

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

WESTBROOK BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Special Meeting
Monday, November 21, 2016
6:30 p.m.
MULTI-MEDIA ROOM
MULVEY MUNICIPAL CENTER

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Bishop at 6:30 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectman Bishop, Selectman Hall, Becky Coffey, Press and approximately 35 individuals from the public.

PUBLIC HEARING – Fiske Lane Tennis Courts

The follow notice was published in the Harbor News:

“Notice is hereby given that the Board of Selectmen will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Monday, November 21, 2016 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Multi Media Room of the Teresa Mulvey Municipal Center, 866 Boston Post Road, Westbrook, Connecticut, to hear the following:

Public comment regarding the future of the Fiske Lane Tennis Courts and the location of the playground currently located adjacent to the Westbrook Fire Department.

The public is invited to comment.”

Several individuals spoke, including residents of Magna Lane (adjacent to the Tennis Courts) and the following comments were made by those in attendance.

- A proposal to establish the area as a Dog Park was presented and there was significant opposition to this from many of the residents of Magna Lane.
- Several individuals spoke strongly in favor of refurbishing the tennis courts.
- The area should be considered for the new playscape, instead of the area adjacent to the Fire House where it is currently located.
- Mr. Riggio, Director of Public Works, was present and was asked to provide cost estimates to repair the tennis courts.
- Mr. Bishop made a comment that any deliberations/discussions by the BOS regarding the tennis courts would be publically noted so all interested parties could be present at any further meetings regarding this topic.

Playscape adjacent to Fire House

- Some members of the Fire Department are very concerned that the current location of the playscape presents a liability issue since there is a road/parking lot adjacent to the area and Ted Lane Field. Children have been seen crossing without supervision thereby increasing the liability.
- There was opposition to moving the existing playscape to across the street/parking lot adjacent to the basketball courts at Ted Lane Field.
- It was suggested that the Fiske Lane tennis court area be considered as the new location for the playscape and that the proposed dog park be located in the current playscape area adjacent to the Fire Department.

The above represents a succinct summary of the major points made during the Public Hearing on these two issues.

No decisions were reached by the BOS at this meeting but, as noted above, any and all further discussion on these topics will be placed on a future BOS agenda so the public is well informed of further steps. Consistent with all BOS meetings, anyone interested in listening to the tape for the specific comments made at the meeting should contact Suzanne Helchowski, shelchowski@westbrookct.us.

Mr. Bishop read the following letter into the minutes:

“We are unable to attend tonight’s public hearing regarding the playground and Fiske Lane tennis court. We have always felt that the tennis courts were a valuable asset to the town. Several years ago our daughter, Caroline, came before the board asking that the courts be repaired. Money was found and repairs were made, but since then they have been neglected. It would be a shame to see them torn down or used for any other purpose because although we have the courts at the high school they are not always accessible for the townspeople. In the spring the courts are used for the tennis team and in the summer camps from Westbrook and Madison occupy the courts throughout the day. Having the courts in the center of town adds character and charm to our beautiful town. Thank you for the opportunity to share our feelings on this matter.

Respectfully yours, Eugene and Anne Barton, 128 S. Main Street”

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bishop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest,

Suzanne Helchowski
Administrative Assistant

Noel Bishop
First Selectman