

MEETING MINUTES
Easton Board of Selectmen
May 7, 2020
7:30 PM
Town Hall Conference Room A

MEETING WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE VIA
<https://www.facebook.com/EastonCTBOS>

David Bindelglass called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
Present: David Bindelglass, Kristi Sogofsky and Robert Lessler

1. Kristi Sogofsky moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting, April 16, 2020 with the following corrections. In agenda item #2, should be "meetings", and in agenda item #6, should read "employees entering the building". Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Public comments were read during the meeting.
A resident thanked the board for including the resolution to ban 5G on the agenda. Senator Richard Blumenthal has been at the forefront of demanding a 5G safety study. By placing a ban on 5G, Easton is taking a proactive approach to protecting the health of our community. We need scientific assurance that 5G is proven safe before it is rolled out in our neighborhoods.
3. Kristi Sogofsky moved to approve the following tax refunds as recommended by Krista Kot, Tax Collector: 1. TOYOTA LEASE TRUST - \$439.62, 2. TOYOTA LEASE TRUST - \$503.94, 3. TOYOTA LEASE TRUST - \$296.95. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Robert Lessler moved to accept the resignation of Gary Haines from the Cemetery Committee with thanks for his exceptional contributions to that board. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Robert Lessler moved to appoint Deirdra Preis to the Cemetery Committee for the unexpired term of 1/2/2019 – 1/2/2025. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Robert Lessler moved to reappoint Irving Snow as Measurer of Wood for the term of 1/2/2020 – 1/2/2021. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Kristi Sogofsky moved to reappoint Michael Sabia Sr. as Measurer of Wood for the term of 1/2/2020 – 1/2/2021. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Kristi Sogofsky moved to disband the 2020 Honorarium Review Committee with thanks for their service. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Robert Lesser moved to approve the use LOCIP funds to purchase and Antenna System, approx. \$23,000 for Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP) is a fund of state dollars that Easton can use for certain types of capital improvement projects in town. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion was had regarding authorizing the Board of Finance to adopt the budget for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 fiscal year and to set a mill rate. (Ref. CT Gov. Executive Order 7 | 13, 7 S and 7 HH.) It was decided this will be discussed at the next Board of Selectmen meeting on May 21, 2020.
8. The board discussed the status of the Health Department. The two town officials who constitute the professional staff of the department are seeking to retire. The town appears to have three permanent options. First, we could hire new staff to replace the existing staff. Second, we could form a relationship with a neighboring health district for a trial period of a year. Third, we could potentially hold a referendum to approve joining the Westport Weston Health District.
9. Robert Lessler moved to adopt the 5G Resolution (see attached) until December 31, 2020. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
10. Not intending any disrespect to the veteran and fallen soldiers, Kristi Sogofsky moved to cancel the Memorial Day Parade 2020. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
11. Kristi Sogofsky moved to appropriate \$2,500 (from either the rental income or Selectman's account) for the appraisal of South Park Property by Kerin & Fazio, LLC as requested by Justin Giorlando. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
12. David Bindelglass provided an update on Coronavirus (COVID-19). He said other towns have begun to loosen restrictions with some opening tennis courts and some fields. David Bindelglass also mentioned that the next Board of Selectmen will also have either ZOOM or another call in capability to make Public Comment easier and available to those not on Facebook. Robert Lessler discussed with the board after speaking with Rep. Ann Hughes regarding towns working together to recover together. It may make sense for Easton to partner with Redding and Weston to begin to open things up.
13. Public comment as follows: Why was no one from Citizens for Easton appointed to the South Park Avenue study committee? The First Selectman responded by pointing out that the committee was not intended to guarantee a seat for every interested organization, but pains were taken to make sure that a broad range of points of view are represented on the committee.

Several people encouraged, and then thanked, the board for adopting the 5G moratorium. One person hoped that 4G could be included in the moratorium. Someone pointed out that the state of New Hampshire did a one-year moratorium.

A person said we should be sure to do a thorough cost comparison of the health department issue to assess staying on our own versus joining WWHD. This person also asked for information about the proposal for non-computer comfortable people. The First Selectman pointed out that there have been three public hearings, including one at the Senior Center and that the costs of forming our own full time Health Department was explored and reported.

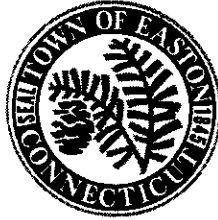
A person spoke in favor of preserving all 29 acres of the South Park Avenue property as open space.

After a discussion about planning for recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and possibly joining with other towns in that effort, a resident pointed out that Weston and Redding have higher rates of infection and deaths than Easton so we should not join with them.

A resident asked what is happening with the pathway project along Sport Hill Road between approximately Helen Keller Middle School and Silverman's Farm.

14. Kristi Sogofsky mentioned that meetings are now on our website and on the Government Channel 79.
15. Robert Lessler moved to adjourn at 8:46 pm. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3A~05.07.20



Town of Easton

A resolution calling upon all Telecommunications Companies and Public Utilities operating in Easton, Connecticut to cease the build-out of so-called "5G" Wireless Infrastructure until such technologies have been proven safe to human health and the environment through independent research and testing.

Whereas, the telecommunications industry is engaged in a massive deployment of microwave and millimeter-wave "small cell" antennas across the county to facilitate the next generation of wireless communications known as 5G, and

Whereas, this new technology uses existing wireless infrastructure and new types of radio-frequency (RF) microwave radiation to transmit large amounts of data, but requires significantly closer proximity to users, resulting in the dense deployment of antennas near residences, schools, and hospitals, and

Whereas, the deployment of 5G-enabled small cell antennas in our neighborhoods raises questions regarding the potential health and environmental impacts of long-term exposure to untested RF microwave radiation frequencies, and

Whereas, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has not conducted any long-term safety testing of new 5G wireless technologies, and has failed to update its human RF microwave radiation exposure guidelines since 1996, despite being advised to do so by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and hundreds of medical and scientific experts from around the world, and

Whereas, a significant body of published, peer-reviewed, independent investigation suggests a link from exposure to RF microwave radiation with serious environmental and biological harm, including

increased risk of cancer, reproductive problems and neurological impairments, and

Whereas, populations especially at risk from this exposure include pregnant women, children, the elderly, and individuals with implanted medical devices, or cardiac or neurological problems, and



Town of Easton

Whereas, Swiss Re, the second-largest re-insurance company in the world, called 5G a “high impact” liability risk due to health risks in its 2019 SONAR emerging risks report, and

Whereas, the theory that exposure to RF microwave radiation is harmless, which has been the underlying principle of all federal legislation and regulations regarding wireless technologies for more than twenty years, has now been questioned,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

that Easton calls upon all Telecommunications Companies and Public Utilities operating in Easton to cease and desist in the build-out of 5G-enabled small cell antennas until December 31, 2020.

Approved by the Board of Selectmen May 7, 2020