



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT**

**MINUTES**  
**NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**October 27<sup>th</sup> 2009; 7:00PM**

## I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## II. ROLL CALL

<b>Councilors Present</b>	
Councilor Christopher Banach	X
Councilor Tony Boni	X
Councilor John "Jay" Bottalico	X
Councilor Thomas J. Bowen	X
Councilor Myra Cohen	X
Councilor Mike Lenares	X
Councilor David Nagel	X
Councilor Kristine Nasinnyk	X
Mayor Jeff Wright	X

<b>Staff Present</b>	
Town Manager - John Salomone	X
Executive Assistant - Jaime Trevethan	X

## III. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

### A. Teacher of Year – Kathy Morgan

Mayor Wright moved the following proclamation:

**WHEREAS, Kathy Morgan, a Kindergarten teacher at Anna Reynolds School, has been designated as Newington's 2009-2010 Teacher of the Year; and**  
**WHEREAS, Mrs. Morgan was selected based upon her exceptional skill and dedication to children and the teaching profession; and**  
**WHEREAS, Mrs. Morgan is intelligent, a strong communicator, an advocate for all students, and a strong believer that public education is the vehicle to prepare all children for participation in our society; and**  
**WHEREAS, Mrs. Morgan earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Central Connecticut State University in 1974, and a Masters Degree in Elementary Education from Central Connecticut State University in 1999; and**  
**WHEREAS, Mrs. Morgan taught in Newington at the Ruth L. Chaffee School from 1974-1976 and after a leave to raise her family returned to teaching at the Ruth L. Chaffee School in 1990 and has served in various other capacities, including Elementary School Tutor; and**  
**WHEREAS, Mrs. Morgan is also involved in Strategic Planning with the Board of Education and is a member of the Connecticut Education Association, the National Education Association and the Parent/Teacher Association, and has been recognized with the William P. Ward Humanitarian Award and the Louis A. Pillsbury Certificate of Achievement in Economic Education; and**

**WHEREAS, Mrs. Morgan is also involved to a high degree in community service, including involvement in the Connecticut Save-A-Pup Program, the Newington Hockey League, and volunteer work at the Hartford Regional Center and the Oak Hill School for the Blind;**  
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes Kathy Morgan as Newington’s Teacher of the Year and extends its sincerest congratulations and appreciation to her for her dedication and commitment to Newington’s children.**

Kathy Morgan commented that she felt honored to serve the community teaching in the Newington School System and that she felt blessed to have been able to touch the lives of so many children. **Mayor Wright** personally thanked her and commented how much she was appreciated by the children.

Each of the Councilors individually thanked and congratulated teacher Morgan.

**Mayor Wright** asked for public comments on the proclamation

**Sharon Braverman** Bd of Ed. Liaison Newington  
Thanked Ms. Morgan and noted how lucky the schools were to have her in their team

**Sue Reniewicz** Resident 82 Steward St. Newington  
This long-time friend extolled the virtues of the award recipient and noted that she had just recently become a grandmother.

**Kathy Morgan’s brother** spoke and thanked her for being a good role model and mentor.

**Sandy Lallier** Resident 27 Elton Drive Newington  
Ms. Lallier thanked teacher Morgan for what the teacher had instilled in her children and commented how she stood out as a shining star.

**Councilor Bottalico seconded the resolution.**

**Vote: 9 – 0, passed unanimous**

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

**Maddie Kenny** Resident 53 Crestview Drive Newington  
• She asked that the STEAP money, being accepted tonight for Market Square, be used for that purpose, and not diverted to the parking lot project.

**Jeff Montgomery** Resident 131 Knollwood Rd. Newington  
• Expressed his concern about Cedar Mountain and charged each council member to come up with ways and funding to keep it as open space.

**Maureen Klett** Resident 104 Harold Drive Newington  
• Expressed congratulations to Kathy Morgan for her award.  
• Read several quotes from various historical and news sources concerning Cedar Mountain. Expressed support for maintaining the property’s character as open space.  
• Thanked the Council for their service.  
• Suggested sanitizers at polling locations to protect against H1N1

**Elizabeth McDonald-Nelson** Resident 56 Elton Drive Newington  
• Expressed support for keeping Cedar Mountain as open space.  
• Wished to protect the wildlife inhabiting the property

**Bernard Cohn** Resident 98 Whitewood Rd. Newington  
• Has lived at the base of Cedar Mountain for forty-six years.  
• Expressed support for maintaining the property as open space  
• Listed reasons for his support  
    ○ Harm to small business  
    ○ Loss of property values  
    ○ Environmental degradation  
    ○ Loss of small town “feel”  
    ○ Strain on public resources

- Disproportionate benefit to non-locals
- Increasing crime
- Failure to blend with surrounding architecture

**Stanley Sobieski**      Resident      26 Deepwood Drive      Newington  
 • Opposed to development on Cedar Mountain due to dangerous road conditions similar to Avon Mountain.

**Robert Pingree**      Resident      186 Brentwood Road      Newington  
 • Asked the Council to preserve Cedar Mountain as open Space.  
 • Expressed concern over the addition of an access road from E.Cedar which he felt would create additional traffic congestion near the top of the hill during inclement weather.

**Sue Mazzoccoli**      Resident      149 Harris Drive      Newington  
 • Referenced the October 17<sup>th</sup> 2006 meeting of the Conservation Committee concerning endangered species inhabiting Cedar Mountain, and also a Hartford Courant story describing the mountain

**William Brophy**      Resident      48 Buckingham Street      Newington  
 • Expressed support for maintaining Cedar Mountain as open space. Spoke of the beauty and the wildlife.

**Chris Sullivan**      Resident      104 Whitewood Road      Newington  
 • Lives at the base of Cedar Mountain. Moved to Newington due to the natural environment.

**Rose Lyons**      Resident      46 Elton Drive      Newington  
 • Expressed support for maintaining Cedar Mountain as open space.  
 • Encouraged town residents to become involved and participate in town meetings

**Mayor Wright** asked if there were any meeting attendees who wished to speak in favor of developing Cedar Mountain. For the record, none stepped forward.

**John Nadeau**      Resident      374 Lloyd Street      Newington  
 • Spoke in support of maintaining Cedar Mountain as open space.  
 • Wished to maintain the town character.  
 • Asked Council to consider a hundred year moratorium on development

**Nancy Williams-Hogan** Resident      267 Connecticut Ave.      Newington  
 • Spoke in support of maintaining Cedar Mountain as open space.

**Michael Fox**      Resident      1901 Main Street      Newington  
 • As a former member of TPZ, spoke against development of Cedar Mountain  
 • Asked the town to seek funds to purchase the property for the purpose of maintaining it as open space

**Jeff Zelek**      Resident      55 Welles Drive N      Newington  
 • Requested to hear Council member's individual positions on the mountain.

**Carol Wojtowicz**      Resident      50 Brookdale Avenue      Newington  
 • Spoke strongly against development of the mountain. Asked the Council to make it their priority.  
 •

## V. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

### A. Authorize Town Manager to Accept STEAP Grant Phase IV Funding

Deputy Mayor Lenares moved the following resolution:

**WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Act 01-7, JSS, Section 19(a), Small Towns Economic Assistance Act Program, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and**

**WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Newington make an application to the State for \$350,000 in order to undertake the Newington Town Center Streetscape Phase IV Project on Market Square and to execute an Assistance Agreement.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL:**

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Public Act 01-7, JSS, Section 19(a), Small Towns Economic Assistance Act Program; and
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of Newington in an amount not to exceed \$350,000 is hereby approved, and that John L. Salomone, Town Manager, is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Newington.

**Councilor Bottalico** seconded the motion

**Councilor Cohen** asked whether there would be any guarantees that these funds would be used for Market Square. **Mayor Wright** explained that the resolution being considered stated the purpose for which the funds would be used.

**Councilor Bowen** suggested that, at the next Council Meeting, the Council should establish a committee to finish and redevelop Market Square.

**Councilor Nasinnyk** expressed her surprise and gratitude for this grant and wished that it be used to continue in the development of Market Square.

**Councilor Banach** expressed surprise at having received this grant, and stated that he would be voting in favor of the motion, with the understanding that the money will be used for the development of Market Square.

**Mayor Wright** thanked Governor Rell for the funding and stated that the money would be used for the purpose of improving the downtown district of Newington.

**Vote: 9 – 0; The motion passed unanimously**

**VI. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

**A. Board of Ethics**

**Councilor Bowen** moved the following resolution:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Newington Town Council hereby amends resolution number 2009-107, appointment of Rose Lyons to the Board of Ethics, to read as follows:

7 members, 2 alternates, 4 year term  
Party Max. (Reg. members): 2 Rep., 2 Dem., 3 Unaf.  
Remaining members: 2 Rep., 3 Unaf., 1Dem.  
Alternates: 1 Rep., 1 Dem

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Alternate: Rose J. Sarubbi-Lyons	46 Elton Drive	D	IMMED.- 11/30/12	Vacant (C. Khentigan dec.)

**Councilor Nasinnyk** seconded the motion

**Vote: 9 – 0; The motion passed unanimously**

**VII. TAX REFUNDS**

**Councilor Bowen** moved the following tax refunds:

**RESOLVED:**

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$ 8848.00 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 Banach seconded the motion  
Vote: The motion passed 9-0

**VIII. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**A. Regular Meeting: September 8, 2009 (Tabled September 22 2009)**

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes as submitted  
Councilor Bottalico seconded the motion  
Vote: The motion passed 9-0

**B. Regular Meeting of September 22, 2009**

Councilor Bottalico moved to accept the minutes as submitted  
Councilor Banach seconded the motion  
Vote: The motion passed 9-0

**C. Regular Meeting October 13 2009**

Councilor Bottalico moved to accept the minutes as submitted  
Councilor Nagel seconded the motion  
Vote: The motion passed 9-0

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

**D. Town Manager Reports**

**Town Manager Salomone** expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Council members for all their hard work and wished them the best of success in the future.

**X. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Councilor Cohen:** The Youth-Adult Council is working in conjunction with the Human Rights Commission in a program involving children.

**Councilor Bowen** the pension benefits portfolio outlook appears to be improving.

**XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL**

**Sandy Lallier** Resident 27 Elton Drive Newington

- Expressed her position toward keeping Cedar Mtn. undeveloped, and wished to hear from the Council on their positions.
- Inquired about the plans for New Samaritan
- She expressed concern over an excavator at the demolition site on which children were playing

**Rose Lyons** Resident 46 Elton Drive Newington

- Wished to correct her name on her appointment to "Rose Marie Serubbi-Lyons"

**Maddie Kenny** Resident 53 Crestview Drive Newington

- Stated that she is pleased with the statement of the guidelines for use of the Phase IV funds.

**XII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

**Councilor Nasinnyk** stated that the public had been heard with regard to its position on the development of Cedar Mountain, and that this would again be taken up by the new Council.

**Councilor Banach** stated that his position is that Cedar Mountain should be preserved, but that it would take more than talk, and that action would need to be taken quickly when the reconstituted Council reconvenes.

**Councilor Bowen** expressed his interest in preserving the mountain for several reasons: scenic view, financial, and traffic concerns. He stated that the property is privately owned and that it would take a partner, maybe the state, or humane society could assist. Due to the funds required, the entire town would have to be supportive in order to make it happen. The Councilor thanked the public for their participation, and his fellow Councilors for their hard work.

**Councilor Cohen** inquired of the Town Manager, on behalf of a resident Theresa (last name inaudible), about a dispute and its disposition. Town Manager Salomone said that he would discuss this after the meeting. The Councilor also expressed her desire to preserve the beauty of Cedar Mountain. She explained that the town had had a grant of \$500K in the past, but the town had been unable to fund the balance necessary to accomplish the purchase of the property at the time. She expressed hope that someone would come up with a source for the funds necessary.

**Councilor Nagel** stated that he favored preserving Cedar Mountain as open space, but explained that the reality of the situation is that it all comes down to money.

**Councilor Boni** stated that his time as a councilor had passed quickly, and that he was grateful for the experience.

**Councilor Bottalico** wished all luck in the election.

**Deputy Mayor Lenares** expressed his gratitude for his experience on the Council and that all had done their best for the town, no matter what their position on issues.

**Mayor Wright** thought that the Council had worked hard to move the town forward and done its best to resolve issues. He expressed he desire to work on making Cedar Mountain a place which all the town could utilize, and suggested providing a trail and parking. He also stated how proud he was to have been the Mayor presiding over the groundbreaking ceremony.

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilor Bottalico moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm**

**Councilor Nasinnyk seconded the motion**

**The motion passed 9-0**

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Scott Coleman  
Clerk of the Council

November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009