

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021**

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. Whit C. Osgood  
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh  
Mr. Jacob McChesney  
Ms. Lillian Tanski

**a. Pledge of Allegiance**

***Led by Mr. Bobby Ashton***

**2. Public Comment.**

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

***CJ Mozzochi of 227 Hebron Avenue***, demanded the immediate removal of Mr. Johnson as Town Manager, citing two grievances: his “bias against women” in his decision to promote Officer Shubert, which resulted in her receiving a \$130,000 settlement of her Federal Court discrimination suit; and because he violated the FOIA by delaying Dr. Mozzochi’s request for documents concerning her suit for almost three months. Dr. Mozzochi noted that if his comments were not read at this meeting, then he would add a count to his forthcoming Federal Court discrimination suit against the Town and various Town officials.

Mr. Niland opened the floor for attendees to comment.

***Bruce Bowman of 62 Morgan Drive***, encouraged future Town meetings to become hybrid, in order to encourage easier participation from Glastonbury citizens, while maintaining COVID-19 safety regulations.

**3. Special Reports.                      *None***

**4. Old Business.                         *None***

**5. New Business.**

**a. Discussion and possible action concerning new sidewalk construction for 2021 season. *Tabled***

Mr. Johnson explained that the capital budget now allocates about \$195,000 and effective July 1 an additional \$300,000. The Spring Street sidewalk project is relatively high on the sidewalk matrix. When the Council took action on that, there was a suggestion that Bantle Road be included in the design phase. However, before proceeding with that, Mr. Johnson wanted to check and verify if that is still the plan going forward. Additionally, during the budget process, he noted that there were smaller additional sidewalk projects proposed, such as on the east side of House Street and between Overlook Road and the intersection of Buttonball Lane and Route 17. The Town engineering department does the design for these projects.

Mr. Osgood asked about costs. Mr. Johnson stated that the House Street section is about \$41,000 and the section along Route 17 is about \$87,000. Mr. Osgood asked about the estimates for the Main Street project. Mr. Johnson stated that they will be meeting in two weeks to discuss that. Mr. Pennington added that they will give numbers associated with all of the alternatives when the Council discusses this at a further meeting. Mr. Osgood suggested tabling this discussion for possible action in two weeks.

***Motion by:*** Mr. Niland

***Seconded by:*** Dr. Beckett

*BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby tables discussion and possible action to their next meeting.*

***Result:*** Motion to table was passed unanimously {9-0-0}.

**b. Discussion concerning protocols for return to in-person Council meetings.**

Mr. Johnson explained that the suspension of the Governor's Executive Order means that, as of May 20, the Town is back to in-person meetings. The FOI has not visited the topic of hybrid meetings since 1980, when the only electronic participation option was via telephone. Mr. Johnson reviewed the following points to consider if the next Council meeting, scheduled for May 25, will be held in-person:

Point 1: All visitors to Town Hall will be required to wear a mask. He asked if councilmembers will be required to wear a mask at all times, except when speaking. Mr. McChesney and Ms. Tanski had no problem with council members wearing a mask. Ms. Tanski stated that if the public is required to wear a mask, then it is responsible leadership to do so, as well. However, she does not find it appropriate to discuss people's private health information (such as disclosing

one's vaccination status) in a public meeting. Ms. Carroll concurred. The Council agreed by consensus for councilmembers to wear a mask at the meeting.

Point 2: Visitors will be required to observe social distancing. The podium will be moved away from the dais, and the first three rows of seating will be empty. The Council agreed by consensus.

Point 3: Plexiglass panels will be placed on the floor next to each chair, between council members. There will be one on top of the podium, as well. The Council agreed by consensus.

Point 4: Mr. Johnson stated that they may not be able to continue the hybrid meetings, unless it is by the guidance provided by FOI. They expect to continue to receive public comment in the written format, however, the question is whether they could continue to receive it via a Zoom format. He has not found anything that allows for that, other than by calling in via telephone on a limited basis. Mr. Johnson noted that if the state legislature codifies bills such as 7B1 in June, then these discussions could become a moot point and hybrid participation would be allowed. Ms. Carroll suggested putting it on the agenda of their next meeting to amend their bylaws, so that for future meetings, some council members could call in via phone or Zoom. This would serve as a hybrid model of conducting Town meetings.

**Motion by:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded by:** Mr. Osgood

*BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adds to the next meeting agenda a possible electronic option for councilmembers to participate remotely at their next Council meeting.*

**Disc:** Mr. McChesney stated that the Executive Order made all meetings remote, which violates their bylaws. He supports placing this on the next meeting agenda. Dr. Beckett clarified that the state Executive Order superseded all of their local bylaws. Ms. Tanski also supports placing this on the next meeting agenda. At the next Council meeting, only Mr. Cavanaugh is scheduled to tune in remotely via phone/Zoom, but the capability will be in place for other council members to do the same, should it be necessary.

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

**Motion by:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded by:** Mr. Niland

*BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby allows for participation by council members by electronic means for the next two Council meetings, with an understanding that the Rules of Procedure subcommittee will return at their next meeting with parameters for*

*potential remote participation, and incorporation of whatever State guidance the Council will receive before the end of June 2021.*

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

Mr. Johnson reiterated that the effective date for return is May 25, 2021. They have looked at a possible maximum attendance number in Council Chambers. He pointed out a potential future difficulty with large turnout. They are looking at ways to limit attendance at Council Chambers, such as queuing up outside or migrating the meetings to a larger space, such as the Academy Cafeteria or the Riverfront Community Center. Both locations can telecast live.

**c. Action on funding to support purchase of the Lombardo Farm by the Manchester Land Trust (refer to Board of Finance and Town Plan and Zoning; set public hearing).**

Mr. Gullotta stated that if they are to pay \$34,000 for two acres of Glastonbury land, then the Town of Glastonbury ought to own that land. Mr. McChesney agreed, stating that he is not opposed to preserving open land, but he does not like the idea of just donating land to an organization. Ms. Tanski remarked that this raises a dangerous precedent. Ms. Carroll stated that this is a non-starter, unless the Manchester Conservation Land Trust is willing to say that those two acres are part of the Town of Glastonbury. She asked that Mr. Johnson approach the Land Trust with Glastonbury's demand that the ownership be retained by Glastonbury. He agreed to do so.

Mr. Osgood countered that they have donated to a lot of organizations which have provided services in Town. He does not see the benefit of subdividing the parcels because it will be more expensive, so it is cleaner to just donate this land. He also noted that its surrounding parcels would be protected as open land. Dr. Beckett agreed with Mr. Osgood's suggestion because the "my way or the highway" approach might irk Manchester and the project might fail, which would be a shame.

Mr. Gullotta would like some direction to provide to the BOF on where funding will come from. There is a capital account for land acquisition, which is typically for smaller acquisitions, totaling \$83,000. Mr. Johnson agreed that that account would be the appropriate funding source. Mr. Osgood concurred.

**Motion by:** Ms. Carroll

**Seconded by:** Mr. Osgood

*BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the following concerning proposed Town purchase of the 2+ acres of the Lombardo Farm as part of the*

*overall acquisition of the 102-acre Farm by the Manchester Land Trust, with the understanding that Town Council recommends that those two acres be owned by the Town of Glastonbury*

- 1. Referral to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for a report and recommendation under CGS Section 8-24;*
- 2. Referral to the Board of Finance for a funding report and recommendation on the proposed \$34,000 appropriation;*
- 3. Recommendation that the Town Manager speak with the Manchester Conservation Land Trust regarding the ownership of the property.*
- 4. Schedules a public hearing for 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, to consider the proposed acquisition and \$34,000 appropriation and transfer;*

*all as described in a report by the Town Manager dated May 7, 2021.*

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

**d. Discussion on proposal by MD7 for lease of Town-owned communication tower at 2108 Main Street.**

Mr. Johnson explained that there are a series of five-year terms for lease on the Town-owned communication tower. MD7 is a group that was hired by AT&T to look to renegotiate leases over a long-term period. They approached the Town with the following proposal: the lease term be extended out 30 years at a term of \$2,383 a month, or about \$28,600, as compared to the current \$36,000 escalated at a 2% a year; or a lump sum payment of \$500,000 for a 99-year lease.

The Town Manager's sense is to let the five-year term run out and see what 2023 brings. There was consensus from the Council that they are in agreement with the Town Manager to continue the current lease arrangement.

**e. Action to purchase .2-acre site owned by the State of Connecticut located off Birch Mountain Road.**

Mr. Johnson explained that the TPZ issued a favorable recommendation for this land acquisition. He noted that the \$1,000 charge is just an administrative charge and does need to be voted on. However, the purchase necessitates Council approval. The Council agreed to take action on it tonight.

**Motion by:** Mr. Osgood

**Seconded by:** Mr. Niland

*BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the 2/10-acre land acquisition off of Birch Mountain Road.*

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

**6. Consent Calendar. *None***

**7. Town Manager's Report.**

Mr. Johnson explained that the American Rescue Plan Act allocation for counties has come out. Combined with the \$3.4 million town allocation, Glastonbury's allocation will total \$10 million over 2021 and 2022. Plus, an additional \$1.4 million will be received for education. Mr. Johnson will present a summary on the guidelines at the next Council meeting. The Town Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 31. The traditional program will be held at the Center Green, and there will be some modifications for COVID-19 regulations. Mr. Johnson has forwarded a batch of thank you notes from the community to various departments and individuals for their continuing good work.

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

Chairman Gullotta noted that he, Dr. Beckett, and Mr. Johnson met to discuss the water situation in Town. Senator Cassano has proposed a bill, which is moving through the legislature, for a statewide study on uranium. Mr. Gullotta stated that it would be wise for the Town to wait for that study's findings to be announced, in January 2022.

**b. MDC.**

Ms. LaChance stated that the MDC is very eager to help out when/if anything goes forward with the aforementioned water projects.

**c. CRCOG. *None***

**d. Racial Justice and Equity Commission**

Ms. Carroll stated that the commission has still been meeting twice a month. They have started community outreach, but their primary work has been on the community survey. As of now, the survey is for community members, business owners, and those who come to Glastonbury. They intend to expand the survey to children soon, as currently, it is only for those 18 and over. They hope to roll out the survey in the next few weeks and to get as much participation as possible. They also hope to give an overview of what they have been doing at the next Council meeting. Ms. Tanski added that in-person attendance is still very much a racial justice and equity issue. The virtual participation of these meetings has been a tremendous benefit which is greatly appreciated by both members and the community.

**e. Glastonbury Education Foundation**

Mr. Niland explained that the Glastonbury Education Foundation (GEF) is conducting their annual Building Bridges 5K race on June 12. It will be held virtually from June 1 to June 11. There are a number of opportunities for people to sign up. He noted that the GEF presents some scholarships and the race benefits GEF, so he encouraged town-wide support and participation.

**9. Communications.**

- a. Letter from CT Siting Council regarding modifications to existing telecommunications facility located at New London Turnpike (a/k/a 299 Paxton Way).**

**10. Minutes.**

- a. Minutes of April 27, 2021 Regular Meeting.**

*Motion by:* Ms. Carroll

*Seconded by:* Dr. Beckett

*Result:* Minutes were accepted unanimously {9-0-0}.

- b. Minutes of April 27, 2021 Special Meeting.**

*Motion by:* Ms. Carroll

*Seconded by:* Dr. Beckett

*Result:* Minutes were accepted unanimously {9-0-0}.

**11. Appointments and Resignations.**

- a. Resignation of Sandy O'Leary from Zoning Board of Appeals (D-2021).**

*Motion by:* Ms. Carroll

*Seconded by:* Dr. Beckett

*Result:* The resignation was unanimously accepted with regret {9-0-0}.

- b. Appointment of Brian Comerford to Water Pollution Control Authority (R-2023).**

*Motion by:* Ms. Carroll

*Seconded by:* Dr. Beckett

*Result:* The appointment was unanimously accepted {9-0-0}.

**12. Executive Session.**

- a. Draft terms and conditions – sale of Town-owned land – Eastern Boulevard.**
- b. Draft terms and conditions – lease of Town-owned land – Oakwood Drive.**

*Motion by:* Ms. Carroll

*Seconded by:* Mr. Osgood

*BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enters into executive session to discuss draft terms and conditions for both sale and lease of Town-owned land at 8:45 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. 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 9:05 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lilly Torosyan**

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**Recording Clerk**

**Thomas Gullotta**  
**Chairman**