



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT

Minutes

Newington Town Council

May 11, 2010

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington Town Hall.

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II ROLL CALL

Councilors Present:

Councilor Banach
Councilor Casasanta
Councilor Cohen
Councilor Klett
Councilor Lenares
Councilor McBride
Councilor Nagel
Council Nasinnyk
Mayor Wright

Staff Present

John Salomone, Town Manager
Ed Meehan, Town Planner
Jaime Trevethan, Exec. Asst. to the Town Manager
Mary Richard, Council Clerk

III AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A. Chair Presentation: Former Council Members

Mayor Wright invited former Council Members Tony Boni, John "Jay" Bottalico and Tom Bowen to come forward – Mr. Bottalico was not present.

Mayor Wright moved the following:

WHEREAS, the members of the 2007-2009 Newington Town Council voluntarily provided service to the Town and did so professionally and proudly; and

WHEREAS, these community leaders placed the interests of the Town above their personal lives, sacrificing major events in the daily activities of their spouses, children and parents to attend numerous Town Council, Board, Commission and other public meetings and gatherings; and

WHEREAS, these dedicated public servants diligently performed their role, knowing that the future of our Town was affected by their actions; and

WHEREAS, former Town Council members Tony Boni, John "Jay" Bottalico and Tom Bowen are to be recognized for their years of loyal service; and

Phone: (860) 665-8510 Fax: (860) 665-8507
townmanager@newingtonct.gov
www.newingtonct.gov

WHEREAS, over the years an official Town of Newington chair has been presented to former Councilors in recognition of their work and to serve as a symbol of the Town's gratitude;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council, on behalf of the residents of the Town of Newington, hereby presents an honorary chair to Tony Boni, John "Jay" Bottalico and Tom Bowen and extends sincere appreciation to them for a job well done.

MOTION BY: Mayor Wright

SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk

VOTE: 9-0

Mayor Wright said that it was very special serving with Mr. Boni on the Town Council and knows how hard it was for Mr. Boni and his wife to move to Berlin and appreciates the time and effort put into the position and having also served on the Charter Revision commission and extended his thanks. Councilor Nagel said that he and Mr. Boni were novices when they ran for the Council and became fast friends and soul mates and through that process Councilor Nagel saw the skills Mr. Boni used in what was best for the Town, a truly dedicated servant. Councilor Casasanta said that she only served with Mr. Boni for a short while on the Council and saw that he was a dedicated individual, passionate about the town and wished him all the best in the future. Councilor Klett congratulated Mr. Boni on making a difference to the Town in his dedication and time served. Councilor McBride said that a lot of people came to him and said that Mr. Boni was great to work with, very straight forward guy, very honest and he wishes him the best. Councilor Cohen said that she wondered if Mr. Boni was aware of the time and detail that would be required and she thanked him for the transportation provided for her, and for the time and dedication to the Council. Councilor Nasinnyk said that it was a pleasure working with him and one thing she would miss is Mr. Boni's humor and wished him much luck in Berlin. Councilor Banach said with great and sincere admiration, that Mr. Boni believed in something he thought was worth fighting for and did something. He said that the Town has benefited from that. On another note he remembered the night when Mr. Boni and himself went back and forth across this table and was a thoroughly enjoyable time he has had. He wished him the best of luck in the future. Councilor Lenares thanked Mr. Boni for the time he spent on the Council with all the work behind the scenes, meetings nights and days, lots of investigating and the Councilors appreciated that.

Mr. Boni said that he received a letter from Jaime Trevethan that he would be getting the 'chair' and he wanted to be sure there weren't wires attached. Looking back he said that he misses the camaraderie and the time went by fast and he enjoyed it and it was a pleasure and honor to serve the people of this Town and with the disagreements and discussions, there's no question in his mind that everyone around this table has one thing in mind and that's the good for the people of this Town.

B Pop Warner All American Scholar Program

Mayor Wright called the Pop Warner football players and cheerleaders forward, and moved the following:

WHEREAS, each year the most academically accomplished Pop Warner football players and cheerleaders compete for Pop Warner Academic All-American status; and
WHEREAS, the process begins at the Association level and progresses up through each of the eight Pop Warner regions to the national level; and
WHEREAS, the Academic All-American program requires a minimum 96% grade point average and Pop Warner uses a scoring system consisting of each student's grades, activities and achievements to create First Team, Second Team and Honorable Mention awards; and
WHEREAS, of the over 400,000 students who participate in Pop Warner, 280 students were honored as First Team members, 5,000 were honored as Second Team members and 2,000 received Honorable Mentions; and
WHEREAS, Newington Pop Warner participants Erica Condon (grade 6) and Lindsie Esau (grade 8) received Second Team honors and Ian Bomley (grade 9), Joseph Briganti (grade 6), Nicole Couture (grade 8), Zachary Houldcroft (grade 7), Sabrina Mancini (grade 8), Allison Marino (grade 8), Heather Pizzoferrato (grade 8), Nicole Stepak (grade 8) and Brendan Zotti (grade 7) received Honorable Mentions;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby extends congratulations to the participants, parents and coaches on their excellent achievements both on the field and in the classroom and wishes them much success in the future.

MOTION BY: Mayor Wright
SECONDED BY: Councilor Banach
VOTE: 9 - 0

Mayor Wright commented that it's a great honor for having accomplished so much in the field and academically and hopefully that will continue in the future. Councilor Banach said that these students have distinguished themselves at this early age and hopes that it continues and congratulated them all. Councilor Nasinnyk congratulated the students and also those who were not present in that it takes a lot of time and effort in what they do, plus the academic achievements accomplished and she wishes them the best in their futures. Councilor Cohen said that she was very impressed with their grade point average and hopes that they will keep up this work in the future. Councilor Lenares congratulated the students in that they represent a lot of future students in what's available and wished them all good luck. Councilor Nagel offered his congratulations also not only for their dedication in the field but also in their academic achievements. He hopes that they realize that what you do today are skills that will come in handy later and most of all he said he hoped that they had fun in the process. Mayor Wright corrected his earlier statement in mentioning the names of Nicholas rather than 'Nicole' in two places and also the name 'Ian'. He apologized for the error.

Councilor Banach moved to add item V.B. to the agenda to amend the resolution regarding the Clem Lemire Artificial Turf Project Building Committee. Motion seconded by Councilor Casasanta. Motion passed 9-0.

IV PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Richard Hayes, Hayes Kauffman Developers spoke regarding the corner of Cedar and Fenn. At the last meeting there were a couple of things he wanted to discuss concerning the 2010-2020 Plan of Conservation. The first thing a developer does is get a set of the zoning regulations and a copy of the plan of development the reason being that what is being proposed is in compliance with these plans which is required by State Statute. He was troubled that Chairman Pruettt wants to eliminate any multi family housing in the community, but then he says that if something came in that warranted consideration for a multi family stand point, they would still would be able to do that. Mr. Hayes thinks that Mr. Pruettt is incorrect in that statement and it should be explored tonight before any decisions are made. Another item regarding Councilor Cohen's statements about what can transpire from a tax standpoint, multi family doesn't only mean apartments but has many different definitions. Some of them are revenue positive and what he is proposing would generate between \$260,000 and \$300,000 a year for the Town with no services required from the Town. Another item he wants to mention is that of National Welding and anything the Council can do to push it along is important.

Pam Austin thanked the Mayor and everyone here for recognizing the academic achievements for the program, the kids work very hard and she thanks the Council for taking the time for them.

Mady Kenney, 53 Crestview Drive – in Councilor Casasanta's concerns about the 2010-2010 POCD document reads "I do not want promises made that may be kept" and wonders if that is what she meant. As a resident of Newington she agrees with Councilor Cohen's remarks, specifically the high density housing and she believes that we should protect what is left of our open space. In none of the plans for the development of down town, was there any mention of bicycle racks. She thinks that we are an aging population and many are aware of the need for physical activity and she would like to ride her bicycle but there is no place to tie it up. She said that it doesn't have to be many, but a few scattered around Town for those who wish to use this means of transportation.

Travis Francis, Eagle Scout - Hartford - member of Troup 355 spoke about his plan to clean up the trail near St. Mary's and what he is doing is planting flowers, removing trash, removing graffiti and cleaning up the area so it's nicer for the residents. He went to the Police Department and asked what could be done along with the local residents. The main concern he noticed is that of safety, and the residents are not comfortable with the graffiti and trash and kids smoking. The Police Department is doing the best they can. He said maybe the dirt could be replaced with mulch and with a new Senior Center maybe a street light could be installed.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive – thanked Travis for what he's doing by taking on a project that the neighborhood has been asking the Town to do for several years. It seems that no one wants to take on the responsibility for that pathway. She thanked Travis in behalf of the residents and also asked the Council to perhaps get together with the Parks & Rec, Highway Department etc to see what could be done to maintain that area. She suggested that mulch might not be the safer way to go, it's hard for biking, running etc.

V CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. 2010-2020 Plan of Conservation and Development – Draft #3

Mr. Salomone noted a memo to the Council in which Councilors Casasanta and Cohen had concerns, recommendations and corrections which might be considered toward a formal vote on the May 25 meeting.

Councilor Klett asked if the Council would have to vote on the concerns and changes by Council members or can we informally submit to TPZ to see if they would make the changes or not. Mr. Salomone said that if the Council doesn't take a vote, the TPZ would not be obligated to consider the changes or concerns. Mr. Ed Meehan said that the Statutes require that zoning changes either in text or map be included in the plans for development. In order to make changes it would be necessary to go back and amend the plan first. Going forward this would give the Planning and Zoning some flexibility. Mayor Wright said that the four points from Councilor Casasanta are more policy in nature and Councilor Cohen's recommendations are basically editing. Mayor Wright asked Mr. Meehan regarding higher density; he is opposed to high density housing. He believes that this is an excellent opportunity for college student housing and is there was to accomplish both these objectives in this plan. Mr. Meehan recommended not saying anything about high density housing at the corner of Cedar and Fenn. Mayor Wright asked if proposals came forward to put high density college student housing would that work with this plan or in opposition. Mr. Meehan said that's something that was put in and discussed and suggested that it be left there for now. Councilor Casasanta agrees with part of what Mr. Meehan says that she wouldn't want to limit future opportunities that may benefit the Town. Councilor Klett stated that she thinks that area would be great for student housing and we could also use senior housing but either way that area is a perfect spot. If it were up to her she would like to use the space for student or senior housing but isn't comfortable with questioning TPZ's plan.

Councilor Nasinnyk likes the plan for the language and intent with an overall theme for maintaining the open space and keeping Newington a small town and she can't envision what that corner will look like and it should be left up to the TPZ to make the best decision for the Town.

Memorandums of Councilors Casasanta and Cohen Changes and Concerns are attached..

A. School Code Compliance Project – Approve Final Plans

Councilor Casasanta moved the following resolution

RESOLVED:

Pursuant to Chapter 8, Article X, Section 8-45 (H), Project Building Committees, of the Newington Code of Ordinances, the Newington Town Council hereby approves the final plans and cost estimates for the High School Code Compliance Project as reviewed by the Town Council and as approved by School Code Compliance Project Building Committee.

MOTION BY: Councilor Casasanta
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk
VOTE: 9 - 0

B Amend Resolution – Clem Lemire Artificial Turf Project Building Committee

Councilor Banach moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby amends resolution 2010-51 establishing the Clem Lemire Artificial Turf Field Project Building Committee by changing the number of Committee members from seven (7) to nine (9) and adding one (1) additional member of the public at large and (1) additional member of the Board of Parks and Recreation to the Committee.

MOTION BY: Councilor Banach
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk

VOTE: 9 - 0

VI RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointments:

13. School Code Compliance Committee

5 members, 3 NTC, 2 BOE
Party Max.: 3
Remaining members: 3 Dem., 1 Rep.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Town Council Rep: David Nagel	1175 Willard Avenue	R	NTC Term	Dave Nagel (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)

Motion by Deputy Mayor Lenares/Seconded by Councilor Casasanta - Vote: 9 Yes

7 members: 2 NTC, 2 P&R Board, 3 Public

Public: Frederick Callahan	99 Cedarwood Lane	D	IMMED. – PROJECT END	N/A
Parks and Rec Rep: Kathleen Zolad	269 Candlewick Drive	D	IMMED. – PROJECT END	N/A
Public: Jay Bottalico	37 Valley View Drive	R	IMMED. – PROJECT END	N/A
Public: Jeff Perillo	269 Beacon Street	R	IMMED. – PROJECT END	N/A

Democrat appointments moved by Councilor Banach/Seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk – Vote: 9 Yes

Republican appointments moved by Deputy Mayor Lenares/Seconded by Councilor Nagel – Vote: 9 Yes

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

A. Town Manager Reports - None

VIII COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Nagel attended Newington Community TV meeting and two things are planned:

- The Memorial Parade plans are ongoing, and will have the location as it has been and it will not be televised live.
- Also Saturday, May 15 NCTV is having an open house from 10 AM to 4 PM in their new facilities. There will be signs posted on how to get there.

He also attended the Open Space meeting and they are still working on getting a trust and our Town Planner is developing a plan and maps that will show where there is vacant land, commercial and residential and possibilities of future open space. He said he was informed that the State Government was considering passing a bill that might dedicate part of Cedar Mountain to the Town.

Councilor Cohen – stated that the (not audible on tape) school sponsored a Senior Prom for teens and seniors, which was a great success.

Councilor Nasinnyk stated that she went to the Library Board meeting and stated that the 14th year of the Library 5K race will be this Sunday.

Councilor Klett that she had attended the meeting at the Senior Center & Disabled Center and there were a couple of comments wondering if there might be some grant money available for the canopy.

Former Councilor Tom Bowen, who was not available to receive his chair and proclamation earlier in the meeting, was called to the table. Mayor Wright read again the Proclamation for Former Town Councilors and invited Mr. Tom Bowen to receive his Chair.

Councilor Cohen stated that she enjoyed working with Mr. Bowen, his leadership was great, his involvement was great and even though they were on opposite sides of the isle she enjoyed his input. Councilor McBride said that Mr. Bowen's dedication to the Town was apparent and thanked him for the opportunity of working with him. Councilor Nasinnyk said that Mr. Bowen's wisdom and attention to detail, his knowledge of the issues is missed. She also noted his continued work on the Open Space Committee and continue coaching the kids in Town and is a very visible force in Town and she thanked him for being a friend. Councilor Klett said that Mr. Bowen has given of himself in many ways starting with Parks & Rec and is responsible for a lot of the improvements that were done there. Also on the CIP Committee, Mr. Bowen was the driving force behind many of the projects involved. She thanked Mr. Bowen for playing such an important role in these accomplishments.

Councilor Banach said that everyone is aware of what Mr. Bowen has given to the Town Council and when thinking of Mr. Bowen he remembers the words of the London Stock Exchange words, 'my word is my bond', Councilor Banach said that Mr. Bowen's word really meant something and he thanked Mr. Bowen for being a man of his word. Councilor Lenares said that working with Mr. Bowen was a pleasure and was able to turn to Mr. Bowen with questions. Regarding CIP Councilor Lenares mentioned that Mr. Bowen was a great help with those issues, and thanked Mr. Bowen and his wife for the time and effort he gave this Town. Councilor Casasanta said she wished she had been able to work with Mr. Bowen for a longer period of time, and she admired his diligence, his attention to detail is impeccable and thanked him for his contribution. Councilor Nagel said he appreciates all the time Mr. Bowen had given to the Council and the Town, being an honest and dedicated member with thoughtful comments which were well taken, and thanked Mr. Bowen for a job well done.

Rose Lyons – mentioned that the phone lines were not open, which she hoped was just an oversight, but she thanked Mr. Bowen for an interesting ride, and he was always there with an honest answer to questions that came up. She thanked him for all he has done and continues to do.

Mr. Tom Bowen thanked everyone for this honor, he said that Councilor Klett was correct when years ago she asked him to participate in politics, he said 'sure' not knowing what was involved and ended up loving it. Also he mentioned Councilor Cohen who helped him with becoming a Councilor, with being impartial, and attention to detail. Mr. Bowen mentioned Councilor McBride in that he wished he had been able to serve together, also thoroughly enjoyed working with Councilor Nasinnyk. He always considered the Councilors his friends, even being on opposite sides, nothing to do with 'D's and 'R's just different views. He thanked his wife, his best friend, for all she gave and gave up with Mr. Bowen being so involved with the Town.

IX PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

IX REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Klett noted the passing of former Town Historian Elizabeth Baxter whose obituary ran in the Town Crier. Ms Baxter had returned to Maine after spending a lot of years here, and is the author of The Centennial History of Newington written in 1971 - a true history of Newington. She wrote about the concern about losing our Town charm and today we're still trying to maintain that Town charm.

Councilor McBride noted Travis Francis, the Eagle Scout, who is trying to clean up that pathway behind St. Mary's. Councilor McBride said that he had taken a walk with Travis through this pathway and saw the destruction there and hopes that something could be considered to cleaning this area up. Travis is asking us for help and doesn't want to see his effort end up at zero. Councilor Cohen said that this has been discussed and it seems that something can be done with some extra effort to keep after this problem. She recognized Travis's concern and knows that this problem area needs to be addressed.

Councilor Nagel thanked the Human Services Department for their successful dinner on the 28th of last month and also the dinner to congratulate the Newington Volunteer Department, and those volunteers were honored last month. It shows that the essence of community and the wonderful Town that we have is alive and well when it comes to the volunteer spirit. Also, regarding Betty Baxter, Councilor Nagel said he was saddened by her passing and recognized her book as the Bible of Newington, and as a member of the Historical Society he refers to her book on many occasions.

Mayor Wright stated regarding the pathway, it has to be a troubling thing for Travis, it is a difficult situation but Police catch them but it continues, but they will be caught. Councilor Klett mentioned that the Boy Scouts troop will accept donations to try to help with the work they're doing and she thinks the public should be aware of that.

XI ADJOURNMENT – 9:30 PM

MOVED TO ADJOURN: Councilor Lenares

SECONDED: Council Nagel

VOTE: 9 - 0