

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (AMENDED)
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing. The video was broadcast in real time and via a live video stream.

1. Roll Call.

Council Members

Mr. Thomas P. Gullotta, Chairman
Mr. Lawrence Niland, Vice Chairman
Dr. Stewart Beckett III
Ms. Mary LaChance
Ms. Deborah A. Carroll
Mr. Jacob McChesney
Mr. Whit C. Osgood
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh
Ms. Lillian Tanski

a. Pledge of Allegiance ***Led by Mr. Osgood***

2. Public Comment.

Ms. Carroll read the written comments received, as listed on the Town website:

Kelly Mulryan of 45 Lindsay Drive, wants to understand how restricting public access to Town owned parks violates laws. She noted that beaches in shoreline towns restrict access to their beaches and that is okay. She noted the example of Westbrook, which only allows residents to park in their lots; nonresidents can have access but cannot park there.

John Sakon of 82 Folly Brook Lane in Manchester, noted that his building in town was vandalized, and he has not been contacted by any Town official to address the 'hate crime.' He has defeated two larceny charges and 14 false arrests which, he felt, sent him the message that he should leave town. Mr. Sakon accused the Town Manager of corruption and stated that both he and Mr. Carey should be fired. He then asked the Council to immediately revoke control of the police department from Mr. Johnson, to invoke a civilian review board, and for them to ask the State Police to investigate the vandalism at 131 Griswold Street and make the appropriate arrests.

CJ Mozzochi of 227 Hebron Avenue, stated that the BOE office rent is outrageous, and a separate Town-owned building should be acquired for that space. The Council and BOF should demand that the BOE submit a more accurate budget and the Council should rescind the ruling that their surplus does not have to be returned to the general fund every year.

Mr. Niland opened the floor for attendees to comment.

Julie Thompson of 252 Bluff Point in South Glastonbury, made a comment on behalf of the Historical Society, with regard to the upcoming vote on the purchase of the Cotton Hollow mill walls. She stated that this purchase will ensure the preservation of an iconic piece of Glastonbury history. The Historical Society looks forward to ensuring that the mill remains an important part of Town history to come.

3. Special Reports.

a. Status Report on Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Johnson stated that there are about 60 projects that are moving forward. The multi-use trail is expecting completion soon. The library renovation project bids are due this Friday. For Glastonbury Boulevard, they await the final parts for the crossing signals and two bus shelters are being added to it. Mr. Osgood asked for an update on the junction north of Gilmore Manor. Mr. Johnson stated that they are going to pipe that and resolve the ongoing drainage and erosion problem. Mr. Osgood asked about the Salmon Brook extension of the bicycle path. Mr. Johnson stated that, likely in early November, they will have a ribbon cutting ceremony. Mr. Cavanaugh asked for a status on the grant approval for the Main Street sidewalks. Mr. Johnson stated that they are awaiting the final signoff on two grants, both the Main Street project and the sidewalk network within the Gateway area.

4. Old Business.

5. New Business.

a. Action on potential sale of Town-owned land at 210 Griswold Street (Refer to Town Plan and Zoning Commission and Land Appraisal Committee).

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby refers the potential sale of Town-owned land at 210 Griswold Street as follows:

- 1. Referral to the Land Appraisal Subcommittee for a determination of estimated value;*
- 2. Referral to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for a report and recommendation per CGS Section 8-24;*

as described in a report by the Town Manager dated October 9, 2020.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {9-0-0}.

b. Discussion and possible action concerning Splash Pad at Addison Park.

Mr. Johnson explained that, prior to the pandemic, the Rotary Club committed to funding the project by 50%, at \$250,000. While they are still committed to that level of funding, they can only provide \$100,000 at this point in time. Mr. Johnson explained that if the project goes forward and the Rotary Club contributes \$100,000 this year, the Town would be able to buy the equipment to avoid the 5% uptick. He noted that the Town will not build the splash pad until the fall of 2021. Mr. Cavanaugh asked where the components would be stored in the meantime. Lisa Zerio, the Director of Parks and Recreation, stated that they would make room at the Parks Garage and Longo. They are confident that they can find space for storage.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby confirms support for the splash pad project at the Addison Park pool, supported by the donation of 50% of project costs by the Glastonbury Rotary Club, as detailed by the October 9, 2020 letter by Rotary Club president, Deborah Eisenberg, and as described in a report by the Town Manager dated October 9, 2020.

Disc: Mr. Niland is in favor of this application. He has complete faith in the Rotary Club and has no worries about this at all. Ms. Tanski echoed Mr. Niland and thanked the Rotary Club and the Parks and Recreation department for a great-looking project.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {9-0-0}.

c. Discussion concerning testing of sanitary wastewater – COVID-19.

Mr. Johnson explained that the testing of wastewater has been used historically but not of late. There is a process for testing that can indicate an early warning for COVID-19 infections. Mr. Gullotta had asked to put this item on the agenda because he expects an uptick in infections in the fall and winter. He wants to have an action plan as foresight, as opposed to just testing in real time. Dr. Beckett has been very critical of the response of this pandemic. Information is better than no information, and this process can provide some of that. Mr. Osgood does not think that this idea makes any sense for Glastonbury, but it would on the state legislature level. He does not support spending \$5,000 a month for 6-8 months on this. Mr. Niland thinks that people are lulled into a false sense of security, and this testing process would give them a bit of precaution, which could help.

Ms. Carroll likes the idea of having more information, but she has concerns about the lack of specificity on this, such as the number of people/homes/businesses being on septic. Instead, she would rather spend money on acquiring more accessible tests for children under 18 because they are generally asymptomatic. Ms. Tanski agreed with Ms. Carroll. Mr. Osgood remarked that health officials have not recommended this action, so he does not support it. Mr. McChesney stated that he has struggled with this being a financially prudent decision, as it simply concludes things that they should be doing anyway, like wearing masks.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby supports the testing of sanitary wastewater for COVID-19, beginning in the month of November and extending through the month of May.

Disc: Mr. Osgood thinks that this is an unusually large expense and not a prudent use of resources. Ms. Tanski agreed, adding that this will encourage too much confidence in residents to break from vigilance in staying safe. Dr. Beckett stated that colleges use this technology, which is a screening test not an individual test.

Result: Motion failed {3-6-0}, with Mr. Osgood, Mr. Cavanaugh, Ms. Tanski, Ms. LaChance, Ms. Carroll, and Mr. McChesney voting against.

d. Action in support of Council statement concerning 2020 election season.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby expresses support for the following statement concerning the 2020 election season:

In view of recent events the Glastonbury Town Council urges our community to continue its long history of behaving in a calm and considerate manner leading to the election date of November 3 and beyond, to assure our residents an environment in which they can freely and without any fear or concern exercise their duty and vote as we have always done in Glastonbury.

Citizens are as always free and are in fact encouraged to express their views in any forum without any reservation as long as they are done in a civil manner with mutual respect to other views and opinions.

as described in a report by the Town Manager dated October 9, 2020.

Disc: Ms. Tanski believes that Town residents will conduct themselves during the election in the same respectful and peaceful way that they always have. She does not believe that the Council needs to issue this statement. Mr. Osgood asked which recent event(s) triggered this statement. Mr. Gullotta stated that the recent event in Michigan is one example. Mr. Osgood finds this statement unnecessary. Mr. Cavanaugh stated that he is not an elected official to lecture voters. He also questioned the ‘recent events,’ stating that they have never had an issue with voters in Glastonbury, so he is not going to support this. Mr. Niland remarked that there is nothing objectionable in this letter. Ms. Carroll agreed with Mr. Niland that this is just a statement, not a lecture. This is a reminder that everyone needs to be their best selves during these very charged times. Mr. McChesney concurred, adding that they should try to set the tone from the top-down. Ms. LaChance is on the fence with this. While she finds nothing wrong with the statement, she would have preferred it to be more actionable.

Mr. Tanski stated that, even in light of the raised tensions right now, Glastonbury has been conducting itself in a much more respectful manner than other places that have made the news nationwide. She worries that having wording that some may perceive to be condescending could be viewed as some sort of repudiation of them.

A call to question by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Mr. Niland

Result: Call to question was passed {5-4-0}, with Mr. Cavanaugh, Mr. Osgood, Ms. Tanski, and Dr. Beckett voting against.

Result of the motion: Motion passed {5-4-0}, with Mr. Cavanaugh, Mr. Osgood, Ms. Tanski, and Dr. Beckett voting against.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING – 8:00 P.M.

NO 1: PROPOSED CHANGES TO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE III – RECREATIONAL AREAS USE REGULATIONS.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves proposed changes to Town Code Chapter 14, Article III - Recreational Areas Use Regulations, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated October 9, 2020 and as recommended by the Council Policy & Ordinance Review Subcommittee. Said amendments to be effective November 1, 2020.

Disc: Mr. Johnson explained that there are two preserves in town: The Cotton Hollow Preserve and the Great Pond Preserve. Due to the pandemic, Cotton Hollow saw an unusually high use. This overwhelmed the site, so they closed down the preserve. The Town Attorney's opinion concluded that restricting access to public parks to Town residents and their guests is unconstitutional and illegal. The proposal is to change the language to indicate that both preserves are open to the public.

Ms. Carroll read the written comments received, as listed on the Town website:

Carol Aylward of 947 Chestnut Hill Road, asked the Council to consider giving Town seniors free parking passes to the Grange pool, Cotton Hollow preserve, and Eastbury pond.

John Nealon of 145 Moseley Terrace, supports the action proposed tonight, as it promotes a message of openness to neighbors and a willingness to share their nature preserves with them. He also agreed with the Recreation Commission's position that the Town maintain the park ranger program.

Steve Dickison of 168 Forest Lane, stated that all should be welcome at Cotton Hollow and the Great Pond preserve. Cotton Hollow is one of the reasons why he moved to Glastonbury and closing it to non-residents or charging a fee would require police enforcement, which he is against. It would also hurt businesses in the area and the Town would be perceived as non-inviting.

Mr. Niland opened the floor for attendees to comment.

Jennifer Siskind of 101 Fairview Terrace in South Glastonbury, stated that she has lived near Cotton Hollow for 21 years. She hikes down there a lot and has made it her commitment to pick up any trash she sees. This summer, the amount of trash was astronomical. The changes in the ordinance do not address the amount of people using this space. She suggested adding language to restrict other types of material, such as cans, straws, etc. at the preserve. She would like the Council to instruct the Recreation Commission to address this trash issue and to possibly consider some kind of parking restriction.

Samantha Lombardo of 17 Lakewood Road, stated that the Town has not enforced any of the rules of the preserve for a long time now. Tonight's action is just a general formality. The real question should be, will the Town finally enforce the Cotton Hollow ordinances. She also expressed her full support for the park ranger program, and noted that the preserve has two trailheads, both of which are equally important.

Victoria McBrien of 4 MacIntosh Lane, expressed her support for the Council's decision to open up Cotton Hollow to non-residents. She stated that restricting access to only residents is not only unconstitutional, but also segregationist. She thanked the Council for considering this action and committing to civility and encouraging kindness, while protecting natural spaces and keeping people safe.

With no further comments, Mr. Niland closed the public hearing.

In regard to Ms. Siskind's suggestion about updating the ordinance to include language on trash, Mr. Johnson explained that section 14-35 of the ordinance already prohibits the dumping of bottles, glass, paper, garbage refuse, and other inappropriate items. He also noted that parking would be restricted to just 23 spaces during the height of the season, which should help to prevent overcrowding of the facility. There is a section of the code titled "Sanitation" that addresses some of the comments that were brought up.

Mr. McChesney stated that Ms. Siskind's comment seems to call for the prohibition of bringing in those items, as opposed to prohibiting just their dumping. Mr. Johnson stated that not everything is called out in the Code of Ordinances, but the Council may address that by adding a section under "Sanitation."

Mr. Niland asked what the purpose was behind deleting section 14-44 (g) of the Glastonbury Code of Ordinances for Parks and Recreation. Mr. Johnson explained that it would be onerous to list all of the standards and prohibitions on one sign to then put in every park. Mr. Niland suggested removing the portion that makes it an absolute requirement for the Town to post a sign all the time. Mr. Johnson stated that he had thought of that idea, too. Mr. McChesney agreed with that language.

Mr. Carroll liked the public comment about waiving the parking fees for seniors. She suggested the Council agree to have the conversation on fees after the budget season and just make a decision on this piece tonight. Ms. Tanski agreed. Dr. Beckett suggested making an amendment to incorporate the language that Mr. Niland just brought up.

Amendment by: Mr. Niland

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

MOVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council reinstate section 14-44 (g) of the Glastonbury Code of Ordinances for Parks and Recreation, which would read as the following: *The Town reserves the right to prohibit or restrict activities in a park or preserve.*

Result: Amendment passed unanimously {9-0-0}.

Disc on motion: Mr. Cavanaugh stated that he had always presumed that the Cotton Hollow restriction was a part of the deed restriction and not the Town Code. Had he known that, he believes that the Council would have taken action on this sooner, but he is glad that it is being removed now. Mr. Niland also supports the recommendation of the Recreation Commission on the park rangers.

Result: Amended motion passed unanimously {9-0-0}.

NO 2: PROPOSED TOWN ACQUISITION OF THE COTTON HOLLOW MILL SITE AND A \$225,000 TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATION FOR THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves Town acquisition of the Cotton Hollow Mill site in accordance with the Purchase and Sale Agreement dated September 22, 2020 and a \$225,000 appropriation and transfer from the Capital Reserve-Unassigned Fund Balance to Capital Projects-Land Acquisition for the acquisition, as described in a report by the Town Manager dated October 9, 2020 and as recommended by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission and the Board of Finance. Be it further resolved that Council approval is subject to Town satisfaction with the due diligence process, including ground survey, environmental analysis, and title search.

Disc: Mr. Johnson explained that the proposal is to purchase one acre off of Cotton Hollow Road that includes the historic mill walls. There is a two-year, and then month-to-month, access via the current driveway, and then access after that point through a farm road. The TPZ and BOF both approved the plans. Council action is required by November 11, 2020 and closing by December 4, 2020. The Historical Society is prepared to begin a fundraising project, and they are looking at the potential of some matching grants.

Mr. Niland opened the floor for attendees to comment.

Julie Thompson of 252 Bluff Point in South Glastonbury, reiterated her comment from the public comment session. The Historical Society looks forward to fundraising for this initiative and ensuring that this important part of Glastonbury's history is preserved.

Jennifer Siskind of 101 Fairview Terrace in South Glastonbury, expressed her gratitude to the Council, the Town Manager, and the property owner for moving this action forward. In light of Mr. Johnson's comment about a chain link fence, Ms. Siskind wonders whether it might instead be possible to put a rod iron fence or something more attractive on the creek side of the property.

Samantha Lombardo of 17 Lakewood Road, expressed her full appreciation and support for the purchase of the Cotton Hollow mill walls. She is pleased that the mill walls will be standing for future generations. She is happy to actively help with fundraising and anything that is needed to help preserve the walls properly.

With no further comments, Mr. Niland closed the public hearing.

Mr. Niland asked why they only have two years access via the driveway and what their options are, should something happen to the fence beyond those two years. Mr. Johnson explained that the site is challenging because access is limited. Mr. Johnson stated that that was the best they could do, knowing that the owners of the property plan on building a home that will encompass the driveway that is there now. Mr. Cavanaugh asked if the Historical Society will participate in the fundraising and, if so, what is their goal. Mr. Johnson stated that he spoke with Julie Thompson about enacting a fundraising strategy. The 5,000 people who signed the petition to preserve the mill walls would be a good starting point. They have already received a couple thousand dollars in donations and one offer for a matching grant opportunity. The Historical Society has to do a lot of the heavy fighting, particularly when it comes to restoring the mill walls. Mr. Cavanaugh will support this action, as he is very concerned about the historic nature of Glastonbury's past being demolished.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {9-0-0}.

6. Consent Calendar.

a. Action to approve 3 Domains of Livability – Glastonbury Age-Friendly Action Plan.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby expresses its continuing support of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities Initiative and the three Domains of Housing, Transportation and Outdoor Spaces Buildings as initial priorities, as described in a report by the Town

Manager dated October 9, 2020 and as presented and recommended by the Core Leadership Team for the Age-Friendly Community Project.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {9-0-0}.

7. Town Manager's Report.

Mr. Johnson explained that item 2 was a recent sample of thank you letters to Town staff. Item 3 is an update on building permit activity, which he hopes to provide the Council every three or four months. Durlene Mikkelson will retire as the Director of Youth and Family Services on Friday and Lori LaCapra will succeed her on Monday. The Town's wastewater treatment plan continues to operate efficiently. Bike Walk Glastonbury has donated two benches and an anonymous donor is providing a repair station. The food bank has received \$77,000 from 478 donors thus far, since the COVID-19 pandemic started in March. In regard to the closure fund, the sale of fill annually varies significantly. He asked if sale of fill revenues will be automatically deposited to the fund or will Council action be required. Item 11 is in regard to the Cotton Hollow parking passes, for which the Town Manager noted it makes sense to not charge a fee during the cooler months.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

MOVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby recognizes the Town Manager's Expense Report for the months of July 2020 to September 2020.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {9-0-0}.

Mr. Johnson noted that, for Item 13, they had applied for a cemetery grant from the state and received \$3,332. Item 14, regarding noise control, could be forwarded to the Policy and Ordinance Review Committee, should the Council so choose. For item 15, they are just about complete to make sure that the uranium project remains eligible for the state revolving loan and grant program. Mr. Johnson expects to have the general report by calendar year end. For item 17, the pollution liability coverage was extended for five years at a \$3 million coverage, \$100,000 deductible. That policy runs until the middle of November. It has been 17 years since the policy has been put in place by AIG, which no longer runs the policy. He will return to the Council on October 27 for possible action on this.

Mr. Cavanaugh stated that he wanted to reiterate for the record Police Chief Porter's comment made during the September 29 special meeting. Chief Porter stated that in his entire time as Chief, there has not been a single use of force complaint against the department. Mr. Cavanaugh encouraged the public to read a very compelling letter, written by a resident, praising Agent Keeney. Mr. Cavanaugh asked if the Wang Palace building had been sold. Mr. Johnson stated that it is either under option or sold, but he has not yet seen any proposals. Mr. Cavanaugh asked about the approval of office space on Addison Road. Mr. Johnson stated that there are four buildings on the northeast corner of Addison Road and Eastern Boulevard. He agreed to provide the schematics to the Council at a later date.

Mr. McChesney conveyed his appreciation to officers for their community engagement. He also encouraged them to ensure that as many community holiday events happen as safely possible. He also stressed that the Town should continue to work with business owners as much as possible, in order to help them celebrate Halloween. Mr. Johnson stated that a variety of departments are working together to put together a virtual holiday program guide. When he gets that, he will share it with the Council. Mr.

Johnson also stated that his silence in regard to the letter that was read by Mr. Sakon during the public comment session tonight does not mean that he agrees with anything that was said.

8. Committee Reports.
a. Chairman's Report.

Mr. Gullotta asked Mr. Johnson to ask the Historical Society if they would consider auctioning off their moon trees.

b. MDC.

Ms. LaChance stated that the budget is still looking like a significant increase, given the times.

c. CRCOG. None

9. Communications. None

10. Minutes.

a. Minutes of September 22, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

Result: The minutes were accepted as presented {9-0-0}.

b. Minutes of September 29, 2020 Special Meeting (Police Operations Workshop Meeting).

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

Result: The minutes were accepted as presented {9-0-0}.

11. Appointments and Resignations.

- a. Appointment of Jeff Bodeau (alternate member) to the Board of Assessment Appeals (R-2024).**
- b. Resignation of Kristy Notarangelo from the Board of Education (R-2023).**
- c. Appointment of Evan Seratan to the Board of Education (R-2023).**
- d. Appointment of Jody Kretzmer to the Community Beautification Commission (R-2023).**

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

MOVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby appoint Jeff Bodeau (alternate member) to the Board of Assessment Appeals (R-2024); regretfully accept the resignation of Kristy Notarangelo from the Board of Education (R-2023); appoint Evan Seratan to the Board of Education (R-2023); and appoint Jody Kretzmer to the Community Beautification Commission (R-2023).

Result: Appointments and resignations were accepted unanimously {9-0-0}.

12. Executive Session.
a. Potential land acquisition.

Motion by: Ms. Carroll

Seconded by: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enters into executive session to discuss a potential land acquisition at 9:35 P.M.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {9-0-0}.

Present for the Executive Session item were council members, Mr. Tom Gullotta, Chairman, Mr. Lawrence Niland, Vice Chairman, Dr. Chip Beckett, Ms. Deb Carroll, Ms. Mary LaChance, Mr. Jake McChesney, Mr. Kurt Cavanaugh, Ms. Lillian Tanski, and Mr. Whit Osgood, with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson.

No votes were taken during the Executive Session, which ended at 10:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lilly Torosyan

Lilly Torosyan
Recording Clerk

Thomas Gullotta
Chairman