



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.

**September 10, 2013**

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

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

**Staff Attendees:**

John Salomone, Town Manager  
Dianne Stone, Director Senior and Disabled Center  
Karen Futoma, Director, Human Services  
Tom Molloy, Highway Superintendent  
Rob Hillman, Highway Asst. Superintendent  
Jaime Trevethan, Executive Assistant  
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

**III. PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

**A. Leukemia, Lymphoma & Myeloma Awareness Month**

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

**WHEREAS, blood cancers currently afflict more than 894,543 Americans with an estimated 138,530 new cases diagnosed each year, and**

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**WHEREAS, leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma will kill an estimated 52,910 people in the United States this year, and**

**WHEREAS, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, through voluntary contributions, is dedicated to finding cures for these diseases through research efforts and the support of those who suffer from them, and**

**WHEREAS, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society maintains offices on Fairfield County and Meriden, Connecticut to support patients with these diseases and their family members in the Town of Newington, and**

**WHEREAS, the Town of Newington is similarly committed to the eradication of these diseases and supports the treatment of its citizens that suffer from them, and**

**WHEREAS, the Town of Newington encourages private efforts to enhance research funding and education programs that address these diseases,**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Newington joins with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in designating the month of September 2013 as Leukemia, Lymphoma & Myeloma Awareness Month to enhance the understanding of blood related cancers and to encourage participation in voluntary activities to support education programs and the funding of research programs to find a cure.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett and passed 9 – 0.

**B. Proclamation Honoring Dolores Carron, Absentee Ballot Law**

Mayor Woods moved the following:

**WHEREAS, Ms. Dolores Carron is a longtime resident of the Town of Newington and a retired Registered Dietitian with 30-years of experience; and**

**WHEREAS, since childhood Ms. Carron has devoted countless hours of volunteer work in various areas, as a patient advocate, member of various dietetic associations, and particularly in raising public awareness of the rare disorder, Primary Lateral Sclerosis (PLS), hosting the first nationwide gathering of PLS patients in 2000 and subsequently forming the PLS support group, *CT Connection*, which provides information and support to PLS patients nationwide; and**

**WHEREAS, as a champion of disabled matters, Ms. Carron has led an effort to standardize absentee ballot protocol to make it easier for the State's disabled citizens to exercise their right to vote; and**

**WHEREAS, Ms. Carron's efforts began with a letter to the Editor of the Hartford Courant in 2006, which received recognition and was the impetus for introduction of a bill to the State Legislature, and continued over the course of several years working in collaboration with Representative Sandy Nafis; and**

**WHEREAS, Ms. Carron's efforts ultimately led to the passing of Public Act 12-57, "An Act Concerning Permanent Absentee Ballot Status for the Permanently Disabled", effective January 31, 2013; and**

**WHEREAS, Public Act 12-57 allows any chronically disabled individual to gain permanent absentee ballot status by filing an application along with a doctor's note with the Town Clerk's office at least 21 days prior to a primary or 31 days prior to an election; and**  
**WHEREAS, this permanent absentee ballot status will be renewed annually, thus eliminating the need for the voter to re-apply for an absentee ballot each year; and**  
**WHEREAS, Secretary of State Denise Merrill announced the new legislation and remarked that it is a "compassionate and common sense change";**  
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes Ms. Carron and offers its sincere appreciation for her initiative, resourcefulness and persistence in pursuing and ultimately achieving this important goal.**

Ms. Carron thanked the Council and accepted it on behalf of all the individuals who had supported her in her quest to accomplish this. She wanted to thank Sandy Nafis in particular since it was she who had seen the letter in the Hartford Courant years before and contacted her to start the process.

Councilor DelBuono thanked her for her efforts and for taking the initiative to get the legislation passed since many times people sit back and do nothing. Councilor Nagel agreed with Councilor DelBuono and was grateful for the legislation. Councilor Castelle stated it was wonderful that Connecticut was making it easier for people to vote in an era where some states were making it more difficult. Councilor McBride remarked on Ms. Carron's persistence and when so many people are disenfranchised with government she was able to show that people could make a difference.

Councilor Klett congratulated her on achieving this legislation and stated she was an example of an outstanding woman who was greatly respected. Councilor Cohen told her to keep up her letter writing and thanked her for what she had done. Mayor Woods indicated it had taken seven years to get the legislation passed and thanked her for her perseverance.

#### **IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Letter read by Councilor Nagel from Dan Dinunzio, 153 Superior Avenue: See Attached.

Gail Budrejko, 21 Isabelle Terrace: She stated her concern regarding the State proposing to transfer 88.5 acres of land of Cedar Crest property. The property was available now for sale or transfer and was time sensitive, which was why she wanted to bring it to the Council's attention. Mrs. Budrejko asked the Council to reread the 20/20 plan which stated the Town's vision and to consider the possibility of preserving the property to ensure it would not be developed. She said the Town should decide the best use of the mountain and to advocate for that. It would be up to the Town to make open space a priority or to continue on a path of over development with little or no long term benefit to the Town.

(No name/address given): He stated he agreed with Mrs. Budrejko comments and thought someone should contact Sandy Nafis to determine if it was possible for the State to transfer the land free of cost to the Town of Newington. He stated that when the DOT building was built the Town gave up valuable land to the State, which could have been built on. His second comment concerned the S curve and straightening the road. He felt the parking lot could still be built without straightening the road due to safety. The area that should be straightened was the area beyond the driveway and exit to the Town Hall going straight out to Willard Avenue he said.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She stated she found it interesting that her January 22 comments were brought up earlier. Mrs. Lyons said that if Mr. Dinunzio had so much time to go back and read all the meeting minutes he should go back to the last five years at all her comments. She stated some of her comments drew praise and some did not.

(Inaudible), 426 Connecticut Avenue: He had concerns regarding the development in the area around the busway. He stated Councilor Borjeson had a sustained interest in development around the busway and he had discussions with Housing Connections prior to getting word on the first grant to hire a consultant

for the planning of an overlay zone in high density housing projects. He indicated that before the ink was dry on the first application Councilor Borjeson worked on a second one and low income, high density housing projects had not worked in Hartford, had been torn down and single family and duplex homes built. The public should have input on any decision to have low income, high density housing before any decision was made.

Neal Forte, 123 Church Street: He stated that when he was elected as Chairman of the Republican Town Committee he had received numerous reports from Councilors and others from both parties that indicated potential unethical actions by the Mayor and his company, Stonehedge Landscaping. He attempted to file an ethics complaint but found the required forms did not exist. In the absence of an internal process to investigate the actions, Mr. Forte reported the information to the State's Attorney Office for possible investigation. He indicated the Mayor welcomed the investigation. Mr. Forte said he had been told that Stonehedge Landscaping had recently stopped doing business with the Town, but the prior pattern of behavior was a continued concern.

Timothy Reed, 165 Maple Hill Avenue: He was concerned about the blight situation at 149 Maple Hill Avenue and when it would be cleaned up. Mr. Reed indicated the main house had been abandoned for 16 years and until five –six years ago someone had lived above the garage. The house was being consumed by trees and vegetation.

Keith (inaudible), 25 Elmhurst Terrace: He stated he was disenchanted with some of the things he had heard about the Town government. He said the Council was to represent and benefit the Town and not the Town benefitting the Council. He indicated they were entrusted with the taxpayers money and the taxpayers had to be able to trust their representatives. He wanted to see a process of notifying the voters when contracts and projects were being formulated. He commented on the condition of Deming Farm which was neglected and thought the Town should finish the renovations to the house.

#### **V. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Bottalico stated the house on 149 Maple Hill Road was on the blight list and citations had been sent out. He asked for the vote on the Town Hall Renovation Committee be revised to reflect a 3 – 1 vote instead of 5-1 since receiving Attorney Boorman's letter that indicated the two Park and Rec representatives should not have voted. Councilor Bottalico asked Mr. Salomone to research if Mill Pond had been donated to the Town. He stated he had asked previously why the Council wanted to straighten out Garfield Street, and he received no answer. He commented that the plan was really to build a \$9 million Community Center on Willard Avenue on Mill Park and if voted on by the voters, the front of Town Hall would then be where the gym was currently and parking would be needed.

Councilor Klett asked for the Council to add to the agenda a discussion on the possible land transfer of Cedar Crest property since it was important the Council took a stand on it. She felt it important to ensure the 88.5 acres was not sold to a developer to do whatever they want with it. Councilor Klett liked the suggestion of giving the voters information on contracts and bids and thought it might possibly be put on the website for all to see. She stated the Mayor had told her and others that he had sent a mechanic to New Jersey to an auction house and that his company had bought two pieces of equipment from the Town of Newington at auction. She had asked the Town Manager to give her a list of equipment that had been auctioned off by the Town, ID numbers, the date sold and the auction house it was sold at. Councilor Klett was still waiting for the information.

Councilor DelBuono commented that she had reviewed the memo regarding the Town Hall Renovation Committee and said that the Park and Rec Representatives could vote in three instances: 1) site selection, 2) building size 3) relocation of other facilities on site. She felt they probably should not have voted and wanted to discuss with Councilor McBride at their next meeting how to resolve the voting issue even though it would not have affected the outcome. The Mayor suggested the committee invite the Town Attorney to attend the next meeting to review his memo.

Mayor Woods indicated there had been several personal attacks made at the meeting and wanted to set the record straight. He stood by his record and was not ashamed of anything he had done. Mayor Woods said there had been some misinformation given and specifically his company had not stopped doing business with the Town.

Councilor Klett motioned for the rules to be suspended to add the Cedar Crest land transfer to the current agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bottalico and failed on a roll call vote 4 – 5.

Yes: Councilors Bottalico, DelBuono, Klett, Nagel

No: Councilors: Borjeson, Castelle, Cohen, McBride, Mayor Woods

## **VI. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Senior and Disabled Center Economic Security Screening Program**

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

**That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with the National Council on Aging (NCOA) to receive grant funding in the amount of \$1,000 for the Town of Newington Senior and Disabled Center's participation in the NCOA's EconomicCheckUp Program; and**

#### **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby identifies John L. Salomone, Town Manager, as an individual authorized to sign and administer the agreement. Such agreement is attached to and made a part of this record.**

Councilor Cohen seconded the motion and the motion passed 9-0.

## **VII. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Access Health CT Assister Program**

Mr. Salomone indicated the Town had not received a contract yet and this item might not be on the next meeting agenda because of it.

Dianne Stone and Karen Futoma gave an overview of the program which would help train individuals who could then assist people in choosing their insurance and answer questions on it. They would send four people for training who when trained would meet with people who were not insured, enroll them and offer recommendations/information on health insurance they could purchase. The program has a sliding scale with a subsidy available to certain people based on income and ability to pay. Two individuals would work from October – March and hoped to enroll 400 people. The Town would receive \$6k for the Senior Center and the same for Human Services to cover the cost of the part time individuals.

### **B. Environmental Quality Commission Discussion: Transfer Station**

Michael Fox, Chairman of the Environmental Quality Commission, stated the Commission was charged with oversight of the landfill and every meeting Rob Hillman would give an update on the landfill and the process of closing it. There had been recent articles regarding the landfill which caused him to call a special meeting to discuss what the papers said versus what the Commission was being told. They did not have a quorum but met informally to discuss the issue and Rob would attend the Council meeting to answer any questions the Council had.

Mr. Molloy explained that in 2005 a letter was sent to the Town to have the landfill surveyed to determine if it had reached capacity, which it was determined to be. The Town was instructed to formally close the landfill and to turn it into a transfer station. Funding was received to develop a plan, which was approved. The consultant hired determined the cost would be between \$700k and \$900k. The Town received \$460k in state money and would need more Town money to complete the project.

Councilor Bottalico asked how much money was in the Town fund to close the landfill and was told there was currently \$66k and the Town had five years to complete the job. He said that over \$200k a year was

budgeted in CIP for it and was told the amount might be less if the Town employees do some of the work. Councilor Bottalico wanted to know how long it would be before the Town could build on top of the landfill and hoped to get the answer from a State representative. Mr. Salomone indicated there were no present plans on using the property and plans were focused on closing the site.

Councilor DelBuono commented that she had received short notice on the meeting the of Commission and had been unable to change existing plans to attend but hoped to attend the meeting in the future. She asked for the definition of a landfill and was told it was vegetative bulky waste (leaves, grass, tree stumps). She also mentioned that on the Bond Commission website it stated the Town would be expected to pay the additional \$460k and wanted clarification on whether it was a matching fund grant or not.

Councilor Klett stated that she also had a conflict with the meeting date of the Environmental Commission and questioned why a special meeting needed to be called. After reading the minutes from 2007 to the present she found there had not been in depth conversations regarding the landfill and thought it would be a good idea to include more information on the conversations discussed on the landfill in the meeting minutes.

Councilor Borjeson attended the informal Environmental meeting and stated the landfill became a transfer station in 2008 although until closed was still technically a landfill. He stated the Town was mandated to close the site and if not done, would be fined by the State. The remainder of the money could be lessened if Town employees were used to do some of the work. Councilor Borjeson indicated that he did not think the expansion of Churchill Park had ever been discussed.

Councilor Nagel thought it would be a good idea to have a DEEP representative attend a meeting to discuss the issue and the amount of money to be saved was not a given since all the details were not known. Mayor Woods stated that DEEP would answer questions during normal business hours and if he had questions, to give them to Mr. Salomone to be forwarded to DEEP. He also stated he was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment.

Councilor Cohen asked that this issue be put on the agenda during budget discussions. Mr. Salomone stated DEEP would give the Town information on what had to be done to actually draw the money from the State and any agreement would go back to the Council.

### **C. Municipal Master Agreement – Construction Projects**

Mr. Salomone said the State wanted to take the standard language of the DOT and codify it one time so when specific projects were proposed it would be under a project authorization letter (PAL). In the past, each project had to go through a 95 page agreement with the State, which was a lot of work for small projects. The amount of time it would take for approval would be cut considerably. The item will be on the next meeting agenda.

### **D. Blighted Property List**

John Salomone indicated the list was a moving target and one property had been dropped that day so the list of properties to be cited was only three. He stated the Maple Hill property had made the list, which was good news for the neighbors. The Town could now fine the owners and it enabled the Town to go on the property to do the clean up and eventually get the money back when the property was sold. Jamie Trevethan stated the process had reached the stage where the three properties had shown no improvement. A week ago there were six properties on the list but three had been removed since the owners received the last letter from the Town. The remaining properties had gone through the three step process required and had been given an opportunity to appeal, which they have not done.

Councilor DelBuono stated she was glad to see the process worked, that people were taking care of their properties and congratulated the committee for their hard work on revising the ordinance. She asked Mr. Salomone if the Town would go onto the property to clean it up and he explained they would be reviewing the issue on Friday. They hoped the homeowner would take care of the blight but if not, the Town could

go onto the property to clean it up. The Mayor commented that by removing the brush and debris, the situation might be made worse since the house would then be in view and was in disrepair.

Councilor Klett remarked that blight was one of the biggest issues she heard about from voters when she went door to door during election time. There was an individual who lived on the Boulevard who had an issue with a commercial piece of property that was blighted. She asked Mr. Salomone what could be done to clean up this property. He explained the property did meet the criteria of blight; however, it was more than likely polluted and did not fall under the blight ordinance since it was commercial property and the problems with the clean up made it more difficult. It was an industrial use building with waste oils in the ground that would have to be removed. If the Town were to clean it up, another avenue would have to be found due to the pollution.

Councilor Nagel asked Mr. Salomone what other avenues could be used to clean up commercial properties and did the Town ever have ordinances for blighted commercial property. Mr. Salomone explained if the Town took over the property it would include the liabilities of teardown or repair and the responsibility of cleaning up the ground pollution, which could be expensive. The Town would have to be careful in how the situation was handled due to those factors. Mr. Salomone said the property had no owner and was abandoned.

#### **E. Employee Performance Evaluation Update/Presentation**

John Salomone gave a slideshow on the new, proposed software. See Attached.

Councilor Castelle asked if he could be given access to the software to do the Town Manager's review and Mr. Salomone answered yes. Councilor DelBuono was impressed with the software especially since the employee would be given input and access to it.

### **VIII. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

#### **A. Open Space Committee**

##### **1. Accept Resignation of Gary Turco**

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Gary Turco from the Open Space Committee effective August 23, 2013, in accordance with a communication dated August 23, 2013.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono and passed 9 – 0.

##### **2. Appoint a Replacement (TBD)**

### **IX. TAX REFUNDS**

Councilor Cohen moved the following:

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$ 4,700.49 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 Nagel and passed 9 – 0.

**X. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**A. Regular meeting: 8/13/13**

Councilor Cohen moved to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Councilor Castelle. The motion passed 9 – 0.

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

John Salomone said the Town was in the building stage of a low impact development grant that was received in October 2011. The DEEP fined an industrial company \$100k and part of the stipulation was for the money to go to a demonstration project on low impact development. He said \$50k was for the demo project and \$50k was for helping Planning and Zoning prepare some low impact development templates that could be used to encourage this type of development. The Town Council authorized the Town Manager and formation of a committee which comprised key people in land use areas. The project will begin next week by adding parking at Clem Lemire Field. The design was made up of layers of porous bricks, a drainage system where the water would drain into a water garden and then would dissipate. There would be no discharge of the water. Another stipulation for the money was that the project had to be publicly visible, and Mr. Salomone thought this would provide good visibility at the field.

**XII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Borjeson commented on the economic development around the busway. He stated there was a major distinction between affordable housing and low income, high density housing. There was a tremendous potential for mixed use in the area. Councilor Borjeson stated Newington had a need for seniors to have housing when downsizing from larger homes. He stated the Town had several developers interested in the area of Cedar Street where a \$2 million grant to take down a building was accomplished. There was also a large piece of land around Newington Junction that would be available for potential development. He stated low income, high density housing was not being considered at either location. Councilor Borjeson commented there was misinformation given at the meeting about him starting to work with Housing Connections when the Town was not getting the HUD grant. There was a meeting at CCROG with three presentations and the Town went with the HUD presentation. It was rejected since it was not just for senior affordable housing. Housing Connections was the next presentation and he said that Councilor DelBuono was aware of the process. There was a meeting scheduled in the Town Manager's office to explore what they were offering and several sites besides the area around the busway were being considered.

Councilor Borjeson stated there would be a rail/bus corridor advisory committee on September 19 starting at 9 a.m. in the Legislative Office Building. The Governor would be making an announcement to give information on the studies regarding development possibilities. On October 8 (8 a.m.) there will be a Connecticut Fastrak meeting at Town Hall to which the public was invited and on November 21 at Town Hall there will be a presentation to the four towns involved and where a facilitator will present opportunities to Newington to help the Town decide what was best for Newington.

Councilor Nagel attended the Newington TV meeting and stated: 1) NCTV received a Kellogg Grant to develop internet video and community access programming 2) have applied for grants from the State to purchase necessary equipment to update the studio and 3) there will be an open house on September 15 from 1 – 5 p.m. in Town Hall and hoped the public would attend.

Councilor Cohen attended the Youth Adult Council meeting and stated the State had updated the list of members. There must be a member from the business community and religious organization. She questioned whether the Council would need to update the ordinance, and Mr. Salomone indicated he would look into the need for revision.

Councilor Cohen stated the Youth Adult Council ran an annual basketball event where the proceeds went to fund scholarships. Some of the funding had been reduced, the needs were increasing and they were considering running a fundraiser for the first time due to financial needs.

Councilor Castelle stated the Employee Health Insurance/Pension Benefit Committee met and stated it was determined there was a surplus of \$846k. The Board of Education surplus was \$691k and the Town surplus was \$154k. Next year the budgeted amount was reduced to \$11.3 million. Councilor Castelle indicated the surplus was due mainly to the teachers' contract where the teachers' were paying more for copays, etc. He stated the Senior Center Roof Committee extended the bidding process deadline date by two weeks and indicated the bids would be opened on Monday, a meeting would be held on Thursday to pick the contractor and he would bring the selection to the Council on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

Gail Budrejko, 21 Isabelle Terrace: She stated she was disappointed the Council voted down the suspension of the rules to take up the Cedar Crest issue due to party politics. Mrs. Budrejko commented that Councilor Klett realized it was a time sensitive item since comments had to be received by October 3. She suggested that if meetings were to be conducted along strictly party lines until November that voting should be suspended until after the election.

(No name/address given): He attended a Council meeting where non-discrimination clauses, etc. were discussed and that housing would not be exclusive to senior citizens. He asked for a definition of low income housing and affordable housing.

Dan Dinunzio, 153 Superior Avenue: He thanked Councilor Nagel for reading his comments into the record since he was unable to attend. Mr. Dinunzio felt it was important for the residents to know about what was going on in Town. He did not intend for his comments to be personal against the Mayor but it was imperative for residents to know what went on behind the scenes. He stated the \$460k from the State would be used to assist the Town in closing the landfill and that to date, there was no plan on where the additional money would come from.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She asked if unattended planters at commercial properties would come under the blight ordinance. Mrs. Lyons felt it was important for people to take pride in their property and should not be forced to take care of items they should want to do. She stated she recalled a discussion where the Parks and Rec Department suggested extending Churchill Park for soccer fields and wanted the Council to consider the comments made by Mr. Molloy and Mr. Hillman. Mrs. Lyons stated there were a lot of committees that did not meet, did not file the reports they were supposed and it was something that should be looked into. The possibility of helping seniors rehab their homes might be a worthwhile project for the Council.

### **XIV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Borjeson said it was the responsibility of the Council to make informed decisions, and he had no information on Cedar Crest. If a motion was made to bring a subject up, it was imperative to be given enough information before voting on it. He also indicated in answer to a question from the public that affordable housing was 80% of market rate. A developer would sell 80% at market rate and 20% at low income rate.

Councilor Cohen stated a lot of the committees that were not meeting should be disestablished and that was not being done. Some of the committees did not meet since the function or need for the committee no longer existed.

Councilor DelBuono thanked Mrs. Budrejko for bringing the issue of Cedar Crest to the attention of the Council, and she did not realize a comment was needed so quickly. She stated she supported the suspension of the rules so the Council could talk about what information was needed to make an informed decision. Councilor DelBuono asked the item be added to the next meeting agenda.

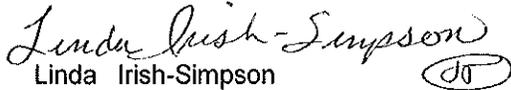
Councilor Klett stated it took a lot to save Cedar Mountain and the Town should have been proactive in their approach. She commented that she asked for the suspension of the rules to be proactive and not have to explain to the voters why something was not done ahead of time. She said she asked the Mayor to

reconsider the vote against Mr. Pane and was told it would have had to be done the same night. She felt he owed the Republicans a reason for not supporting Mr. Pane and questioned if he could be unbiased since receiving notification from Mr. Pane's lawyer that he might be named in the violation of a person's civil rights. Councilor Klett indicated there were several persons on the Planning and Zoning Committee who were political appointees and did not have the qualifications of Mr. Pane. She felt the Mayor owed an explanation to the residents of Newington for tarnishing an individual's reputation.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Castelle moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 9 – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Linda Irish-Simpson

Clerk of the Council

Daniel Dinunzio  
153 Superior Av:  
Newington, CT

Good evening ladies and gentlemen of the Town Council.

It's unfortunate I can't make my comments in person tonight, but the stakes are too high and these issues are extremely important to the town of Newington. First off, the mismanagement and political games that are being played must stop. It's not fair to the taxpayers and is only damaging the future of this town. Over the last few months, items have been brought to the Council Table with little consideration and a lack of public participation. The Mayor said in his 2012 State of the Town Address, "Newington is an old generation town that buys what we can afford, and you don't buy the new car or couch until you have the money in the bank," I strongly believe that any individual who represents the public should act in the best interest of the town. There is an immense conflict of interest in the work that has been done with this Mayor's company Stonehedge Landscaping and the Town of Newington. Invoices from previous years have been brought to my attention dating back to when the Mayor was a member with the Board of Education. Since 2003, in total \$66,777.68 on the town side and \$157,072.16 on the Board of Education that we know of has been done between the Mayor and the town. In ten years, Stonehedge has made \$223,849.84 in doing business with the Town of Newington. Something doesn't smell right here.

I would like to reference the town charter Chapter 32 Code of Ethics.

It explicitly states, "Public officials and employees often have occupations, professions, businesses, or have financial or personal interests that interface with Town government operations. It is expected that public officials and employees will be acutely sensitive to possible conflict of interest issues and that they will conduct themselves in a manner that will scrupulously avoid any conflict of interest," The other conflicts listed include: personal gain, contracts, undue influence, financial interest, disclosure of interest, and a personal interest.

Yet, Rose Lyons stated during the January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 her concerns about section 32 11-G. This says any ethics complaints were to be filled out on a form which is non-existent and her remarks were ignored. Even if a resident had a complaint to bring forth, the process in which it is documented and heard needs to be amended. In closing I would like to remind Town Manager Salamone of one of the core beliefs of the International Cities and Manager's Association (ICMA). 9. Keep the community informed on local government affairs; encourage communication between the citizens and all local government officers; emphasize friendly and courteous service to the public; and seek to improve the quality and image of public service.

Thank you for your time and have a good night.