



TOWN OF DEEP RIVER
Special Town Meeting

June 13, 2023

A Special Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 in the Richard H. Smith Town Hall Auditorium. The meeting was attended by the Board of Selectmen including First Selectman Angus McDonald, Selectman Duane Gates, and Selectman James Olson. Videographers Margo Hilfinger and John Greene recorded the meeting. Also in attendance were Sally Carlson-Crowell (resident), Linda Hall (Chair, Library Board of Trustees), Sara and Scott Conner, Jeff Gross, and Carol Jones (Deep River SustainableCT Committee). Alison Karam, Deep River Congregational Church representative, was also in attendance.

First Selectman Angus McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:52 PM. James Olson made a motion to appoint Duane Gates as moderator which was seconded by Hilfinger. The motion was approved unanimously. Gates appointed Amy Winchell to act as clerk of the meeting who then read the call.

A motion to approve the call was made by Hall, seconded by Jones and unanimously approved.

The motion to approve item #1 was made by Olson and seconded by Gross:

1. To approve actions of the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting of August 23, 2022:

-To approve a Smoking Ban Resolution in all Parks and Recreational Areas of Deep River as presented by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

DISCUSSION: McDonald read the text of the Resolution which was created by the Parks & Recreation Commission and is attached to these minutes. Gates read the following email into the record:

“Congratulations to the Board of Selectmen on taking action to address a long overdue problem with smoking in public places. I fully support this resolution exception for one thing which I think the BOS should address at a later time. I feel

it's better to pass the resolution now as is (rather than have none passed) and make adjustments as deemed necessary.

Specifically I would I like comment on the following phrase found in paragraph 2:

“provided however, that signs are posted in the area such as to reasonably warn persons that the area is subject to this No Smoking' ordinance”

This phrase seems unnecessary and nullifies the desired effect of this resolution. If signs are REQUIRED to be posted everywhere, people may continue to smoke without repercussion.

We don't require signs for any other rules or ordinances. Why should we require signs for this one? Residents and visitors should be responsible for abiding by all ordinances or regulations regardless of whether or not they are reminded to follow them.

I propose that this phrase be removed as soon as possible, perhaps immediately following adoption of this resolution as I don't feel it to be prudent to remove prior to adoption, but to modify via the regular channels to make updates/changes. Having signs at every location would also be an expense and maintenance item that seems totally unnecessary. Why require the spending of money so that residents and visitors comply with this rule?

I certainly don't object to a few well placed signs, but they should not be required in EVERY single public area.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Bob Ghinder

137 Kirtland Street”

There being no further discussion, a vote by show of hands was held. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

The motion to approve item #2 was made by Hall and seconded by Jones:

2. To approve actions of the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting of May 23, 2023:

- **Tax credit for Deep River Housing Authority, First Congregational Church of Deep River, and Deep River Public Library - Neighborhood Assistance Act.**
- 1. Programs that shall be included on a list pursuant to Chapter 228a of the Connecticut General Statutes, NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT, prior to submission of such list to the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services.**

- 2. Interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. Written communications will be received. This notice is published pursuant to State Statutes.**

DISCUSSION: McDonald explained the Neighborhood Assistance Act allowed for a State tax credit to organizations within and approved by the Town. Karam spoke of the First Congregational Church of Deep River acting as a community center for the town and continues to benefit from this tax credit. Hall spoke of the window refurbishment at the library being helped by this credit.

There being no further discussion, a vote by show of hands was held. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

The motion to approve item #3 was made by Olson and seconded by Hall:

- 3. To approve actions of the Board of Selectmen's and Board of Finance's regular meeting of May 23, 2023:**

-To appropriate an amount not to exceed \$23,000 from the LOCIP funds to repair or replace the irrigation system at the Veterans Green.

DISCUSSION: McDonald explained the irrigation system needed to be repaired or replaced and would include the entire green and going under the road to the eagle monument. They will need to get updated quotes but believe it can be done under the maximum amount specified.

There being no discussion, a vote by show of hands was held. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

The motion to approve item #4 was made by Olson and seconded by Gross:

- 4. To approve actions of the Board of Selectmen's and Board of Finance's regular meeting of May 23, 2023:**

-To approve the continuation of the local ordinance Tax Relief for Homeowners 65 or over or Permanently and Totally disabled Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 12-129n approved for the October 1, 2007 Grand List and to increase the income to \$55,000.

DISCUSSION: McDonald explained the State had adopted a tax relief program in the past and that the Town had adopted an ordinance based on the State

program but with more generous income maximums. The State has raised its maximum to \$49,000 so now the Town wants to update our ordinance to have an income maximum of \$55,000. Scott Connor asked what this meant for the Town's tax revenue. McDonald said the town does not collect about \$27,000 in taxes with this program but that it helps those residents in need.

There being no further discussion, a vote by show of hands was held. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

The motion was made by Olson and seconded by Gross to adjourn. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.

ATTEST: Amy M. Winchell, MCTC
Town Clerk