



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

Board of Selectmen

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March 8, 2023 at 1:35 p.m.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
MIDDLEBURY, CT

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Selectmen
Monday, March 6, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room

MaryBeth Lubinski Asst.
TOWN CLERK

Start - 4:00 p.m.

End - 4:17 p.m.

Present:

Edward B. St. John, First Selectman
Elaine Strobel, Selectwoman
Ralph Barra, Selectman
Robert W. Smith, Town Attorney

Rita Smith
Vincent Cipriano
Marj Needham, Middlebury Bee Intelligencer
Liana St. Germain, Recording Clerk

Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by the First Selectman at 4:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of January 17th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

First Selectman Edward B. St. John MOTIONED to approve the February 6, 2023 minutes SECONDED by Selectman Ralph Barra. Unanimous approval.

Tax Rebates

Acar Leasing - \$155.42

First Selectman St. John has requested this rebate take its usual course, SECONDED by Selectwoman Strobel. Unanimous approval.

Resignation

None

Appointments

First Selectman St. John noted they need to AMEND the Agenda to include adding the Acting Fire Marshal Brian E. Proux to fill the position of Town of Middlebury Fire Marshal. Selectwoman Strobel MOTIONED to Amend the Agenda SECONDED by Selectman Barra. Unanimous approval.

First Selectman St. John MOTIONED to move Brian E. Proux from Acting Fire Marshal to Fire Marshal effective today SECONDED by Selectman Barra. Unanimous approval.

Discussion and Consideration

Purchase of Town Property - First Selectman St. John received a request from Larry Janesky, owner of the property on Break Neck Hill Rd, this goes back a few years, where this was all part of the Rochambeau reality company when they subdivided the property. Part of that was with Planning and Zoning, where Jim Emison was Chairman at the time. The prior owner, Ralph Carpinella gave the town the property to access the Rochambeau memorial area. First Selectman St. John notes

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that there has not been much public discussion about this, but it looks like there has been a very serious discussion to move the monument, due to its difficulty in accessing the area. The new location which is being considered is Meadowview Park. The First Selectman goes on to state that there is adequate room to move the monument, and there is already parking available. Nothing has been formalized, but if all does come to pass with the historical group, the process may begin. Larry Janesky approached the First Selectman verbally but has not put anything in writing if the town would consider allowing him to buy back the 5.729 Acres (open space) that were originally given to the town for access to the Rochambeau Memorial area. First Selectman St. John reached out and spoke to Attorney D'Angelo, about the procedure for the town to dispose of property, the piece needs to be appraised. Once the Historical group gives the town its blessing in this process and this property will no longer be needed, we can move forward with getting the process started and get the land appraised. The Board of Selectman will discuss and review this again and if in agreement it will be sent to Planning and Zoning. Selectman Barra questioned the current location of the monument, where First Selectman St. John stated it was originally their campground.

Selectwoman Strobel MOTIONED to proceed with the process and send it to the Town Attorney SECONDED by Selectman Barra. Unanimous approval.

Public Comments

Marj Needham asked the Board if they have talked to Robert Rafford in regard to the Rochambeau issue. She has spoken to him about it and he has mentioned that they are planning a big celebration for Rochambeau either this year or next. Robert stated that the monument is on Janesky's property currently, and Marj Needham asks why would he want to buy the property back. First Selectman St. John noted yes, the monument itself is on Janesky's property but the property in question is the open space area that was given to the town for access to the monument. Marj Needham questioned if Meadowview Park has any relation to where Rochambeau camped out, to where First Selectman St. John stated no, but it's not uncommon for monuments to be located in places other than where it occurred. Marj Needham also pointed out that there is a sign on the Greenway stating Rochambeau came through here, to where the First Selectman St. John noted to address any further questions to Robert Rafford.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

Selectman Edward St. John MOTIONED to ADJOURN the meeting at 4:17 p.m.; SECONDED by Selectman Ralph Barra. Unanimous approval.

The next meeting is slated for Monday, March 20, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

These minutes are submitted subject to approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liana St. Germain

Recording Clerk