

Minutes
Town Council Steering Committee Meeting
June 28, 2021
Town Hall Conf. B and via ZOOM

1. The meeting was called to order by Matthew O'Brien, Jr. at 7:00 PM.
Present: Matthew O'Brien, Jr., Jonathan Hand, Julie Blanchard, Lisa Conant
Also present: John Elsesser, Town Manager; Attorney Richard Roberts

2. **Acceptance of Minutes:**
Matthew O'Brien, Jr. called for adoption of the minutes of the May 24, 2021 meeting, seconded by Jonathan Hand. The motion was unanimously approved without modification.

3. **Avery Shores Road Turnover To The Town Of Coventry Next Steps:**
Matthew O'Brien, Jr. recommended moving item 6 up on the agenda to allow Attorney Roberts to discuss the request to turn over Avery Shores Drive to the Town. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Hand and unanimously approved.

Attorney Roberts discussed a proposal suggested by John Elsesser to break the transfer into two steps: a temporary stage and a final stage. This approach would allow a phased-in approach to move toward resolving the issue without arguing which legal theory governs which entity currently owns the road.

Attorney Roberts explained under phase 1, which would last a couple of years, the Town would accept responsibility for several catch basin repairs to assure proper filtering prior to discharge into the lake, and removal of several trees to assure the road remains open to the public and avoid tree-caused power outages. Under this concept the Association would grant the Town a temporary construction easement over the area they hold legal rights. He stated this should avoid any bank or mortgage notification issues.

He went on to discuss phase 2, which would tie into a road reconstruction project along with other lake roads with sewer lines envisioned in a few years planned by the Town. John Elsesser explained that the funding for sewers only allowed two inches of asphalt and all the sewer roads will need to be milled and paved. Had the Association elected to turn the road over as the other associations did, it would be on this list. Included in this reconstruction could be the turn-arounds at the dead ends and resolution of minor private property encroachment.

Attorney Roberts added that as part of this stage the Association would need to make the temporary rights permanent.

He further stated that the Town should not accept the drainage easements on private property to the lake from the Association, but just a right to discharge.

He also stated that if the Town was taking over temporary road repairs in the first phase, that matching funds should cease.

Finally, he said that other issues remain to be resolved during the temporary phase, such as the section of road which is privately owned and other minor issues. This type of issue can be resolved in discussions between the Town and the Association.

The Committee thanked Attorney Roberts and will refer this issue to the Finance Committee to discuss the financial impact. Attorney Roberts left the meeting.

4. **Review/Possible Recommendations: Board & Commission Monthly Reports:**

The Steering Committee reviewed the Board and Commission lists for areas to target.

5. **Resignations/Not Wishing to be Reappointed:**

The Committee reviewed the resignations of Bill Piotroski from the Ad-hoc Lake Advisory and Monitoring Committee, and Sarah Szczebak from the Ad-hoc Protected Spaces Stewardship Committee, and thanked them for their service.

6. **Appointments:**

The Committee also reviewed the statement of interest from Jeff Roux for the Ad-hoc Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee, and could not consider him since he is not a resident elector.

7. **Consideration/Possible Action: Declaration Of Racism As A Public Health Crisis:**

The Steering Committee moved on to consider possible action on the request to consider racism as a public health crisis. John Elsesser noted that the State Senate adopted Senate Bill 1, which was revised but adopted as a law, so one option would be to endorse or sign on to this State action. Jonathan Hand noted that the State spent a lot of time considering this action and it received strong bipartisan leadership. Lisa Conant supports this action over not moving forward with recognizing this issue. Jonathan Hand moved to recommend to the Council that they “sign on” to Senate Bill 1. The motion was seconded by Lisa Conant, with John Hand and Lisa Conant voting aye, and Matthew O’Brien, Jr. voting present.

John Elsesser discussed next steps on community conversations. He suggested a small group of 3-5 community leaders meet with CERC over the summer to plan the fall workshops. He mentioned Lisa Thomas had volunteered to help. Lisa Conant then also offered to be involved. John mentioned that we need other folks from the community and specifically mentioned reaching out to the Rev. Dr. Bruce Johnson, who is in town for the summer. He also mentioned former Council member James Clark, or former Human Services Administrator Dorothy Grady. There was a consensus that Matthew O’Brien, Jr. would discuss with the Council the proposed working group structure and timeline.

8. **Consideration/Possible Action: Participation In Sign-On Statement Condemning Antisemitism:**

Matthew O’Brien moved on to the Antisemitism statement and signing on to the mayors’ united statement included with the agenda packet. He expressed there was some process confusion on whether this would be an individual sign-on, or the whole Council. It was agreed that it was most appropriate for the whole Council.

Lisa Conant moved to recommend that the Town Council sign on to the Mayors United Against Antisemitism Statement. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Hand and unanimously approved.

9. **Adjournment:**

Matthew O'Brien, Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM, seconded by Jonathan Hand and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Elsesser
Town Manager