

Minutes
Easton Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting January 18, 2024
7:30 PM
Town Hall Conference Room (In-Person)
And
Virtually via Zoom

Attendance: David Bindelglass, Nicholas D'Addario, Kristi Sogofsky

1. Kristi Sogofsky moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting, January 4, 2024, as amended. Nicholas D'Addario seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. During public comment, the former and current fire chief as well as a volunteer firefighter spoke in support of Patrick Barry becoming a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners. They stated he is extremely qualified and would be a great asset to the commission. David said this topic came up last night at the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting he attended. A resident shared that she still does not know what the town's insurance policy covers with regards to volunteer positions. She urged the Board of Selectmen to appoint a task force to support and protect volunteers. A resident requested that the Board of Selectmen support legislation to exempt watershed towns from affordable housing. He also questioned why the Planning & Zoning Commission has cancelled so many meetings over the past six months when they should be discussing 8-30g affordable housing. A resident requested that the town revoke the 5G resolution. A resident asked why someone has not reached out to the insurance company for clarification about coverage. A resident suggested inviting the Police Chief to the next Board of Selectmen meeting to provide clarification of the law involving harassment.
3. The board discussed the importance of creating a committee to study the protection of board and commission volunteers and town staff. Possible members are; one from the Insurance Commission, one from Human Resources, one from Finance, two residents (RTC/DTC), perhaps someone with a criminal justice or law enforcement background. Nicholas D'Addario will draft a charge. The decision was to have all work regarding this task force completed in time for the Town Meeting in April.
4. David Bindelglass moved to add 4a. Alter the charge for the Library Building Committee to expand seven members to nine members. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - 4a. Nicholas D'Addario moved to expand the Library Building Committee from seven members to nine members. Kristi Sogofsky moved to remove 2017 from the title of the committee. David Bindelglass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.David Bindelglass moved to appoint Vida Peskay as member to the Library Building Committee. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously. David Bindelglass moved to appoint Lynn Zaffino as member to the Library Building Committee. Nicholas D'Addario seconded. Motion passed unanimously. David said the Honorarium Review Committee is being reconstituted to review the state statute for Fire and EMS volunteers. David Bindelglass moved to appoint Robert Adriani as member to the Honorarium Review Committee. Nicholas D'Addario seconded. Motion passed unanimously. David Bindelglass moved to appoint Robert Klem as member to the Honorarium Review Committee.

Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously. David Bindelglass moved to appoint Josh Meszaros as member to the Honorarium Review Committee. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously. David Bindelglass moved to appoint Steve Waugh as member to the Honorarium Review Committee. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Kristi Sogofsky moved to accept Sally England's resignation from the Senior Center Advisory Board and thanked her for her service. Nicholas D'Addario seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Kristi Sogofsky moved to reappoint Richard Dina as Tree Warden for a term ending 11/30/25. Nicholas D'Addario seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. David Bindelglass moved to submit the CT State Historic Preservation Survey and Planning Grant for the Easton Cemetery Committee pending approval from the other partners. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. During public comment, a resident suggested a confidentiality clause be included in the charge as well as a roadmap to what is made public and what is not like the Board of Ethics created for their committee. She suggested the task force be a subcommittee under the Board of Ethics and requested an update on the NEPC lease. A resident asked if a member removed from a board or commission due to an ethics investigation has the right to obtain the names of those who complained through FOIA. Lastly, a resident requested that the board and residents join our legislators on Saturday, January 20 at the Easton Public Library in support of protecting Easton's watershed.
7. Kristi Sogofsky shared during board comment that legislation regarding the watershed and affordable housing will require bi-partisan support which starts with Saturday's forum. She requested an update on the NEPC lease. David Bindelglass said they have come to an agreement and the lease will be presented at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting. The EMS Planning and Building Committee invited two architects to complete a walk-through and provide a proposal. Nicholas D'Addario would like to see clarification provided regarding the insurance policy and thanked Ed Nagy and all of DPW for their incredible work during the storm. In response, David mentioned that Christine Calvert, Director of Finance has been working with the insurance company to get clarification.
8. Nicholas D'Addario moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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