

Minutes
Easton Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting March 2, 2023
7:30 PM
Town Hall Conference Room (In-Person)
And
Virtually via Zoom

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

1. Kristi Sogofsky moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting, February 2, 2023 as amended. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Robert Lessler moved to approve the amendment to the special joint meeting minutes with Board of Finance, January 17, 2023. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. During public comment, several residents shared on the Board of Ethics complaint, the suspension of the Planning & Zoning Commission chair, protecting the watershed, the Affordable Housing Committee, EVS and South Park.
4. Kristi Sogofsky moved to approve the following tax refunds as recommended by Krista Kot, Tax Collector. 1. THOMAS LINLEY-\$167.43. 2. THOMAS LINLEY-\$86.77. 3. HONDA LEASE TRUST-\$238.09. 4. JUSTIN & DEVON WIBLE-\$6,260.45. 5. DEVON WIBLE- \$85.23. 6. NEWTOWN SAVINGS BANK-\$816.66. 7. SUZANNE GOLD-\$641.46. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Dave Bindelglass moved to accept the resignation of Jean Stetz-Puchalski from the Agricultural Commission. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Dave Bindelglass moved to accept the resignation of Lori Dougall-Cochran from the Agricultural Commission. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Kristi Sogofsky moved to appoint Jacob Conover from alternate to member for the Agricultural Commission for a term ending 1/2/24. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Robert Lessler moved to appoint Michael Cordover from alternate to member for the Easton Diversity & Inclusion Task Force for a term ending 1/2/25. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Dave Bindelglass moved to approve flying the Pride flag for the month of June 2024. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Ray Martin, and a legal decision he was involved in was discussed. The Board of Ethics did a review of this case prior to their initial discussions with Mr. Martin and those filing complaints. They recommended suspending Mr. Martin prior to completing their review. Dave explained that a review of all relevant ordinances by our town attorney concluded that there was no ability by the First Selectman or the Board of Selectmen to suspend a board or commission chair. We will await a final recommendation to the Board of Selectmen by the Board of Ethics.

8. Kristi Sogofsky moved to approve the Building Department Secretary job description as amended. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - 8a. Kristi Sogofsky moved to add to the agenda the discussion and possible action for non-union town employees to receive a 3% base increase to annual wages for FY24. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Robert Lessler moved to approve the 3% base increase to annual wages for FY24 for non-union town employees as recommended by the First Selectman and Director of Finance. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
9. During public comment, several residents shared their objection to not suspending the Planning & Zoning Commission chair due to the language in the Ethics ordinance. Others spoke about protecting the watershed, and one resident disagreed with the 3% increase for non-union town employees and flying the Pride flag for a month, suggesting a week instead.
10. The Board discussed the need to update the Ethics Ordinance. There was also discussion about protecting the watershed and the proposed legislation that towns greater than 70% watershed be exempted from the appeals process for 8-30g housing developments. The Planning & Zoning Commission will review the Easton Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) at their upcoming meeting on March 13th at 7:00 p.m. Dave stated he met virtually with the people from Ukraine Aid International to begin working on a relationship with a town in northern Ukraine which is very similar to Easton called Suyvatohorsk. Dave is looking at ways to show our solidarity with these incredibly brave folks and their children.
11. Kristi Sogofsky moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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