

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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William F. Brennan
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Harold E. Clark

Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 19, 2010
WILTON TOWN HALL, ROOM B**

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

GUESTS: Sandra Dennies, Steve Pierce, Jamie Van Acker, Jan Andras

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

First Selectmen Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

A. Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Mr. Clark, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as follows:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting of 7/6/10

Gift

- Donation of \$2,500 to the Police Dept. Gift Fund from Mark and Tammy Brown

The generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Brown is very much appreciated.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Fiscal Year End Financial Summary

CFO Sandy Dennies distributed copies of a summary of the FY 2009/2010 financials, stressing that these numbers are still preliminary. These figures represent where we currently stand but until the end of August, there could still be revenue or expenditures that will be recognized in FY 09/10. Revenues were better than projected and expenditures were positive: good preliminary results. No appropriations were made during the fiscal year from the Charter Authority funds. The \$300,000 higher revenues reflect a good collection rate for the fiscal year, as well as back-taxes being received. Ms. Dennies credits town departments for “tightening their belts” and knowing where we would be at this time. The Selectmen thanked her for a good report.

2. Consideration of Proposed Amendment to Dog Ordinance

As per discussions at the public hearing held on 7/6/10, a further amendment was made to prohibit dogs from Parks and Recreation playing fields from March 1 to Thanksgiving Day. Mr. Brennan moved to approve the proposed amendment to Wilton Ordinance §10C-2 of Article 1 Leashing of Dogs, as attached to these minutes. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

3. Report on Veterans Memorial Green Project

Mr. Brennan reported that \$45,000, net of expenses, has been received in donations to date and another \$20,000 is still needed to complete this community project. There have been over 230 individual contributions including \$725 from children at Middlebrook and Miller and Driscoll Schools. The Bulletin and Villager were both good enough to print articles listing the names that will be engraved on the monuments and anyone who believes there is any error should contact the First Selectman’s office asap. It is planned for the project to be completed for dedication on November 11, 2010.

4. Re-usable Bag Proposal - Set date for Informational Meeting

Mr. Brennan advised that he has received several correspondences from residents regarding this proposal and believes there is some misinformation out there. The intent of the program is to replace the plastic bags used at the point of retail check-out only, with re-usable or paper bags. No decision has been made at this time. The Board of Selectmen will be going through the process to make sure of what is best for Wilton. The three Selectmen agreed to

hold an informational meeting with retailers on September 20 at 7:00 pm immediately preceding the regular Selectmen's meeting.

5. Miscellaneous Other Business

STEAP Grant – Mr. Brennan advised of an application for a State STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) Grant in the amount of \$500,000. When the lampposts were installed in the village, one side of the road was curbed with pre-cast concrete and one side was paved at that time. If approved, grant funds would be used to install the same curbing on the other side of the road and finish with paving. Mr. Clark moved to authorize the application for STEAP Grant Funds in the amount the amount of \$500,000. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

HUD Sustainable Community Program Grant – Wilton will be participating with other communities through SWRPA for \$500,000 in grant funds for the TOD project of installing a pedestrian crossway from the train station to the center of town. Mr. Clark moved to authorize the application for HUD Sustainable Community Program Grant funds in the amount of \$500,000 for construction of a pedestrian walkway crossing the river from the train station to the center of town. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

NESC Senior Survey – Mr. Brennan believes there are some misconceptions regarding the reasons that the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously in approval of a professional study to be done by NESC. There is a critical need to retain seniors in the community. Other towns in this area are experiencing the same situation involving taxes and the high cost of living here. The research is intended to address a number of areas, including senior migration trends and experiences in Wilton and neighboring communities; housing issues and the need for more “elder friendly” housing and policy options; plus health care, transportation; and senior services issues.

Town Facilities – Improvements are being made to historical town owned properties - Marvin Tavern and the small house at 415 Danbury Road with the objective of correcting structural and maintenance issues in order to again be able to receive rental income from the house and two apartments.

C. Public Comment – None noted.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman Report

Water Conservation – Due to the recent heat wave, Aquarion Water Co. is experiencing the highest peak demands in their history and they are encouraging customers to follow specific usage guidelines that are outlined on the town website. These water saving suggestions are also recommended for those on private wells.

2. Selectmen Reports

Mr. Clark: No report

Mr. Hoffstatter: No report

E. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary

attachment: Dog Ordinance

PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO §10C-2 OF ARTICLE 1 LEASHING OF DOGS

§10C-2 - Running at large

- A. It shall be unlawful for dogs to run at large in the Wilton Center Zone, Schenck's Island, all public sidewalks and roadways, the Town Hall Complex, the Gilbert and Bennett School properties, Allen's Meadow, all properties owned or operated by the Board of Education, and at all playing fields **from March 1 to Thanksgiving Day** operated or maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department. 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. *Within Merwin Meadows Park, dogs on leashes are allowed only on the cinder trail that traverses the park.* It shall also be unlawful for dogs to run at large at any public event or gathering of any kind, anywhere in Town.
- B. Notwithstanding subsection A, dogs may run at large in all other public areas, unless otherwise posted. However, said dogs must still remain under the direct control of the owner.
- C. *Notwithstanding subsections A. and B., dogs are prohibited at:*
- (1) the Memorial Stadium Complex;*
 - (2) the Kristine Lilly Field Complex, and*
 - (3) any public tennis court or basketball court.*