

**SALEM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018, 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

PRESENT

Kevin Lyden, First Selectman
Edward Chmielewski, Jr.
David Kennedy
Hugh McKenney

ABSENT

Stuart Gadbois

1. CALL TO ORDER:

First Selectman Lyden called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Moment of Silence or Prayer for Acting Selectman Dr. Stuart Gadbois

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. February 6, 2018 Regular Meeting

M/S/C: Chmielewski/Kennedy, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2018 with the following amendments:

Page 1, Item 5(A), 1st Sentence:

Seven (7) members...of Salem's 200th ~~birthday~~ *anniversary* next year.

Page 4, Item 5(C):

M/F: McKenney, to support,...The motion was not seconded *and failed*.

Selectman Chmielewski thanked the Salem Land Trust for all of their efforts.

Having lived in the Town for over 20 years, he felt adding that our Town and its land is its most valuable resource. ~~While he agrees that, in many cases, it may not be a significant amount of money and he supports the idea of the proposed bill, h~~*He* believes.... Personally aware of residents who ~~have and/or~~ are experiencing...

Page 5, Item 5(c), 2nd paragraph:

Selectman Chmielewski ...believed in having fewer mandates, *less taxes*, and increased volunteerism. *He stated that it is a lovely idea if our State was in better shape, but our Governor has proposed an increase in gas taxes and tolls and he cannot vote for what he views is a tax.*

Page 8, Item 6(A):

State Senator Paul Formica and...Board Finance~~s~~ Special Meeting....

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

B. February 21, 2018 Special Meeting

M/S/C: McKenney/Chmielewski, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2018 with the following amendments:

Page 1, Item 3, last sentence:

It is also used to send out the property notices by the Assessor's Office.

M/S/C: McKenney/Chmielewski...Board of Finance a Supplemental Appropriation...

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0-1. Voting in Favor: Selectmen Chmielewski, Kennedy, and McKenney. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Selectman Kennedy.

4. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS: *none*

5. AGENDA:

A. Presentation by the Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition

Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition Executive Director Wendy Bury and Assistant Director Deb Mathiasen provided a presentation regarding the Southeaster Connecticut Cultural Coalition, a non-profit organization that was launched in 2014. The Coalition is one of nine regional field offices for the CT Office of the Arts, supporting the Department of Economic and Community Development to "contribute to the cultural identity, economy, and quality of life of Southeastern Connecticut by advocating and supporting arts, heritage, cultural, and business activities and organizations." The Coalition is currently comprised of over 541 non- and for-profit partners, seven of which are located in the Town of Salem. The partners include individual artists and designers, creative businesses and organizations as well as retail businesses, historical societies, libraries, performing arts organizations, and museums. Encouraged to connect, collaborate, and communicate with each other, the partners are invited to take part in the Coalition's Rising Tide Series, their primary program which brings together all of their partners for a series of regular meetings for roundtable discussions and summits. The Series has increased awareness and communication among the region's peers and provided opportunities for collaborative projects, services, and grant writing. The Coalition has also been involved in a number of projects including a brochure and digital marketing piece featuring the region's historic houses, a brochure and variety show featuring the region's performing arts organizations, an Electric Boat Employee Survey to better understand the needs and desires of its employees, the New London Public Schools Wraparound Service Program, and the establishment of a Poet Laureate in Norwich. They also utilize the information they gather through their various activities to advocate at the State Budget Hearings and are involved in policy discussions, conduct legislative updates and meetings, work with seCTer (Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region), and hold municipal and economic development meetings. They have also worked to ensure that the arts and culture is properly represented as part of the region's Comprehensive Economic

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Development Strategy (CEDs). She also shared the results of a 2016 National Arts & Economic Prosperity Study, which quantified the economic impact of non-profit organizations. Other data included where the arts attendees derive from both within and outside of the State. Activities planned for the year include a Cultural Landscape Initiative; International Make Music Day (June 21); Voices from Beyond (Fall), and; Thrive (December), the Coalition's annual conference.

There is no cost to join the Coalition. She clarified that, while tourism and the arts go hand in hand with each other, funds that are allocated for tourism is generally spent on Statewide marketing, while funds allocated for the arts goes directly to the organizations, themselves, to ensure their existence. While she is also seeking the Town's help in connecting with partners in the region, she also offered the services of the Coalition to the Town, including ensuring that arts and culture is included in the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), developing economic development strategies through its arts and culture resources, and connecting them with other individuals and/or organizations. Discussion ensued regarding the various types of businesses in the Town and the kinds of activities and services they engage in and/or utilize and their economic impact.

Executive Director Bury and Assistant Director Mathiasen were thanked for their presentation.

B. Appoint Bicentennial Committee (Action Item)

M/S/C: McKenney/Kennedy, to appoint George Householder, Elby Burr, Ed Chmielewski, John Cooke, Vicky Coffin, Bill Schulz (Alternate), and Marilyn Vache (Alternate) to the Bicentennial Committee. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

First Selectman Lyden will be reaching out to the Board of Education (BOE) and Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) regarding their possible involvement in the Committee.

C. Re-Appoint Ed Natoli to the Inland Wetlands Commission (Action Item)

M/S/C: Lyden/McKenney, to re-appoint Ed Natoli to the Inland Wetlands Commission. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

F. Tax Collector Refunds

M/S/C: Chmielewski/Kennedy, to direct the Town Treasurer to issue refunds, recommended and certified by the Tax Collector, as presented to the Board of Selectmen in the amount of \$14,666.88 (fourteen thousand six hundred sixty-six dollars and eighty-eight cents) on the 6th day of March 2018. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor

6. REPORTS:

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

First Selectman Lyden reported that the March 7 United Way Mobile Pantry has been cancelled for the third month in a row due to inclement weather. Residents in need of food

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were reminded of the following available resources: Care and Share, East Lyme; St. Vincent de Paul Place, Norwich, and; the Colchester Mobile Food Pantry, 297 Old Hebron Road, on the third Friday of each month from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. More information is available on the Town website or the First Selectman's office. Residents are encouraged to sign up to receive important Town News and Announcements via e-mail.

The BOE's proposed FY2018-19 budget will be presented to the Board of Finance on Thursday, March 8 and the Selectman's operating budget will be presented to the Board of Finance on Thursday, March 15. Both meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall and are open to the public; residents are encouraged to attend.

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)

Selectman McKenney reported that the School was given an "A" grade for both the Elementary and Middle Schools. The 7th and 8th grade students will be participating in a brief march of solidarity on March 14 as part of the National School Walkout to honor those whose lives were lost during the tragic shooting in Parkland, Florida. The School is working with the Resident State Troopers to ensure the safety of the children during the demonstration. First Selectman Lyden reiterated and extended his standing offer to provide the services of the Resident State Trooper(s), whenever they feel necessary, to BOE Chairman Sean Reith. BOE Chairman Reith added that the BOE recently held an Executive Session to discuss and review the School's safety protocol during such events.

Attorney Mark Sommaruga recently completed a book regarding the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and has offered to provide additional training to the BOE members and members of the Town's Boards and Commissions. Once scheduled, the First Selectman will distribute a notice to all of the Town's Boards and Commissions regarding the presentation.

The BOE also engaged in an extensive discussion regarding their budget for FY2018-19.

C. BOARD OF FINANCE

As previously stated, the BOE's proposed FY2018-19 budget will be presented on Thursday, March 8 and the Selectman's proposed FY2018-19 operating budget will be presented on March 15 to the Board of Finance.

D. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Commission has voted to opt out of Public Act 17-155 – An Act Concerning Temporary Health Care Structures and a Public Hearing has been scheduled. In addition, they have been working on their checklist of tasks for the Town's POCD.

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – *no report*

F. LIBRARY BOARD

Residents were encouraged to visit the Library and/or its website for information regarding the wide array of programming they continue to offer to the residents. Selectman Chmielewski commended the Library and its staff.

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F. MUNICIPAL VETERAN REPRESENTATIVE

Selectman Chmielewski has been in contact with Commander Bob Green and will be contacting Executive Director of CT Military Affairs Bob Ross regarding the possible establishment of programs. Several hearings took place today at the Legislative Office Building regarding veteran issues.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**M/S/C: Kennedy/Chmielewski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Discussion: None.
Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem