



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Auditorium (Main Level) – Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

August 12, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Woods at 7:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Borjeson
Councilor Castelle
Councilor Cohen - absent
Councilor Dinunzio
Councilor Klett
Councilor Marocchini
Councilor McDonald
Councilor Nagel
Mayor Woods

Staff Attendees:

John Salomone, Town Manager
Police Chief Mulhall
Andy Brecher, Economic Development Director
Jaime Trevethan, Assistant to the Town Manager - Administration
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

III. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A. Certificate: Newington High School Boys Volleyball – State Champions

Mayor Woods presented the players and coaches with certificates congratulating them on their achievement. The Town Councilors congratulated the team and coaches for a fine season and looked forward to the coming year.

B. Proclamation: AARL Centennial Anniversary

Mayor Woods moved the following:

WHEREAS, the American Radio Relay League has been advancing the art, science and enjoyment of Amateur Radio for one-hundred years; and

WHEREAS, there are more than three million Ham Radio operators worldwide, including 726,000 Licensed Operators in the United States; and

WHEREAS, ARRL membership now exceeds 164,000 globally, including 7,350 in the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the Newington Amateur Radio Relay League, or NARL, is an active chapter of the ARRL, with nearly 100 members who meet monthly at the Newington Senior Center; and

WHEREAS, the ARRL has been headquartered in Newington since 1938 and employs over one hundred people, including twenty-five Newington residents; and

WHEREAS, the ARRL welcomes more than 2,000 visitors annually to tour its headquarters, including W1AW, ARRL's own station, which has been in continuous operation since 1938; and

WHEREAS, the ARRL remains committed to globally 1) Influencing regulation of the airwaves, 2) Educating ham operators, 3) Providing public service and emergency communications, 4) Promoting technological innovation, and 5) Supporting the increase in Amateur Radio Operators;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby bestows their congratulations to the American Radio Relay League on the occasion of their Centennial Celebration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that August, 2014 shall be Amateur Radio month in Newington in recognition of ARRL's outstanding contributions to our community, our nation and the world.

They thanked the Town for their support of AARL and looked forward to another 100 years.

Councilor Borjeson stated he did not realize how involved Newington was with the rest of the world and was impressed with the work they did in emergency response. He thanked them for their efforts. Councilor Nagel thanked and congratulated the League for their service to provide safety and assistance to Newington and surrounding communities. Mayor Woods had taken a tour of the facility on Main Street and was very impressed with their operation and the services they provided.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Borjeson and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Cohen, absent).

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kathy Flaherty, 139 Cedar Ridge Road: She indicated she would be voting No on the referendum and as a legal aid lawyer and disability advocate was distressed to see that the Town Hall building was not ADA compliant. She was disappointed with some of the elected officials and Town employees attitudes and lack of professionalism.

Raymond Harlow, 11 Edmund Street: He was a former member of the Conservation Commission and agreed with the former chairmen in speaking against the referendum. The Community Center would have a significant impact on the wetlands. He indicated Facebook had over 1,200 members and felt it was more than a small demographic that was against the project. Mr. Harlow had a map that indicated the area the Community Center would be built on was protected.

Ed Young, 485 Church Street: He stated he had asked the Town Manager several questions which were not answered in two weeks regarding the removal of soil at the Young farm. The FOI Commission was notified and would be investigating he stated. He was concerned about the removal of soil by a contractor at the Young Farm and wanted the contractor arrested.

Gary Bolles, 28 Burdon Lane: He was not in favor of moving the bus garages and reclaiming the contaminated land for park land. Once the busses were removed, the land should remain as parking area since the expense of cleaning up the contaminates would be very costly to the taxpayers of Newington. He was concerned the building committee ignored the 20/20 plan regarding conservation and development.

Natalie Harbeson, 319 Lloyd Street: She indicated the brochure recently sent out had several mistakes and found it misleading. She stated the library expansion was on the map, which was not included in any of the current discussions or the proposed project and should not have been included. The map on the brochure did not include the wetlands, trees or green space in the area the Community Center would be built. She suggested a survey be taken after people had voted in September to determine why they voted as they did to start developing Plan B. Mrs. Harbeson stated the project had not been well publicized and felt more people needed to be informed.

Mary Woods, 94 New Britain Avenue: She said she loved the idea of the new Community Center and felt it would be good for the Town. The location of the center near Willard Avenue could not be clearly seen from the park and indicated the soccer fields would be moved to other fields. The new facility would enable Newington to offer more athletic programs for the youth and a dance/fitness room that would be available for adult classes.

Patty Foley, 51 Crown Ridge: She said the project had brought together a group of people who had good ideas but none were included in the plan. She stated there was no provision to replace the soccer fields, no calculation on how much taxes would be raised to operate and maintain the two buildings, no plan for sustainability, no campus plan as stated in the 20/20 Plan and did not want to see building on land that was dedicated, open space.

Gary Bryon, 426 Connecticut Avenue: The Town Hall needed to be renovated and was not sure the Parks Department needed a separate building he stated. He said that putting any building on open space in Town was not the right plan and it was time to consider Plan B. He indicated he was disappointed with the majority of the Council who ignored the residents pleas against the project.

Gia Pascarelli, 62 Welles Drive North: She stated open space was a concern since only 5% of the Town was dedicated open space, and the number would not increase. The land should be preserved as opposed to being shortsighted and only be concerned about immediate needs. The environment or future generations would not be well served by that action.

Leigh Grande, 79 Tremont Street: She agreed the Town Hall needed to be renovated but not by taking open space. She asked why the Community Center would take valuable park space when they were supposed to be dedicated to support leisure and activities in the parks. Mrs. Grande asked what evaluation was done of data to determine the needs of the community when the project was designed. She wondered why two basketball courts, dance studio and fitness center were included and what survey was taken to get feedback from the residents. She asked about the cost of the plan to the taxpayers since

other projects would still have to be fixed even if the renovations were done through bonding and CIP funds.

Lance Schmidt, 296 New Britain Avenue: He was an advocate for the new Community Center and was excited about the activities that would be offered to the youth year round.

Gail Budrejko, 21 Isabelle Terrace: She stated there were promises of reclaimed land and an aquatic center along with a new bus garage to create more and better open space with no new taxes. All of the promises would require tearing down a pool, building a new pool, tearing down a bus garage, building a new bus garage and remediating the contaminated land. She felt the Community Center would take a large portion of usable space and leave swampland and ridges along Mill Creek. The bus garages are two pieces of land with Garfield Street running down the center, which would create safety hazards for people crossing the road.

Roy Zartarian, 25 Stuart Street: He agreed the Town Hall needed to be renovated but would vote No on the project since the new building would be built in the Park, the environmental impact wasn't evaluated prior to site selection and has not been told the real cost of the Community Center. Staffing, operating and maintaining the facility have not been included.

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: He stated it was obvious what the people thought of the new project but did not reflect on the Council personally. He wanted to create a map that would be an overlay on the existing property to show the location of the wetlands and was disappointed when told the Town could not create it for him due to it being a custom request. He wanted to know if the Council had the actual visual of the area and it should have been presented in the brochure.

Sharon O'Hare, 37 Ellsworth Street: She felt the Community Center would take something away from the Town and distract from the Extravaganza every year. Tax dollars should be not spent on a dance studio when there was rental space available in Town.

Karen Myers Osgood, 78 Garfield Street: She wanted to express concern that the Community Center was proposed for the Park and not somewhere else in Town. Mrs. Osgood had problems with communication oversights, the budgets being shortsighted, no follow up of the 20/20 Plan developed previously, the residents being disrespected and neglected by Town officials and the Town Council not fulfilling their responsibility to the taxpayers of being watchful of Town property and its financial future.

Mitch Page, 46 Olive Street: In September the residents would be voting on building a new gym, offices and parking lot on the soccer fields of Mill Pond Park, which will be between the Eddy Farm and Mill Pond. Also to be decided would be whether or not to renovate the current Town Hall. He suggested tearing down the Town Hall and the gym, moving employees to temporary quarters and build a new facility to be energy efficient with possible geo-thermal or solar capabilities. He did not feel the Town could afford to take any more green space and build on it.

Kathleen Marie Clark, 50 Grandview Drive: She wondered how the condition of the current Town Hall could have been allowed to happen and how it will be prevented in the future.

Veronica Szczerkowski, 20 Browning Avenue: She appreciated all the comments made by the residents and intended to vote No in September. The park should be considered as the Town's backyard and did not think the taking of the Park area was worth it for future generations.

Madeline Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: There were many questions asked by the residents that had been asked over the previous two years by her and Rose. The answers were still outstanding. She asked that anyone speaking have the facts prior to speaking and thought it should be checked out whether or not a Town party chairman could stop the renovations single-handedly.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She had stated before that she was disappointed in the process and that there had been no public dialogue prior to the referendum. She will be voting No but asked everyone to be respectful when speaking.

Sue Lopes, 116 Goodale Drive: She heard about the project through Facebook and wanted the Council to reconsider the referendum. The Community Center should not take space from the Park, which was in need of extra equipment and maintenance of the courts already there. She felt there were other places to take Zumba classes and there were other needs in Town.

Jason O'Hare, 37 Ellsworth Street: He felt the Park was a historical landmark in Town and putting the Community Center there was the wrong thing to do.

Candace (inaudible), 257 Lowry Place: She is a recent resident of Newington and was not in favor of using the Park for the Community Center. Families used the park regularly and enjoyed the open space. She will be voting No.

Fernanda Rodrigues, 40 Wilson Avenue: She stated she and friends walked in the Park every day and was not in favor of building the Community Center in the Park. She urged others to join them in the Park since many could not afford Zumba classes.

Iris Larsson, 41 Buckingham Street: She was not in favor of the Community Center in the Park and was disappointed the Town Council was not listening to the voters.

Tony Chiaravolloti, 124 West Hartford Road: He wanted to know how much the brochure cost and who paid for it as well as the predicted operating costs of the new Community Center.

Sarah Jorgensen, 35 Florence Street: She wanted to thank Maddy and Rose for informing the public regarding the upcoming referendum.

Christine Buck, 131 Schoolhouse Road: She commented that building the Community Center in the park would disrupt the wildlife that lived there and was not in favor of taking the soccer fields which were more important than the Community Center.

Eva Greczkowski, 46 Miami Avenue: She had been a volunteer in Town for many years and agreed the Town Hall needed to be renovated but not in favor of the separate Community Center in the Park.

No name/address stated: He was a member of the soccer community in Town and took advantage of the basketball program but felt it was unfortunate the main gym in the Community Center had been allowed to deteriorate to a point that it was unsafe. He asked what the plan would be, if the referendum passed, to ensure the present gym was made safe. The space allotted for the building could not be replaced within Mill Pond Park for new soccer fields and wanted to know where and when the fields would be relocated. Due to the loss of the fields for the soccer program, he would be voting No in September.

Ernie Field, 119 Mountain View Drive: He stated there was a lack of communication and without Facebook, he would not have the information regarding the project. He indicated the Town could not trade space for space and urged the Council to work with the residents to determine how the community could get together on the project.

Phil Knowlton, no address stated: He has worked with Park and Rec and tried to put together Soccer Free Play, which would allow children to run around on the fields. He indicated he had to apply for a permit to be allowed one day a week in the summer, which was sometimes denied. He felt there was a need for greater public access to the fields and open space in Town.

Councilor Klett read into the record three letters from residents (attached):

- A joint letter from Vincent Camilli, Joseph Klett, Domenic Pane and Edward Seremet
- Tim Manke
- Dawn Oliveria,

V. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Town Hall Renovation Project – Discussion/Updates

John Salomone stated the referendum mailer was sent out last week to approximately 14,000 people and all residents should have received them by Tuesday at the latest. A few of the residents did not receive them and he stated if anyone had questions or did not receive it, they could call the office, go to the website or go into Town Hall or the Library to pick one up.

Councilor Klett wanted the Council to consider the suggestion of having a survey taken at the voting locations to determine why people voted for or against the referendum. Mr. Salomone indicated he would check to determine if there were legal implications involved in conducting a survey and wanted to ensure it was done scientifically and was not random. Mayor Woods and Councilor McDonald agreed the survey would be a good idea and should be looked into. Councilor Borjeson agreed with having a survey taken but legal counsel should be sought to ensure the validity of the referendum.

Councilor Nagel asked if 8-24 was sent to the TPZ and about school safety during the referendum. John Salomone indicated the TPZ had the 8-24 since July. The bond attorney stated that as long as the 8-24 was reviewed prior to construction beginning, it would satisfy the State requirement. The TPZ could schedule a review of it at any time. Mr. Salomone commented he had met with the Police, Superintendent and the Director of Security regarding school safety and there was a plan in place to ensure the safety of the children. The Board of Education was contemplating cancelling school that day instead of having a half day but no decision had been made to date.

Councilor Dinunzio expressed disappointment that the TPZ would not have the opportunity to review the 8-24 prior to the referendum since he felt it would be valuable information to have ahead of time. He also expressed concern about the renovation of Town Hall and what might be found in the building once construction started and the additional costs that might be involved.

Mayor Woods stated there were a lot of angry people at the meeting and the issue was an emotional one. He appreciated the comments from the residents but indicated there was a process to go through and the voters would have the final say in voting No or Yes for the project in September. He assured the voters they were being heard by the Council.

B. Request for Bid Waiver – MRAP Project

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

WHEREAS, the Newington Town Council has the authority under Section 814 of the Charter to waive the process of procuring sealed bids; and

WHEREAS, the Newington Police Department has obtained an armored vehicle through a federal military surplus program and the vehicle is in need of modifications in order to be ready for police use; and

WHEREAS, due to the specialized nature of the equipment, the Police Department has determined that Lenco of Pittsfield, MA is the only vendor in the area qualified to perform the modifications; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council grants a waiver, as requested by the Police Department, for the requirement of sealed bids for modifications to the armored vehicle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said bid waiver is granted to Lenco of Pittsfield, MA.

Councilor Klett asked where the money was coming from to rehab the vehicle and was told funds would be used from the seizure of property account in the Police Department that had approximately \$750k in it. The Police Chief stated the funds were restricted by DEA rules and State rules. The DEA account was going to be used to pay for the vehicle.

The motion was seconded by Councilor McDonald and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Cohen, absent).

**VI. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS
A. Grant Application: Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment**

A motion to suspend the rules to take action on the grant application was made by Councilor Borjeson and seconded by Councilor Marocchini.

Councilor Nagel indicated that under the 20/20 Plan and 8-24 it would have to go to the TPZ before any improvement was done. He said there were no specific regulations regarding this. Councilor Nagel thought it was a good idea but legally had to be presented to TPZ first. Mr. Brecher indicated the notice of application was reviewed in July and the TPZ did need to look at the application, which would happen if the Town was successful in securing the grant. Councilors McDonald and Marocchini agreed it was a good opportunity. Councilor Klett indicated she was not sure how the State could approve the grant without the Town having regulations and might send a bad message without having the regulation in place.

The motion failed on a roll call vote 5 – 3. (Note: The motion needed 6 Yes votes to pass)

Yes: Councilors Borjeson, Castelle, Marocchini, McDonald, Mayor Woods

No: Councilors Dinunzio, Klett, Nagel

Absent: Councilor Cohen

B. Update: Deming-Young Farm/MDC Project

John Salomone gave an update of the situation. It was an MDC project with a contractor on Church Street to replace a sewer line. MDC and the contractor asked the Town if they could use the area at the Deming/Young Farm to stage equipment. In return for the use of the Farm, the Town would receive a new sewer and water line to the Farm at no cost, and the staging area was to be returned to original condition after the job was completed. He stated Mr. Young had incorrect facts and was making accusations against the contractor who had an agreement with the Town.

Councilor Klett asked about the removal of dirt by the contractor. Mr. Salomone indicated the project was an MDC project and not the Town's and questions could be referred to MDC. MDC had the construction bond and if anything was removed from the property beyond the arrangements made, it would be the Town's responsibility the Mayor said. He said the road would be milled shortly and repaved according to Town regulations but it was an MDC project.

The Mayor indicated some top soil had been removed because it was in the way of the next phase of construction and would be returned to restore the Farm.

VII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

A. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

None

VIII. TAX REFUNDS

Councilor McDonald moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$ 8,565.16 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the "Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes," certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Borjeson and passed 7 – 0 (Councilor Cohen, absent; Councilor Klett, abstained).

IX. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Regular Meeting: 5/13/14

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 13, 2014 and the motion was seconded by Councilor Dinunzio. The motion passed 7 – 0 (Councilor Cohen, absent; Councilor McDonald, absent for the vote).

B. Regular Meeting: 7/22/14

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 22, 2014, and the motion was seconded by Councilor Castelle. The motion passed 7 – 0 (Councilor Cohen, absent, Councilor McDonald, absent for the vote).

X. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC

John Salomone stated the area on Garfield Street where the utility company had transformers, etc. was now vacant. The Town negotiated with the utility company a free, long term lease to put a small parking lot there to free up an area for the Police to store confiscated vehicles. The vacated area would be open

for general parking for residents and staff, which would hopefully relieve some of the parking congestion at Town Hall.

Councilor Nagel asked if the TPZ had to be notified before the parking lot area was created and if the location of the confiscated vehicles would impair the view from Mill Pond or Willard Avenue. Mr. Salomone indicated that the TPZ would not have to review the project ahead of time and that the view would not be obstructed and would be an improvement to the area.

Councilor Klett asked if there were wetlands in the area and Mr. Salomone indicated that was not the case.

XI. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Borjeson stated the Housing Needs Survey Committee had met twice and progress had been made. In addition to five committee members there were three staff people from the Town on the committee. CCSU had approached the Town to have students help with the survey and right now would have three focus groups based on age: baby boomers, echo baby boomers and people in between.

Councilor Castelle indicated the final change orders had been approved for the Bio-medical academy at Martin Kellogg which was on schedule. The grand opening would be August 26 and 50 children would be attending. The final designs for the Aero-space academy at John Wallace had been approved as well.

Councilor McDonald commented as the BOE liaison and they were beginning the collective bargaining process with the teachers union with the hope it would be completed by October.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Ed Young, 485 Church Street: He indicated the top soil was pushed by the contractor with another 2-3 feet of gravel into big piles. The gravel from the Farm was used in the sewer project and refilled with the garbage from the road. He stated the Town Manager did know about the removal of the soil since Mr. Young had told him.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She was sad to see what the situation had become and something that she had never envisioned.

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: He indicated he had volunteered time to bring the sewer line to the Young Farm and wanted to defend Mr. Young as a good citizen of Newington. He questioned the idea of moving the impound and hoped it would be screened off from view. There is a tributary to Mill Brook in that area behind the gate and there might be wetlands there. Mr. Bachand wondered if the purchase of a military vehicle was appropriate for the Town and thought it might be overkill.

XIII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor McDonald thanked everyone for participating and looked forward to the referendum vote in September. Councilor Castelle also thanked the residents who spoke and especially those who spoke respectfully.

Councilor Klett asked about the meeting between the Town Manager and Indian Hill and wondered if the information from the meeting was public.

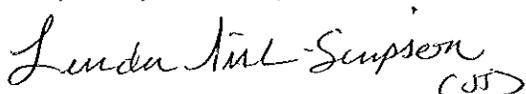
Councilor Nagel expressed his thanks to the public for expressing views both pro and con on the referendum and to the Town Manager for information concerning the Deming-Young Farm.

Councilor Borjeson stated he heard what people were saying and thanked them for their input. The Building Committee worked for 2.5 years, which resulted in the current referendum and the vote will tell the Council what the voters think of the proposal.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

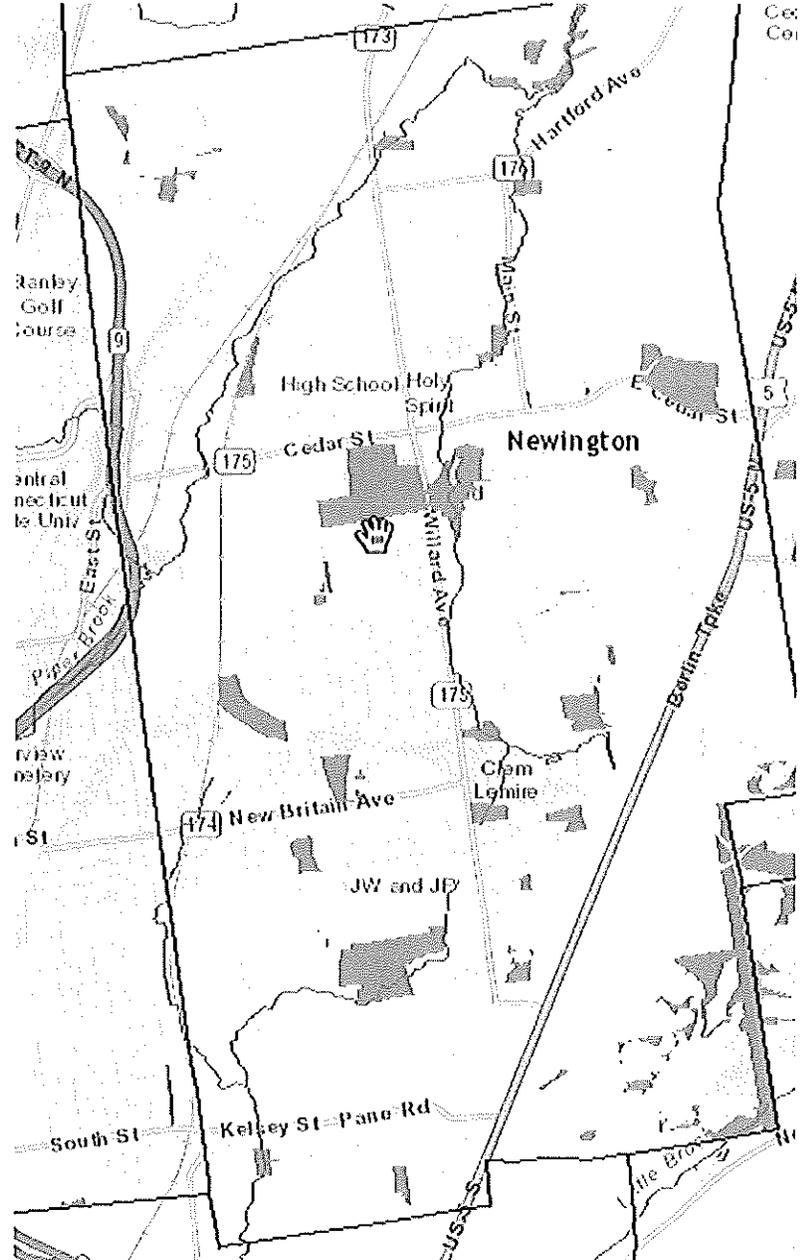
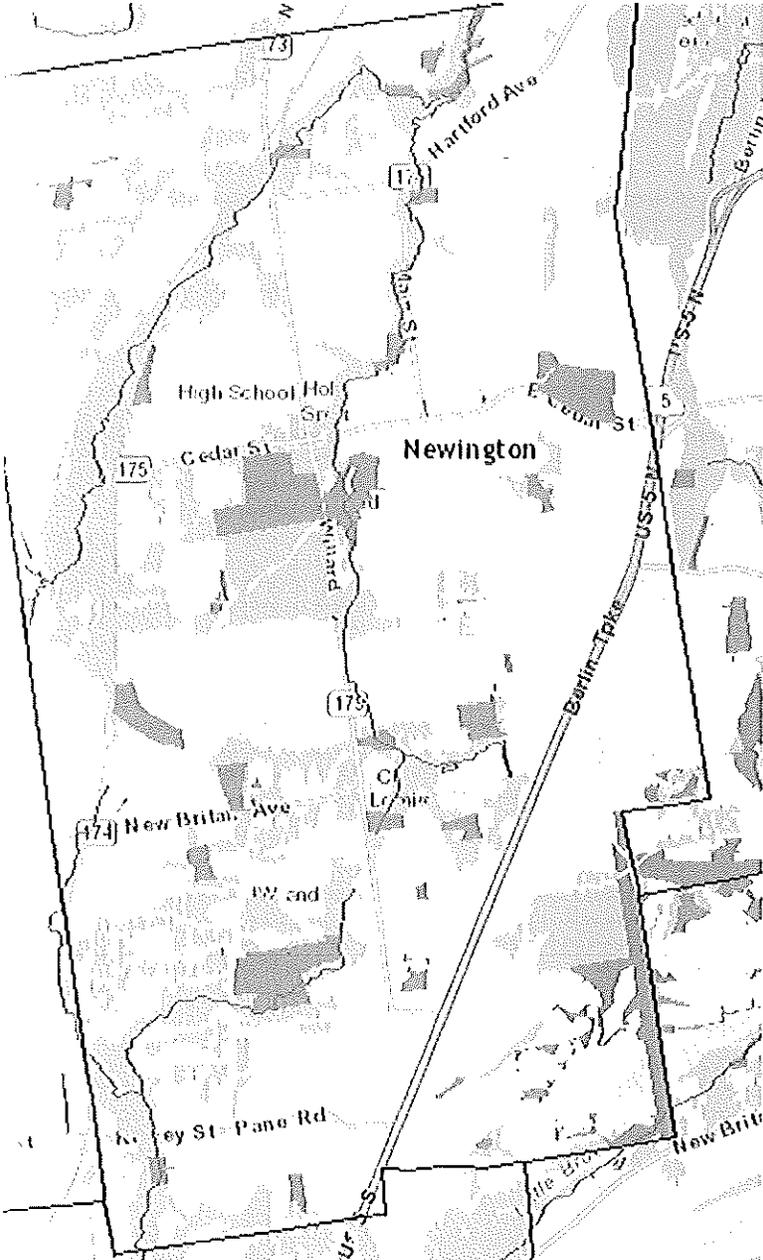
Councilor Borjeson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Marocchini. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Cohen, absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

Handwritten signature of Linda Irish-Simpson in cursive, with the initials "LIS" written below the signature.

Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council

Attach.



Showing Conservation Areas and Protected Areas

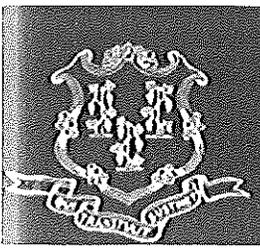
Showing Protected Areas Only

Source: <http://www.dir.ct.gov/opm/igp/lgm/index.html>

Legend

Protected Lands	Conservation Areas
	1-3 Factors

*Regional
Habitats*



OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Attachment - 8/12/14 Minutes

ED Seremet

As former chairmen of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for the Town of Newington, we would like to express our concern over utilizing dedicated open space land for the construction of the proposed Community Center. The definition of Dedicated Open Space, per the 2020 Town Plan, is land owned by the Federal government, the state, the Town, land trusts, or conservation organizations intended to remain for open space purposes. Dedicated open space is a threatened and valuable commodity which we think should be jealously guarded.

Conserving public land as open space has been a primary goal of the town through many past administrations.

However, this council has chosen to disregard the 2020 plan of development, along with all the previous plans of developments which we believe has this as an objective. That is to conserve open space

Your blatant disregard of the plan of development in this matter is disturbing to us. The plan of development is the primary source in guiding the town in land use matters. It is illogical for the Town of Newington to have a plan of development and then have the town council ignore it. The same plan that the town council reviewed and approved.

We strongly recommend that the council reconsiders its position in this matter and in future land use issues dealing with Dedicated Open Space.

Signed by past chairman of Newington Town Plan and Zoning Commission

Vincent Camilli
Joseph Klett

Domenic Pane
Edward Seremet

My name is Tim Manke, I live at 65 Rosewood Drive and in case anyone is keeping track I am 58 years old. I have lived in Newington all my life and have tried to be an active and involved member of my town.

While I am in favor of renovating the current town hall, I am opposed to the referendum as it will build a community center on some of the last remaining open space in our town. I am disappointed that some on this council have seen fit to sacrifice this land for a building which we really do not need. This open space is now enjoyed by all but once gone will be gone forever. I believe this is a very short sighted approach. Should this referendum pass this Council will be known as the Council that paved over the last of the open space in my town.

I am also opposed to the referendum on financial grounds. It has been said that this new building will not raise our taxes. How can this be, is the money being given to us for free, don't we have to eventually pay it back? What about the expense of maintaining another and separate building; not just for a few years but forever. Although you may not admit it now you are condemning us to ever increasing taxes to support this building.

I was at the last Council Meeting where I felt I was lectured at by some. I was told that I should have been better informed, I should not question the people on the building committee, and I do not represent everyone in Newington. Frankly I resented the tone taken by some on this Council and the lone speaker who spoke in support of the referendum. Let me point out that it is also your responsibility to be informed as to what the voters want, it is their responsibility to keep us informed not by our attending Building Committee meetings but through public forums, not after the decisions are made but during the process. Let me further point out that while there may be good people on the committee, it does not mean we have to accept their decisions just because they are good people. This is a democracy and we have a right to question and to object when we feel the outcome is wrong, and this outcome is wrong. Finally let me add that while I only represent my view and I am well aware not the rest of my fellow citizens I would suggest that neither do the Councilors in favor of this represent the entire town. If they did why is there be so much opposition. Why such a rush to vote before people can study the proposal? Why not separate referendums; one for renovation of the town hall and one for building a new building. If they really feel they represent the town why do some Councilors feel that they had to form a Political Action Committee to push this through.

While I am disappointed in those that have been elected to look after the best interest of my town and while I fear for the future of our community under your leadership, I take comfort that the final decision will be made by the voters. This is my town and speaking for myself alone I will be voting no.

Tim Manke

There are so many things wrong with this referendum in my opinion. If I did stayed in the house all summer and did not go out or do any research, the referendum looks like we would be voting ONLY for the appropriation of \$30 million plus dollars. But that is not the case. There are so many other talking points behind this referendum. Why aren't there separate referendums for the Town Hall Renovations and the Community Center Project? Why do we have to vote for both?

The referendum does not state what is entailed. Without the town's flier it doesn't indicate that a decision has already been made where the Town wants to build the new Community Center.....Since they don't have a voice we need to give them one, ANY kind of construction would chase the precious wildlife away. That area of Mill Pond Park is a nature center for us, our children, grandchildren and beyond.

Why do we need a big atrium in the Town Hall? Why is there a huge entry way for the design on the Community Center? Are these necessary?! I don't believe they add anything to the way the town conducts business, nor add anything for the Community Center. Our taxes may not be "expected" to increase during the construction, but they sure will in the future for the operating & overhead costs of maintaining the Town Hall AND new 33,177 square foot Community Center! If you want to build "state of the art" buildings, then invest in sustainability....we as a world should be reducing our carbon footprint, not stomping on it and making it bigger!

I'm outraged that this project was even considered to be built on dedicated open space, a total disregard from the TOWN COUNCIL'S own 2020 plan. It will take away the fields and wildlife that we, as a community, enjoy. I could go on & on, but I'll save that for another day, a day that I will continue to stand up and fight for.

Thank you.

Dawn Oliveira
18 Tunxis Road