



## Special Town Meeting

October 26, 2023

A Special Town Meeting was held on Thursday, October 27, 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. Approximately 22 residents were also in attendance.

First Selectman Angus McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Olson made a motion to appoint McDonald as moderator which was seconded by Gates and approved unanimously. McDonald appointed Amy Winchell to act as clerk of the meeting who then read the call.

Motion to approve Item #1 was made by Carol Jones and seconded by Jackie Calamari:

- 1. To approve actions of the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting of September 26, 2023 and Board of Finance's regular meeting of September 26, 2023:**
- 1. To authorize the acquisition by purchase of property known as 136 Rattling Valley Road by the Town of Deep River.**
- 2. To authorize the First Selectman to withdraw \$45,000.00 from the special land acquisition fund established pursuant to CGS 7-131r to contribute towards the above land acquisition. The balance of the acquisition cost of \$35,000.00 will be funded by grants already obtained by the Deep River Land Trust for this purpose, for a total purchase price of \$80,000.00.**
- 3. To authorize the First Selectman to withdraw up to \$5,000.00 from the special land acquisition fund to pay the Town's closing costs for the above land acquisition.**
- 4. After the closing, to authorize the First Selectman to accept title on behalf of the Town of Deep River to the property known as 136 Rattling Valley Road and to authorize the First Selectman to so note such acceptance on the deed for recording.**
- 5. To specifically abate the collection of taxes otherwise payable by the Town of Deep River or the Deep River Land Trust if it is the owner of 136 Rattling Valley Road on the List of October 1, 2023 payable in July 2024 and January, 2025 due to the closing occurring after the assessment date.**

### Discussion:

Gates read an email submitted by our Gateway Commissioner Jerry Roberts- *"The Connecticut River Gateway Commission would like to be on record for fully endorsing the acquisition, by the Town of Deep River, of the property at 136 Rattling Valley Road in conjunction with the Deep River Land Trust, CRGC and other supporting organizations. We believe this is an important property which connects other preserved land, helps preserve our natural environment, and will be an important asset to the community. We are proud to be part of this."* Laurie Giannotti of the Deep River Land Trust remarked that they had been working

together with the Town and the CT River Gateway Commission on this for awhile to provide a continuous walking trail from the town of Essex through to Pratt Cove in Deep River. This approximately 2.5 acre parcel will be purchased with non-taxpayer dollars, using a fee-fund established by the Planning and Zoning Dept.

There being no further discussion, a voice vote was held. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Motion to approve Item #2 was made by Greg Alexander and seconded by Kathryn Russell:

**2. To approve actions of the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting of October 10, 2023:**

**1. To authorize the sale of the recently replaced fire truck for no less than \$5,000.**

Discussion:

McDonald said we've had three offers to purchase our old fire truck; two were for the asking price of \$5,000. They are hoping to sell it in the next two weeks.

There being no further discussion, a voice vote was held. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

A motion to adjourn was made by Kate Cryder and seconded by Rob Butterworth. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:11pm.

ATTEST: Amy M. Winchell, MCTC, Town Clerk