

MEETING MINUTES
Easton Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting March 4, 2021
7:30 PM
Town Hall Conference Room A
ZOOM: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85396047405?pwd=R2F0MlArT045QVhzTXhhL0RZZDIVUT09>

Meeting ID: 853 9604 7405
Passcode: 06612

1. Kristi Sogofsky moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting, February 18, 2021 as presented. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Dori Wollen spoke about the special town meeting, cost of the town meeting and the pathway funding. Sherry Harris spoke about Roberts Rules of Order. Ray Martin spoke about the pathway and the BOS transparency. Beverly Dacey spoke about the Public Health issue and the cost of having a Town Meeting in March. June Logie spoke about the Town Meeting. John Harris spoke about public comment and public health crisis. Ross Ogden spoke about the pathway.
3. Robert Lessler moved to approve the following tax refunds as recommended by Krista Kot, Tax Collector: 1. CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD - \$71.43; 2. CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD - \$94.86; 3. CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD - \$580.01; 4. CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD - \$393.42; 5. CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD - \$612.82; 6. STEVEN CARLSON - \$312.48. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Kristi Sogofsky moved to accept the resignation of Lise Fleutte from the Easton Diversity and Inclusion Task Force with thanks for her service. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Robert Lessler moved to appoint Logan Shedd to the Pension and Employee Benefit Commission for the term expiring 1/2/2022. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Robert Lessler moved to release the DRIVEWAY BOND to Tiago Construction, for 40 Bradley Lane, Driveway Permit #1244 in the amount of \$2,500.00 as recommended by Bruce Bombero Deputy Director of Public Works. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Kristi Sogofsky suggested moving item #9, Discussion and possible action on the Board of Selectmen's Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis. Discussion ensued about the resolution that passed in August 2020. Kristi Sogofsky moved to rescind the resolution that was passed on August 20, 2020 Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis in Easton. David Bindelglass seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Kristi Sogofsky moved to include the resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis in Easton to the Annual Town Meeting that is typically held in April. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Discussion ensued about holding a special town meeting and David Bindelglass was troubled by earlier public comment about the resistance to hold a vote. Every voter has a right to vote. Special Town Meeting will be held on March 23, 2021, @ 7:00 going to a machine vote on March 30, 2021 Samuel Staples Elementary School from 6:00 am – 8:00 pm.

- a. Robert Lessler moved to recommend to the special town meeting and adjourn to machine vote the Tax Relief for the Elderly Ordinance as recommended by the 2021 Tax Relief for the Elderly Committee. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Kristi Sogofsky moved to recommend to the special town meeting and adjourn to machine vote that the Town of Easton appropriate the sum of \$49,770.00 to purchase body and dash cameras for Easton Police Department as mandated by state law. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Robert Lessler moved to recommend to the special town meeting and adjourn to machine vote that the Town of Easton approve an ordinance revision increasing the stipend for our volunteer Fire Fighters and EMS workers. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - d. Robert Lessler moved to recommend to the special town meeting and adjourn to machine vote the Town of Easton join the Westport Weston Health District. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - e. Robert Lessler moved to recommend to the special town meeting and adjourn to machine vote as an advisory question, Shall the Town of Easton recommend that the town allocate \$249,400.00 to fund part of a multiuse walkway along Sport Hill Road, in addition to federal funding, as was vetted extensively at a design charrette in November of 2019? Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
8. Discussion ensued on the proposed discontinuance of Old Burrs Highway. The BOS have agreed to table this item.
 9. David Bindelglass made a motion that public comment will be documented in the meeting minutes by the speaker and the topic discussed. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion ensued on how public comment is recorded in the Easton Courier. The Selectmen will differentiate between a comment and an opinion.
 10. COVID dipped below 10 cases per 100,000. The town is doing well with isolated occurrences in school. More services are being provided at the Senior Center and by appointment in Town Hall.
 11. June Logie spoke about the pathway, the BOF vote and the Town Meeting. Jeff Becker spoke about the pathway, Town Meeting and South Park Avenue. Sherry Harris spoke about a BOS summary on the Easton Courier. Beverly Dacey spoke about the pathway and the BOF meeting. Dori Wollen spoke about the BOF meeting, the pathway and the name of Bradley Lane. Nancy Doniger spoke about the Easton Courier. Grant Monsarrat spoke about the pathway.
 12. Robert Lessler mentioned the State Statute governs the town vote. He also spoke about the time sensitivity in regards to the funding for the Pathway and the Board of Finance vote to not recommend funding. Kristi Sogofsky also spoke about the Pathway and having students report on the Board of Selectmen meetings without having prior knowledge of the topics. Kristi Sogofsky also mentioned that the earlier resolution and EDIT are separate issues. As the state reopens, Kristi Sogofsky would like to see more inperson meetings. David Bindelglass spoke about the Town Meeting and giving everyone the ability to vote. He also spoke about the BOF vote on the Pathway and his belief that the town should have a vote.
 13. Robert Lessler moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:34. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.