



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS**

## MINUTES

**NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
Conference Room L-101 Lower Level – Town Hall  
7:00 P.M.

**February 12, 2013**

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Deputy Mayor McBride called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Borjeson  
Councilor Bottalico  
Councilor Castelle  
Councilor Cohen  
Councilor DelBuono  
Councilor Klett - absent  
Councilor McBride  
Councilor Nagel  
Mayor Woods - absent

#### Staff Attendees:

John Salomone, Town Manager  
Marie Fox, Registrar of Voters  
Jaime Trevethan, Executive Assistant  
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

### III. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

#### A. Volunteer of the Year

Councilor McBride moved the following:

**WHEREAS, each year the Town Council recognizes someone who has voluntarily dedicated time and/or resources for the benefit of others and the community at large; and**

**WHEREAS, Mrs. Judy Igielski is being recognized for her active and continuing involvement with so many volunteer organizations; and**

**WHEREAS, Mrs. Igielski has been a member of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library Board of Trustees since 1999, and has provided insight and innovative ideas and solutions to many of the Library Board's endeavors; and has served on or chaired numerous committees from Planning and Policy, Budget and House to Site and Facility and Fund Development; and**

**WHEREAS, Mrs. Igielski was an elected member of the Newington Board of Education, served as Secretary to the Newington Board of Education, and worked with PTO's, PTA's, and PAC's (each of seven Newington schools) on various projects; and**

**WHEREAS, Mrs. Igielski assisted with the start of "Block Watch" in Newington, coordinated with the Newington Police Department; and**  
**WHEREAS, Mrs. Igielski worked with the National Bone Registry, helped to bring the Bone Marrow drive and special speaker to Newington to help a Newington resident; and**  
**WHEREAS, Mrs. Igielski was involved with Project Rainbow which provided support packages for Desert Storm Troops; and**  
**WHEREAS, Mrs. Igielski has been a valuable asset to the many organizations in which she has participated and continues to offer her time, talent and gifted direction, while graciously and rightfully considering the opinions of others;**  
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby designates Judy Igielski as its 2012 Volunteer of the Year in recognition of her volunteer activities for the welfare of the community and for serving as a positive role model & an example of all that can be accomplished through the spirit of volunteerism.**

Councilor McBride congratulated Mrs. Igielski on her award and stated that the number of committees and groups she had served with over the years was a testament to her hard work. She thanked the Council and especially her family who supported her through the years.

Councilor Cohen knew Mrs. Igielski from the Board of Education and was aware of her work on the Library Board but was not aware of all the other work she had done. She felt Mrs. Igielski was a great example for anyone to follow and thanked her for her service. Councilors Borjeson and DelBuono were on the committee to select the Volunteer of the Year, and he stated he had never known someone who had worked on so many different projects and congratulated her. Councilor Castelle also congratulated Mrs. Igielski and stated she was currently working with the Newington Education Foundation's spelling bee for which he would be a judge. Councilors DelBuono and Nagel concurred with the other Councilors comments and congratulated Mrs. Igielski on her award.

Donna Miller, Library Director: She stated she had known Judy for a year and a half and said it was wonderful working with her on the Library Board and the Spelling Bee and looked forward to continuing to work with her.

Anna Eddy, President of the Library Board of Trustees: She stated they were delighted and thrilled that Judy was picked as Volunteer of the Year. Mrs. Eddy stated she had known Mrs. Igielski for years through various activities and that she was one of the people that made Newington the tight community that it was.

Lee Ann Manke, 112 Northwood Drive: She congratulated Judy for the award and stated she had known her since 1988 at Junior Women's' Club meetings. Mrs. Manke said she was always the first person to volunteer and the last to ask for recognition.

Sandy Nafis, 49 Whitewood Road: She has known Judy since 1986 at a Junior Women's Club meetings and that Judy was one of the most giving and generous people she had ever met. Mrs. Nafis stated the Town was fortunate to have Mrs. Igielski as a member of the community.

Madeline Kenny, Crestview Drive: She thanked Mrs. Igielski for everything she had done for the Town and especially for her friendship.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Mrs. Lyons stated she had known Judy for many years and could not say enough about her as a person and a friend.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 7 – 0 (Mayor Woods, Councilor Klett: absent)

#### **IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL**

Gail Budrejko, 21 Isabelle Terrace: She stated she had been disappointed to hear comments by Mayor Woods concerning Cedar Mountain. The comments indicated the development "would not disturb any wetlands." It was her understanding that no decision had been made and was still under review by the Conservation Commission. Mrs. Budrejko indicated the Commission was reviewing a significant amount testimony from the public hearings. The Commission had hired independent experts to review Toll's proposals so not to solely rely on Toll's paid experts and testified the wetlands would be disturbed. She felt it was improper for an elected official to make statements while the issue was still under consideration and any comments should have been prefaced as his opinion and not a fact.



Councilor Cohen thought it was a very thoughtful plan that covered a complete list of disasters and emergencies and how to handle each. Councilor DelBuono concurred with Councilor Cohen and appreciated the plan was tailored to the Town's need. Councilor Castelle approved of the fact it was written in plain English and easy to understand.

**B. Discussion: Town of Rocky Hill Request for Legislative Support**

John Salomone explained the Town had received correspondence from the Town of Rocky Hill asking for support for a bill requiring the State to get prior approval from a Town when a group home was being planned. The Councilors questioned if the State was interested in placing prisoners at Cedar Crest which Mr. Salomone said he had heard of no plans to that affect. The Cedar Crest facility would require a lot of work since some of the buildings had been torn down and the building had been vacant for a number of years. He explained the facility in Rocky Hill was a newer facility that had not been vacant for long and required fewer alterations. Mr. Bottalico asked Mr. Salomone to contact the State Representatives to determine if there was any interest in reusing Cedar Crest.

Councilor Borjeson stated the State could have done a better job in notifying people of the new use for the building but indicated it was a private facility that was contracted with the State and the State did not have to let Rocky Hill know ahead of time. The individuals being placed in the facility were elderly, near death and were not a threat to anyone.

Councilor Castelle indicated the State Representatives were still fighting and wanted to prevent the State from doing the same thing elsewhere. Mr. Salomone was asked to have one or more of the State representatives at the next Council meeting to discuss the subject. If there was a public hearing on the subject, anyone could attend to speak pro or con on the legislation. Councilor Borjeson stated that if legislation passed, there would never be a group home opened again. Mr. Salomone agreed and said that most of the group homes were placed in moderate priced towns as opposed to Avon, Farmington, Simsbury, etc. which was a concern.

**VIII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

- A. Human Rights Commission
  - 1. Accept Resignation of Louise Rikard

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Louise Rikard from the Human Rights Commission in accordance with correspondence to the Town Clerk dated January 23, 2013.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 7 – 0 (Mayor Woods & Councilor Klett: absent)

- 2. Appoint a Replacement
- B. Conservation Commission Rescind and Reappoint

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby rescinds the appointment of Neil Forte as a member of the Conservation Commission as indicated in Resolution No. 2013-5, dated January 8, 2013, and appoints in his place Ben Ancona, Main Street (R) for a term ending November 30, 2015.**

Councilor Bottalico seconded the motion and the motion passed 7 – 0 (Mayor Woods & Councilor Klett: absent)

**IX. TAX REFUNDS**

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$4,328.19 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.

Councilor Bottalico seconded the motion and it passed 7 – 0 (Mayor Woods & Councilor Klett: absent).

**X. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**  
**A. Regular Meeting, January 8, 2013**

Councilor Cohen moved to accept the meeting minutes of January 8, 2013 and it was seconded by Councilor Borjeson. The motion passed 7 – 0 (Mayor Woods & Councilor Klett: absent)

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

Mr. Salomone gave a brief overview of the recent blizzard and the cleanup efforts. He congratulated the Police, Fire Department, Public Works, Parks and Rec Departments on their efforts and felt they did an outstanding job in the emergency. He also thanked this staff and other departments for their efforts. School would be in session Wednesday with a delay to allow commuters and heavy traffic to get off the road. He indicated there were still streets that needed to be widened, Market Square was plowed and allowed for parallel parking. The Constitution lot had been plowed with high piles of snow everywhere. He said there were state streets that needed to be widened like Cedar Street and urged residents to have patience and to go slow in these areas. Mr. Salomone indicated the area had been declared a disaster area again and the Town would pick the highest labor intensive 48 hour period for reimbursement.

Councilor DelBuono urged neighbors to help other neighbors who needed to shovel driveways and walks since the children would need clear walks to get to school. Mr. Salomone indicated that the Town statute on snow removal allowed for fines when sidewalks were not cleared however, they would allow for extenuating circumstances in the recent blizzard. If people failed to clear walks, the Town could clear them and charge the resident for the work.

**XII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Borjeson reported there would be a meeting of all the towns affected by the busway/railway proposed in the area on February 26 at Northeast Utilities to set up advisory boards which will probably consist of two separate ones, one for the busway and one for the railway. He also stated they were waiting for the next step in Newington Junction and thought at that point it would be time to have public hearings on the busway moving forward since Newington would want to be able to say what should happen along the busway.

Councilor Bottalico indicated that the CIP Committee was looking at reallocating some funds to pick up more projects.

Councilor Nagel stated that the NCTV project has been completed with new cameras and audio and everyone seemed pleased with the results.

**XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL**

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She wanted to thank all of the various departments in Newington for their hard work during the recent storm and disasters in the recent past. Mrs. Lyons said that the fire hydrants not being cleaned out was an issue and wanted to urge people to do that so that in case of emergency the volunteer fire department could find them. She commented that she was beginning to understand the budget process but not the public hearings. She stated when people spoke at the hearings to ask questions she felt it was important for the people to get answers to them and thought they should receive some sort of written communication in answer. Mrs. Lyons also asked for a chair at the speakers table that was on rollers and for a table to be provided to the press attending meetings.

**XIV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Borjeson attended a recent meeting with representatives for veterans and Community Renewal Team regarding the project for the veterans' homes, which he thought was a fabulous project. He thought Victory Gardens was a good thing, which would provide assisted living for veterans.

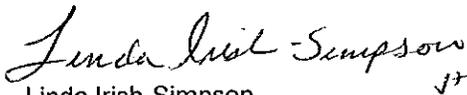
Councilor Cohen indicated there was no telephone for the public to call in and it was explained that the custodian was on vacation and the replacement did not know where the phone was.

Councilor McBride said the St. Patrick's Day Committee had chosen Kathy and Tom Bowen as their Irish Person(s) of the Year and the Honorary Person of the Year went to Bob Seiler. All of the recipients had done a lot for the Town of Newington and the honors were well deserved. He stated there would be a fundraiser on February 28 from 7 – 11 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus and tickets at the door were \$20. Councilor McBride said the donation would support the award winners and would help to fund Newington's spot in the parade. He reminded everyone the parade was to be held on March 9 at 11 a.m. and urged everyone to go to the parade and march with them.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Bottalico moved to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono and passed 7 – 0 (Mayor Woods and Councilor Klett, absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Irish-Simpson". There is a small mark resembling a checkmark or the number "17" at the end of the signature.

Linda Irish-Simpson  
Clerk of the Council

FEB 12 2013

February 12, 2013

To the Newington Town Council:

Due to a prior commitment, I am unable to attend the February 12 meeting. However, I do want to enter for the record comments on remarks attributed to the Mayor by the Hartford Courant in its coverage of the State of the Town program. The article which first appeared on the Courant's web site on February 7 included the following:

*Woods also discussed the proposal to build 48 luxury homes on Cedar Mountain, a plan that attracted strong opposition from some residents. Woods noted that developer Toll Brothers, which is seeking a wetlands permit from the Conservation Commission, would not disturb any wetlands and would preserve 46 acres of open space.*

*"It protects the ridge," Woods said of Toll Brothers' proposal. "It will not affect the view. You won't know the development is there."*

I did not attend the program, so I do not know if this is an accurate representation of what the Mayor actually said. However, as one of those in "strong opposition" I find these paragraphs profoundly disturbing.

There appears, first, an implied endorsement of a project now under consideration by a Town regulatory body, one whose members at the very beginning of the process were advised by the Town Attorney of the importance of objectivity. Then, the impact on the wetlands where, I might add, Toll Brothers' environmental consultants failed to see a large stand of trees listed as an endangered species in the state has been a matter of considerable discussion at Conservation Commission meetings and one where the experts have not reached agreement. Finally, with the blasting the development would require, the destruction of more than 30 acres of woodland, and subsequent consequences to Cedar Street traffic, I think we will all know the development is there.



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