

Monday, January 10, 2022 7:00 p.m. via Go To Meeting

Members in attendance: N. Gorski, J. Young Absent: L. Annino, Jr.

Visitors (as identified onscreen): C. Jacob, D. O' Sullivan, Eileen Unger, Kathleen Amoia, Richard Darin, Bill Shipman, Richard Pleines, Todd Hajek, G Judge, David Long, Sandy Allard, Dawn Mooney, Michele Nuhn, Jacqueline Wilcox, Michael Parahus, John Mancini, Carolyn Anderson, Dave Cutillo, Wayne Linsley, Robert Rimmer, Laura Lefko, Eileen Blewett, Eric Marshall, Amy Roberts-Perry, Annie Stirna, Dick Bauer, R. Regolo, Eric Nunes. Kathleen Zandi, Joan Gay, Cheryl Fine

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. Public comment
 - Gorski read a letter from resident Kathy Amoia regarding revaluation results at Beechwood
 - Resident David Long read a letter regarding recent Open Space Committee actions
 - Resident Eileen Blewett also remarked about Open Space Committee compliance, Charter Revision Commission compliance, a recent FEMA application, and the recent reappointment of town counsel
 - Eileen Unger urged the board to support the Killingworth Krier
 - Dawn Mooney, town clerk, urged recently-appointed members to be sworn in per state statutes
 - Kathleen Amoia thanked Gorski for reading her letter, and for the town efforts to provide masks to town residents, and thanked Unger for supporting the Krier
 - Laura Lefko also thanked Gorski for the distribution efforts, including picking up test kits at the state checkpoint in North Haven

[There was brief discussion about moving up the Item 9A. KVFC/KAA Volunteer Incentive Program. It was decided that the item would postponed due to the absence of Selectman Annino. This will be addressed at an upcoming meeting.]

3. Departments/Board of Education report
BOE liaison Zandi's report covered the following items from the BOE December summary:
 - Cougar Pride : Lion King performance, robotics club
 - Superintendent's update
 - Board Committee Chairs
 - Average Daily Membership (ADM)
 - School Continuous Improvement Plans

She concluded with her monthly reminder to regularly consult rsd17.org. Gorski asked for a status report on the RSD17 audit.

4. Approval of minutes
Young moved to approve the minutes of December 13, 2021, amended as follows:
Page 5, item 2: Add that there was a discussion about the number of members on the Parmelee Farm Committee. The motion, seconded by Gorski, carried.

Young moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting of December 16, 2021 as submitted. The motion, seconded by Gorski, carried.

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5. Refunds and abatements

Young moved to approve the following refunds:

Mark W. Norko 2nd 37 Beaver Dam Rd \$623.31 Overpaid

Christina Ciociola 86 Burr Hill Rd \$18.30 Overpaid COC#10112M

The motion, seconded by Gorski, carried.

6. Appointments

A. Thomas Talbot

Young moved to appoint Thomas Talbot as Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Enforcement Officer. The motion, seconded by Gorski, carried. It was noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission plans to appoint Mr. Talbot as Zoning Enforcement Officer at its next meeting.

B. Todd Blewett

Young moved to appoint Todd D. Blewett (R) to fill a vacancy on the Board of Assessment Appeals created by the resignation of Francesco Lulaj for a term ending 11/18/2025. The motion, seconded by Gorski, carried. Young thanked Blewett for stepping up to fill this vacancy.

C. Charter Revision – Per a letter from D. Tycz to C. Iino and R. Rimmer dated 7 August 2021, the maximum number of commission members who may hold public office with the municipality is two. The newly elected Board contains three. The Board learned that one public official planned to resign. This item was tabled until the resignation becomes official, and the full BOS is present to appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

7. Budget report

Regolo offered to answer questions from her January 2nd report and highlighted the operating and capital year to date reports. Regolo did not anticipate any concerning overexpenditures.

8. New Business

A. PFAS at Town Hall Campus and KES

Gorski reported on recent meetings with GZA Geoenvironmental, Inc. about baseline testing for PFAS, and with State Senator Christine Cohen about funding for remediation. Young also noted her attendance, along with Gorski, at a recent PFAS meeting with DPH and DEEP, where she learned about significant potential funding for Killingworth.

Young moved to accept the proposal from GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. to complete a baseline PFAS water quality supply sampling at the Town Campus and Elementary School .

The motion, seconded by Gorski, carried. RSD17 and the town will share the cost.

B. Public Hearing – Board of Assessment Appeals Ordinance and Connecticut River Area Health District. Gorski recommends that the town hold a public hearing to discuss these two items of business which will ultimately need to go to town meeting for approval.

Young moved to take the following two items to a Public Hearing for discussion: Board of Assessment Appeals Ordinance and Connecticut River Area Health District. The motion, seconded by Gorski, carried.

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8.C Open Space Committee

It was recently learned that the Open Space Committee charter requires that the group contain one member of the Conservation Commission and one from the Killingworth Land Conservation Trust. The roster does not currently have a member from the former. Gorski noted that the charter could be amended by the BOS to require endorsements from these two entities rather than dual membership, a practice currently employed by other town commissions (IWWC). The item was tabled until the full board reconvenes.

C. Facilities Management

This item was also tabled until Selectmen Annino is present. Gorski hopes to take advantage of his facilities management expertise with regard to town hall repairs, and with commissioning town engineer's reports about town facilities.

D. Open Space Committee

The Committee asked Gorski to send the following letter to the Connecticut Yankee Council in advance of the upcoming bid opening for the sale of the Deer Lake Property. Gorski confirmed that 4 of the 8 members were present at the meeting.

On behalf of the Killingworth Open Space Committee, *the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Killingworth* submit the following:

The Killingworth Open Space Committee finds that the Deer Lake Scout Reservation is a crucial part of the state greenway that runs through our town. As such, it should be a priority for preservation as open space, in keeping with Killingworth's Plan of Conservation and Development.

That plan discusses open space as follows:

Along with protection of water quality, permanent preservation of open space is of critical importance in preserving the character of Killingworth, maintaining quality of life for residents, and in stabilizing taxes. Unlike many other towns, Killingworth still has the opportunity to create an interconnected network of open space and greenways throughout the town. A long-term goal is that protected open space should ultimately form an interconnected network of conservation land throughout the town.

We strongly support efforts to work with the current property owner, the Trust for Public Land and other conservation organizations, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and other local, state, and national entities to ensure that Deer Lake is protected from development in perpetuity.

Young moved to approve as amended a letter from the Open Space Committee (edited to include the Board of Selectmen) to the Connecticut Yankee Council. The motion, seconded by Gorski, carried.

9. Old Business

A. KVFC/KAA Volunteer Incentive Program: This item was postponed.

10. First Selectman's comments

A. Gorski reported that Turnbridge, a for-profit mental health concern, has purchased 3 parcels in town and will be operating a farm offering therapeutic benefits of agriculture open space and nature to 14-17 year olds.

B. Gorski expressed gratitude to Killingworth front line workers including town hall staff, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Killingworth Lions who worked hard and efficiently under challenging circumstances to get COVID 19 kits and N-95 masks to residents in need.