

**TOWN OF SALEM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.  
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

**PRESENT**

Kevin Lyden  
Edward Chmielewski, Jr.  
Ron LaBonte  
Hugh McKenney

**ABSENT**

David Kennedy

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: AUGUST 7, 2018 REGULAR MEETING**

**M/S/C: Chmielewski/LaBonte, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2018, with the following amendment:**

**Page 3, Item 4(E), Last Paragraph, Last Sentence:**

First Selectman Lyden stated that ~~a motion will be drafted and presented to the Board at their next meeting for approval~~ *he would discuss the issue with the Town Attorney.*

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

**3. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS: *none***

**ALTERATIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

**M/S/C: LaBonte/Chmielewski, to add the following item to the Agenda:**

**4(A) Appoint Shelley Rodgers to the Bicentennial Committee:**

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

**M/S/C: Lyden/Chmielewski, to add the following item to the Agenda:**

**4(B) Presentation and Update by the Bicentennial Committee:**

**Discussion: The succeeding items will be numbered accordingly. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

**4. AGENDA:**

**A. Appoint Shelley Rodgers to the Bicentennial Committee**

**M/S/C: Lyden/Chmielewski, to appoint Shelley Rodgers as a member of the Bicentennial Committee. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

**B. Presentation and Update by the Bicentennial Committee**

Selectman and Bicentennial Committee Co-Chairman Chmielewski reported that the Committee's last meeting was filled with positive feedback and ideas for the Celebration. Subcommittees, including a Public Relations, Events, and Safety and Security Subcommittee, were also formed. A teaser to be published in the upcoming issue of *Our Town Salem* was presented along with a recently published article by Reporter Amanda Hutchinson in *The Day* newspaper. Committee Members Bruce and Shelley Rodgers presented a short video and slideshow, which included possible ideas and highlighted the overall feel of the Celebration. The video/slideshow will be presented to the various Town groups and organizations, ensuring that a uniform and/or stand-alone message is conveyed to the public. First Selectman Lyden stated that the video and slideshow would be reviewed for possible posting on the Town website. In response to Selectman McKenney, Selectman Chmielewski stated that the Public Relations Subcommittee will be discussing the integration of social media into the promotion of the events and added that a gmail account ([Salem2019Bicentennial@gmail.com](mailto:Salem2019Bicentennial@gmail.com)) has been created to handle all communications. First Selectmen Lyden, Selectman and Bicentennial Committee Co-Chairman Chmielewski, and Bicentennial Committee Co-Chairman Burr commented on the special quality of Salem and its residents and their talents — all which have and are continuing to create the history of the Town.

**C. Appoint Suzanne Bennett to the Gardner Lake Authority**

**M/S/C: Lyden/LaBonte, to appoint Suzanne Bennett as a member of the Gardner Lake Authority. Discussion: Ms. Bennett is a long-time resident of Salem who spends much of her time at Gardner Lake. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

**D. Appoint Ed Natoli to the Eightmile River Watershed Coordinating Committee**

**M/S/C: McKenney/Chmielewski, to appoint Ed Natoli as a member of the Eightmile River Watershed Coordinating Committee. Discussion: Mr. Natoli is a long-time resident of the Town and currently serves as the Chairman of the Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

**E. Appoint Kimberly Bradley to Full Member of Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission**

**M/S/C: LaBonte/McKenney, to appoint Kimberly Bradley as a Full Member of the Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission. Discussion: Ms. Bradley has been serving as an active Alternate Member of the Commission. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

**F. Appoint Jim Mulholland to Full Member of Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission**

**M/S/C: McKenney/Chmielewski, to appoint Jim Mulholland as a Full Member of the Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission. Discussion: Mr. Mulholland is currently an Alternate Member of the Commission and has been involved in a number of volunteer activities in the Town. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

**G. Appoint Louis Allen as Alternate Member of Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission**

**M/S/C: Chmielewski/LaBonte, to appoint Louis Allen as an Alternate Member of the Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission. Discussion: Mr. Allen has resided in the Town for several years, serving the Town in numerous capacities. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

**H. Per Section 10.09-A of the Salem Town Charter, the Board of Selectmen endorse a supplemental appropriation for the Salem Volunteer Fire Company Line 5-222-618 Repair/Maintain Vehicle**

The cost of the repairs is in the process of being finalized; *no action was taken.*

**I. Tax Collector Refunds**

**M/S/C: McKenney/LaBonte, 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 \$6,332.96 (six thousand three hundred thirty-two dollars and ninety-six cents) on the 4th day of September 2018. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

**5. REPORTS**

**A. First Selectman**

First Selectman Lyden reported that the Salem Four Corners/Business District has been undergoing some upgrades, including a CT DOT (Department of Transportation)-approved wood fence along the State property line. Numerous positive comments from business owners and residents, alike, have been received regarding the fence and newly planted shrubs. The Economic Development Commission has repeatedly requested that upgrades be made to the commercial Town Center/Four Corners area, through which an estimated 14,000 vehicles pass through daily. In addition, its improvement is stated as one of the goals in the Town's POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development) and the Town's 2010 Vision Statement calls for maintaining and enhancing the Town's character to encourage economic development. The cost for the fence and shrubs were paid for through the Public Works Department budget, grant funds, donations and discounts by Arrow Fence and Burnett's Country Gardens. The Town, including the Building Official,

Zoning Officer, Fire Marshal, and Uncas Health District, has been working with the new manager of the Salem Town Center to perform necessary maintenance and repairs to the property and building. More improvements are expected in the near future.

In response to Selectman McKenney, the First Selectman stated that, while the cost of the fencing and shrubs has not been finalized, it is estimated to cost approximately \$3,700.00. The fence is located on the State's Right-of-Way and was constructed with the proper DOT approvals; it is *not* located on private property. Selectman Chmielewski added that he has received several positive comments regarding the fencing and upgrades to the Center during his recent conversations with the Center's business owners. First Selectman Lyden concurred, adding that the fencing also improved the sight line of the property and improved the safety of the area; it is, overall, good for the Town, the existing businesses and will, hopefully, bring in new businesses to fill the vacant units.

Several Asplundh crews, paid for by Eversource, have been busy trimming trees. Trees are responsible for approximately 95% of the power outages in the Town. He recently met with Eversource's Eastern Regional Representative Tom Kasprzak regarding the need to follow the correct protocol during storm situations, i.e., cutting and clearing blocked roads and handling priority situations. In response to Selectman McKenney, First Selectman Lyden will consult with Public Works Director Donald Bourdeau, Jr., regarding the dead trees, including those that are hanging over the electrical lines, located on Route 85, Woodland Drive, and Skyline Drive.

Business activities in the Town include a self-storage building on Route 85, near Forsyth Road, which was approved in 2017; the re-opening of the gas station located next to the Salem Volunteer Fire Company by new owner(s), and; a six-unit age-restricted building to be located behind the Pharmacy, which is slated for completion by the end of the year.

He has met with Chris Regan, Tony Griggs, Peter Sielman, and the Town's IT Consultant Ken Berube regarding the video streaming of their meetings on *vimeo*, which will be beneficial for the residents as the Town strives to enhance its transparency. *Vimeo* will host and store their videos, provide support and advanced privacy controls. No advertisements will be shown before, during or after the videos. It is hoped that the videos of the meetings will be up and running next month through the Town's website.

The First Selectman expressed his appreciation to Eric Belt, who will be moving to Colorado, for his decades of service to the Town. Mr. Belt's service to the Town includes serving on the Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission, Eightmile River and Watershed Coordinating Committee, Multipurpose Path Committee, and Lions Club. He has also helped distribute food at the Mobile Food Pantry. The Town has been very fortunate to have him as a resident and wish him and his family the best in all of their future endeavors.

**B. Board of Education (BOE)**

Selectman McKenney reported that the BOE, working closely with the Board of Finance, returned nearly \$118,000.00 to the Town for FY2017/18. The Superintendent reported that he would be meeting with the First Selectman regarding their workmen's compensation insurance.

BOE Member George Jackson submitted his resignation at the end of the Board's August 20 Regular Meeting and the opening has been publicized. BOE Member Jackson was thanked for his service and efforts.

As of August 20, 407 students were enrolled at Salem School; the largest number of students are in the 7th grade with 49 children.

First Selectman Lyden confirmed that he did meet with Superintendent Joseph Onofrio and Business Manager Kim Gadaree to discuss the splitting of funds between the School and the Town for workmen's compensation insurance. Based on their and the Town's respective claims, 34% of the insurance is currently being paid for by the BOE. First Selectman Lyden urged them against separating from the Town and obtaining their own workmen's compensation insurance as the recreation field located next the school, which is used by the students, as well as the parking lot in front of the School are Town properties. Being under the same policy helps to simplify the process should any claims result from accidents or injuries occurring at either of these locations. He added that the budget for both the Town and BOE has been finalized. The Town and BOE are currently members of CIRMA (CT Interlocal Risk Management Agency), which also distributes an annual Members' Equity check to its members.

**C. Board of Finance**

First Selectman Lyden informed the Board that Auditor Marcia Marien of O'Connor Davies has accepted a new position and will no longer be serving as the Town's Auditor. He wished Auditor Marien well.

**D. Planning & Zoning Commission**

Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee Program Director Patricia Young provided a presentation to the Commission at their last Regular Meeting. The Commission will be reviewing the sections regarding the Riparian Corridor Overlay Zone and List of Definitions of the Zoning Regulations.

**E. Economic Development Commission**

Selectman LaBonte reported that the Commissioners had a number of positive comments regarding the new fence at the Salem Town Center. The Commissioners are continuing to work on the Business Directory and, after reviewing the Town's tax rolls, have discovered a number of home businesses. They plan to mail letters as well as visit the businesses in the near future. The Commission has also completed their meetings

with the individual business owners of the Salem Town Center. It was noted that the owners have been witnessed watering the new bushes and helping to keep the area clean. The Commission is also engaged in plans for the 2019 Bicentennial Celebration.

**F. Library**

The Library continues to be busy and provide numerous services. They will be meeting on September 11 to discuss ways to enhance their service to the community, including the possibility of restructuring the Library's hours.

**G. Military Liaison**

Veterans are encouraged to contact the CT Department of Veterans Affairs to add a Veteran flag to his/her existing CT driver's license or identity card and/or obtain a Veterans' license plate. The 2018 CT Veterans Stand Down event will be taking place on September 21 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event, which is offered free of charge to all Veterans, will include such offerings as food, clothing, dental services, eye care, medical screenings, legal and motor vehicle assistance, haircuts, and a courtroom to handle minor infractions. Those who wish to volunteer at the event are requested to visit and sign up at the CT Department of Veterans Affairs website.

First Selectman Lyden reminded everyone that the Mobile Food Pantry will be held tomorrow, September 5, at 5 p.m. behind Salem School. Those who are unable to attend the Pantry are encouraged to contact Town Hall to arrange for the Lions Club to deliver food directly to those resident(s).

**ADJOURNMENT**

**M/S/C: Chmielewski/LaBonte, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Discussion: None.  
Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem