LPLT – Pam Christensen – Grove abutters: letter will be sent to individuals re: encroachment. Yacht Club: cleanup will be in March. Next LPLT meeting: March

Landscape Committee - Pam Christensen – No Report

4 Nibang Committee – Pam Christensen – No Report

Memorial Committee – Pam Christensen – No Report

Concerns Committee – Pam Christensen – No Report

Commissions Coordinator – Duby McDowell – No Report

12. Warden's Report

Goodwin Trust land at 15 Pettipaug Ave: The Burgesses are the Trustees of the Goodwin Trust. New owners of the property have requested to be granted ownership of this property (from the seawall to the high water mark). N. Brainard will consult with Attorney Campbell to address this with Burgess action anticipated for the March meeting.

Lynde Point Lighthouse acquisition: An email received in response to the application cites a concern regarding property access. The government has notified all applicants that they have an additional 45 days to address this issue.

13. Other Business

None

14. Next Meeting – Thursday, March 28, 2024

15. Burgess Comments

None

16. Adjournment

On a motion by F. Keeney, seconded by D. McDowell, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:52 p.m.

Respectively Submitted, Nancy W. Marikar, Clerk