



## Town of Redding, Connecticut

### Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2005

Present: Ketcham, Miller, Takacs  
Others: more than 25 people in the audience  
Media: Redding Pilot

Mrs. Ketcham called the September 19, 2005 meeting to order at 7:30 pm in the Hearing Room of the Redding Town Office Building.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 18, 2005 minutes: deferred to the next meeting.

**Motion:** move to approve minutes of the August 29, 2005 meeting as submitted with clarification of motion regarding road waiver. Miller, Takacs. Approved. Unanimous.

**Motion:** move to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2005 meeting as corrected. Miller, Takacs. Approved. Unanimous.

Correction: page 2, paragraph on CL&P easement: "The Planning Commission reviewed and supports the easements as presented."

#### REQUEST FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

A request was received from the Nature Conservancy for funding of a new organization, The Saugatuck Rivershed Association. Sally Harold of the Nature Conservancy explained the purpose of the new organization, to work with municipalities within the Saugatuck Rivershed and individuals to help protect this natural resource. A federal grant of \$25,000 has been received and the Nature Conservancy is requesting municipalities to contribute to the partnership. A contribution of \$5,000 was requested.

**Motion:** move to authorize the contribution of \$5,000 from the Management Services Account to the Nature Conservancy for the Saugatuck Rivershed Initiative. Takacs, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

#### FUNDING REQUEST FROM TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk requested funding to microfilm a portion of the Town's oldest record books. The State Library has approved the microfilming of documents to preserve the information. Because the Town Clerk has sufficient funding in the Printing and Duplicating Fund to fund the microfilming of 20 books this year, the request was withdrawn.

#### CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE REDDING ATHLETIC FIELDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Takacs reviewed the work of the Athletic Fields Committee over the past three years. The Committee followed every directive issued to the committee, explored many options, and at this point, there are no new fields. The Committee recommending going forward to increase available field space on the Joel Barlow Campus. In addition, other options should be considered, i.e., artificial turf at JRMS, lights at JRMS, Couch Hill Preserve exploration for field potential. At Barlow, a recommendation was made to realign some fields and install artificial turf on at least one field. In addition, the fields at Barlow are not in good condition at the present time due to the construction project, budget reductions and the weather conditions.

The work of the Committee included a Park & Recreation Study on available field space and usage, as well as current needs not being met. The original study (2002) was revised in 2004 and reviewed by Milone & MacBroom, the Town's engineer. Milone & MacBroom confirmed the findings of the study that the town is using 28 hours per week per field, and added that the recommended use of the fields is 20 hours per week per field.

A long discussion followed. Many members of the audience addressed the issue. Speakers included Mark Guss, Jay Contessa, Chris Hocker, Steve Ozyck, Cori Distler, Fran Scharf, Joe Dolan, several unidentified persons and some students from Joel Barlow High School.

Mrs. Ketcham stated that the Town's Long Range Financial Planning Committee is aware of the fields issue.

The Athletics Fields Committee was requested to provide cost estimates for the options the committee feels are feasible. The Board of Selectmen will discuss the issue further at the next meeting, and decide whether to pursue the study of the Couch Hill Preserve or pursue other options first.

#### SPEED HUMP EVALUATION

The Board of Selectmen reviewed comments regarding the speed humps from the Police Chief & Highway Superintendent. The Police Chief reported a decrease in accidents and motor vehicle stops on Portland Avenue and Hopewell Woods Road, and recommended the speed hump installation for targeted roadways. The Highway Superintendent reported very little, if any, maintenance impact. Comments from citizens were also reviewed, most favoring the use of speed humps to slow the traffic. In general, most comments were favorable for the speed humps.

Members of the audience commented on the speed humps. Most comments were favorable and some requested additional speed humps for other roads.

Mrs. Miller will work on development of a policy for the use/installation of speed humps and bring it to the Board of Selectmen for review.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. CL&P update: Mrs. Ketcham reported work on the 115 underground connection, including work on Gallows Hill Road, Rte. 107(North portion) and Rte. 58, should be completed and energized by December. The work on the 345, Umpawaug Road will be completed Mid-March to Mid-April, and the work on the Rte 107 to Georgetown section should be completed by May 2006. CL&P estimates they are at the half way point.
2. Redding roadwork: Mr. Sanford has reported the roadway reconstruction project is progressing nicely. Major drainage work on Marchant Road was just completed; the paving of the roadway is next. Work on Old Dodgingtown Road has included drainage and reconstruction of the roadway. Work is planned for Sunset Hill Road, Long Ridge Road, Howes Lane, Sanford Town Road & Turney Road.
3. Georgetown Land Development Project: a pre-application meeting is planned for Wednesday, September 28, with the Zoning, Conservation & Planning Commissions.
4. Redding website: Park & Recreation requested a more inter-active website. Mrs. Miller reported that webmaster Susan Kuloweic has worked with Virtual Town Hall (website developer) and has coordinated with Park & Recreation to make the changes requested.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Maday, Recording Secretary