

Minutes  
Easton Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting May 4, 2023  
7:30 PM

Town Hall Conference Room (In-Person)  
And  
Virtually via Zoom

Present: David Bindelglass, Robert Lessler, Kristi Sogofsky

1. The Board of Selectmen meeting began at 7:33pm and entered Executive Session at 7:34pm with a motion to approve by Robert Lessler to discuss pending litigation in the matter of Cynthia Fox v. Easton v. Board of Selectmen-Docket Number CV-FBT-23-6121718-S. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously. At 8:05pm, Robert Lessler made a motion to end Executive Session and return to the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No votes were taken.
2. Robert Lessler moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting, April 20, 2023, as amended. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Robert Lessler read the Board of Selectmen policy on public comment. Residents shared their opposition to the discontinuation of zoom for the Planning & Zoning Commission and Board of Finance meetings. Residents expressed that action is long overdue regarding the removal of Ray Martin, Planning & Zoning chairperson. Other topics brought up were to investigate sex education in the Easton schools, recognize the national day of prayer and use COVID funds to upgrade town technology.
4. Kristi Sogofsky moved to approve the following tax refunds as recommended by Krista Kot, Tax Collector. 1. HONDA LEASE TRUST-\$76.13. 2. TOYOTA LEASE TRUST-\$339.14. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Kristi Sogofsky moved to accept Ray Martin's letter of resignation (attached) from all town positions effective July 19, 2023. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. David Bindelglass moved to accept the changes to the EMS building committee. The new committee members are; Williams Andrews, Jon Arnold, Wendy Bowditch, John Foley, Michael Gutowski, Robert Klem, Victor Malindretos and James McCarthy. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Kristi Sogofsky moved to accept the continuation of zoom for the Planning & Zoning Commission and Board of Finance meetings and the purchasing of another zoom license for the town. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
8. Kristi Sogofsky moved to approve the Driveway Variance and Indemnity Agreement, 6 Rocky Ridge Road, to Suzanne Turner for installation of belgium block as recommended by Bruce Bombero, Deputy Director of Public Works. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
9. David Bindelglass received a letter from Attorney Brian Fatse, who represents Gina and Dan Blaze. The letter, in part, expresses their concerns as to the misunderstanding regarding the amount of money the Blazes received when they sold their [South Park] property to Running Brook Farms, a developer, on March 13, 2003. That deed from the Blazes to the developer recites consideration of \$5,185,000.

But Attorney Fatse details a more complicated transaction with contingencies, and he states that the Blazes received several million dollars less than \$5,185,000. Gina Blaze shared a statement. The board is interested in setting a deadline to resolve the lease or purchase of the land.

10. During public comment, many residents shared their concern about accepting Ray Martin's resignation with an effective date of July. Residents also commented on the need for better technology in the town.
11. Robert Lessler congratulated the whole town for a successful budget season, department heads, commission members and of course Board of Finance who pulled it all together. He also thanked everyone who came out to vote. Because banning books at the Easton Public Library was shared at the Annual Town Meeting, Robert shared his thoughts on the subject. Kristi Sofogsky shared that the Region 9 capital request passed and that the board should begin to discuss their share of the funding with the Board of Finance. David Bindelglass thanked all those who worked the polls and recognized the many people that work for the town, supervisors, department heads who provide a very high quality of service at a reasonable cost. Also, he said the town will take a look at the Redding and Weston websites. Lastly, David shared that the Board of Selectmen respect free speech in public comment. There is no mechanism for the board to enforce truthfulness. David also noted that the chairmen of boards and commissions are elected by the boards and commissions themselves. Robert Lessler moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:42pm. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3M~5.4.23

April 26, 2023

Mr. David Bindelglass First  
Selectman  
Town of Easton  
225 Center Road Easton, CT 06612

Dear First Selectman Bindelglass:

This letter is sent in response to the Findings and Recommendations ("the BOE Findings") issued by the Easton Board of Ethics ("the BOE") on March 29, 2023, which purport to find that I violated certain sections of the Town's Ethics Ordinance.

The BOE Findings appear to be based on certain errors I have made in my personal life. I acknowledge these mistakes and regret them. I have accepted and will continue to accept responsibility and accountability for them. However, the BOE was clearly mistaken in concluding that these regrettable personal errors violated Town Ordinances or had any connection with my public service to the Town of Easton. Rather, I am proud of the fact that I have *always* faithfully and ethically discharged my duties as a public servant to the Town of Easton. I have *never* taken any action in the discharge of my duties that have compromised any rights, privileges, or interests of any citizen in its dealings with the Town. I have *never* abused or taken advantage of my position as a public servant. I have *never* had a conflict of interest or been unfairly influenced. This track record is clear and unmistakable, and there is no evidence whatsoever to the contrary.

I am particularly proud of my time as the Chairperson of the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission ("the PZC"). Through the hard work and dedication of the entire PZC, every Easton citizen that came before our commission during my time as Chair received a full and fair opportunity to be heard. We were able to move a great deal of business for the benefit of the Town and the public interest, while still providing all matters careful and thoughtful consideration, with respect for our Town's various regulations and ordinances. I am extremely thankful for the dedication and commitment of my fellow PZC members in serving the public so faithfully and dutifully.

All the foregoing having been said, I respect the process followed by the BOE, although I strongly differ with its conclusions. I recognize that I have made mistakes in my personal life which, while completely unrelated to my public service, have now created an unnecessary distraction for my fellow, dedicated PZC members. I love the Town of Easton, and do not want to serve as such a distraction. Accordingly, pursuant to this letter, I am hereby resigning from all Town positions effective July 19, 2023.

I have given a great deal of thought to my proposed effective date of resignation. While I wish to eliminate myself as a distraction as expediently as possible, any sooner date would create

an unfair disservice to both my fellow PZC members, as well as the public interest. The PZC currently has several pending matters before it, with respect to which my continued involvement is essential to their timely and fair resolution. Moreover, in order to ensure the continued, orderly function of the PZC, I am requesting sufficient opportunity to both select and train a successor Chairperson. I believe the approximate three-month time frame requested should be sufficient to accomplish these goals for the benefit of the Town.

It has been an honor to serve the Town of Easton, and I am thankful for the opportunity. I am proud of the track record of public service that I will leave behind. I am hopeful that you will accept this letter as my resignation from all Town positions, effective July 19, 2023.

Sincerely,



Raymond Martin