

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

Telephone (203) 563-0100
Fax (203) 563-0299

Email to: Selectman@Wiltonct.org



William F. Brennan
First Selectman

Susan A. Bruschi
Second Selectman

Richard F. Creeth

Harold E. Clark

Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY JULY 6, 2010
WILTON TOWN HALL, ROOM B**

PRESENT: First Selectman William Brennan, Second Selectman Susan Bruschi, Selectman Richard Creeth, Selectman Ted Hoffstatter **ABSENT:** Selectman Hal Clark,

GUESTS: Sandy Dennies, Steve Pierce and Jamie VanAcker

OTHERS: Joan Lounds (Bulletin), Kara O'Connor (Villager), Christian Camarota (Patch.com), T.J. Buzzeo (The Daily Wilton)

First Selectmen Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

A. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Bruschi, seconded by Mr. Creeth and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Consideration of Proposed Amendment to Dog Ordinance.

Mr. Hoffstatter asked Mr. Pierce how he felt about the seasonal issue that had been raised during the Public Hearing (i.e. allowing dogs on the fields off season). Mr. Pierce said that he didn't want to speak for the Commission but that he felt for Allen's Meadow it wouldn't be a problem.

Jamie VanAcker, Parks and Recreation Commissioner said that the primary concern and objective of the Commission in bringing this ordinance forward was to keep participants on the fields safe. They also realized there needed to be something to cover Merwin Meadows.

First Selectman Brennan said that the concern they have had with Merwin Meadows is that there is a cinder path that connects the trails that lead into town. However, it isn't made clear that someone walking around the pond couldn't take their leashed dog down to the beach. First Selectman Brennan read a sentence that

he had drafted to add to the amendment to clarify this issue. The following sentence would be inserted in Section A of the Ordinance after the sentence which reads, “This includes Merwin Meadows Park and the walking trails between Merwin Meadows Park and School Road and the walking trail between Merwin Meadows Park and the Old Post Office Square.”

It would read:

“In Merwin Meadows Park, leashed dogs are allowed only on the cinder trail that traverses the Park.” Mr. VanAcker added that this area could be a seasonal issue as well. He suggested the seasonal usage would run from December 1st to March 1st.

First Selectman Brennan asked if the other members of the Board of Selectmen were comfortable with the sentence he had drafted and they said that they were. He asked that the Parks and Recreation Commission send him a paragraph on seasonal usage so that the Board of Selectmen can review it and vote on it at their next meeting.

2. Discussion of a possible re-usable bag program

Mr. Hoffstatter said that the goal of this program is for re-usable bags as opposed to being against plastic bags or replacing them with paper bags. He said that the idea for this meeting was not to decide what they are going to do but to set some timelines for informational sessions prior to a public hearing so that people can voice their concerns and thoughts, since the ordinance is working well in Westport.

First Selectman Brennan said that he asked the First Selectman in Westport how a similar ordinance had been received there. He was told that it was a non-event and that people had accepted it very well. He added that he felt it was important to get input from the entire community in Wilton, not just the retail customers but also the retailers themselves. He suggested that they set up an informational meeting with the retailers first, invite retailers from Westport to attend, so that they could share their experience with the ordinance and following that have a meeting for the public to hear their opinions. This would not be a public hearing but a discourse on the subject.

First Selectmen Brennan added that he thought the best time for the first meeting would be mid-to-late September.

3. Consideration of an Application for Grant of Technical Assistance – National Parks Service Rivers, Trail and Conservation

Ms. Bruschi made a MOTION to give permission to pursue the grant on behalf of the Norwalk Valley River Trail. The motion was seconded by Mr. Creeth and carried unanimously.

4. Resolution to authorize the First Selectman to sign a contract with the CT State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant in the amount of \$3,000

Mr. Hoffstatter made the following MOTION: Resolved that William F. Brennan, First Selectman, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant. The MOTION was seconded by Mr. Creeth and carried unanimously.

5. Miscellaneous Other Business

There was no other business.

C. Public Comment – there was no public comment

D. Reports

1. First Selectman –

Heat wave - Due to the excessively high heat the Town is encouraging citizens without air conditioning to use the cooling centers that the Town has set up at the Library, the Teen Center and the Senior Center at Comstock. We have had a very dry summer and it's important not to be watering lawns. The lawns will brown out and will go into a dormant stage and then come back. We don't want to have a situation where people's wells run dry.

Elderly Tax Relief – Mr. Brennan and Ms. Dennies met with Warren Serenbetz, (Board of Finance Chair) to discuss the issue with him and he will be setting up a special meeting with the Board of Finance to further discuss it in July or August. Mr. Brennan will be attending that meeting and will report the results to the Board of Selectmen.

Fourth of July –Fourth of July celebration in Town was a huge success and Mr. Brennan thanked all the various departments that worked very hard to make it such a great event.

Veterans Memorial Green – This project continues to be supported by contributions from Wilton citizens and they are well pass the 50% mark. A timeline and a construction schedule has been set with a target completion date of October 15th, several weeks before the dedication date on Veterans Day, November 11th.

DOT – The Route 33 Bridge work and the Crossways construction will start in mid July. There will be a pre-construction meeting on the Wilton Train Station on July 14th. School bus signs will be installed at Crown Pond and Route 7 to warn drivers to stop when school buses have stopped to pick up students.

2. Ms. Bruschi – During this hot weather it's important to remind people not to leave dogs in their cars as they can overheat very quickly and perish.
3. Mr. Hoffstatter – A citizen suggested putting together a volunteer committee to apply for various grants from companies and the federal government. Mr. Creeth said that he felt it was a good idea. Mr. Brennan added that sometimes the time and effort spent on pursuing the grant doesn't make it worthwhile and so they need to proceed with this idea carefully.
4. Mr. Creeth – Had a comment and question regarding the Supreme Court's decision on guns. He asked what effect if any this would have on the gun laws in Wilton. Mr. Brennan said that he would look into it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mariana Corrado