

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
WESTBROOK BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Special Meeting  
August 23, 2016  
Mulvey Municipal Center, Multi-Media Room

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Bishop called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Those in attendance included: First Selectman Bishop, Selectman Hall, Selectman Labbadia, Andrew Urban, Director of Finance, Paul Connelly, Tony Cozza, members of the Blight Committee, Terry Gavigan, Registrar, Gary Gavigan, Joan Angelini, Town Clerk, Deb DeCristoforo, Patty Moran, Registrar, Jeff Kriete, Nancy Moore, Registrar, Pam Fogarty, Assessor, Becky Coffey, Press, Herb Peterson, Dennis Hallahan, Chairman Blight Committee, Barbara Wolf, President Beach Association.

TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE SCHEDULING OF A TOWN MEETING TO CONSIDER THE BLIGHT ORDINANCE, INCLUDING POSSIBLE CANCELLATION OF CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TOWN MEETING AND POSSIBLE ESTABLISHING NEW DATE FOR SAME

At the 8/15/16 BOS meeting, the BOS voted to schedule a Special Town Meeting on the proposed Blight Ordinance on 8/25. They further voted to adjourn said Town Meeting to a Referendum vote on the Blight Ordinance at the November 8, 2016 General Election. Notice of the 8/25/16 Town Meeting was appropriately posted in the newspapers, Town Clerk's office etc.

Subsequent to the BOS action on 8/15/16, town hall employees from the Registrar's office, Town Clerk's office and Assessor's office raised significant concerns regarding the logistics of holding a Referendum during the General Election.

Ms. Moran, Registrar, reported that a large voter turn-out is anticipated this year at the General Election. Westbrook has two voting districts and additional protocols and processes for same day voter registration have been put in place by the Secretary of State. The State will also send monitors to polling locations. To add a ballot on the Blight Ordinance at the General Election calls for a completely separate referendum protocol including separate offices, additional, checkers, absentee ballot counters, etc.

While the Referendum on the Charter was done on the same day as a General Election, additional protocols have been put into place since that time, i.e. same day voter registration.

Ms. Wolf, President of the Council of Beaches (COB), reported that the COB has not taken a position on the proposed Blight Ordinance. They request that any Town Meeting and/or Referendum vote on the item occur when their members are in town. She suggested that next summer would be an appropriate time to hold a Referendum or Town Meeting vote on the proposed Blight Ordinance.

Deb Rie, Blight Committee, expressed concern with a delay in the vote on the ordinance and requested assurance that a Town Meeting will be scheduled next summer.

Attorney Wells outlined the protocol for voting on an item at a Town Meeting or Referendum, i.e. paper ballots, show of hands, voice vote, voting hours, etc. Since the Town has determined that the Blight Ordinance will be voted on by a Referendum vote, no town funds may be expended in disseminating information to the public. However, a member of the public may do so.

Attorney Wells reported that the proposed Blight Ordinance may be changed up until the time a Town Meeting sends it to a Referendum.

Mr. Bishop made a motion to cancel the Town Meeting scheduled on 8/25/16 @ 7:00 p.m. Ms. Labbadia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hall made a motion to schedule a Town Meeting on the proposed Blight Ordinance in early June of 2017 (within the first two weeks). Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bishop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski  
Administrative Assistant

Attest,

Noel Bishop  
First Selectman