

MINUTES

**Town of Guilford, CT
Board of Selectmen
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Monday, March 6, 2023, 8:30 am
Town Hall and Via Zoom:**

First Selectman Matthew Hoey called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Board Members: Matthew Hoey, Charles Havrda, Susan Renner, Louis Federici and Sandra Ruoff

Town Officials: Police Chief Butch Hyatt, Town Attorney Peter Barrett, Human Resources Director Mitch Goldblatt, Finance Director Maryjane Malavasi, Town Engineer Janice Plaziak, Executive Assistant Karen Quercia, Registrar of Voters – Lisa Kops and Gloria Nemczuk, and Clerk Traci Brinkman

Others: Nona Bloomer

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Havrda led the pledge.

2. Public Forum (Limited to 3 minutes on agenda items)

None

3. Approve minutes of:

1. February 6, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Federici and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

2. February 21, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Renner and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Havrda and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to add to the agenda item 6a to take action on bond authorization projects.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

4. Town Engineer (Janice Plaziak):

1. Consider and take possible action on the grant agreement identifying Waste Zero and Blue Earth as sole source vendors for the Pilot Food Scrap Program and approve expenditures, which will be reimbursed from the grant.

Ms. Plaziak explained that this is for the food scrap recycling program. They had 387 participants sign up for the program. They will also be doing food scrap collection at the transfer station. This is a grant by CT DEEP and a program they have been working on for months with their consultant and SCROG. The grant agreement prescribes to the fact that DEEP is working with Waste Zero as a consultant and then the Town will take over after 5 months still utilizing Waste Zero. For food scraps at the transfer station, Blue Earth will be the vendor to do the collection. Blue Earth currently has 100 customers in Guilford and have been operating for three to four years. This was an effort between Branford and Guilford residents through the Guilford Sustainable Task Force to get interest on people who want to do collection. Those people pay monthly to have food scraps collected by Blue Earth. Since they are already doing work in town, they were selected to be the vendor to do the collection at the transfer station.

She added that she had someone from Westport reach out, because they do food scraps collection at their transfer station and was asking about Guilford's hauler program. Ms. Plaziak said it will be an effort to show what can go in the bin, because they don't want it to be contaminated. This is beyond back yard composting, where certain things aren't put in. Any food scraps can go into this food scrap collection in an effort to reduce the amount of trash that has to go to the incinerator. DEEP is interested to see how much they can reduce trash. With the program people will have separate bags and will still continue to do other

recycling. Both bags go in their trash bin, but will be brought to a specific facility that is set up to separate the bags in Wallingford. The food scraps will be brought to Quantum Energy and transferred into energy while the other trash goes to an incinerator facility. They will weigh them to see how much they can take out of the waste stream.

Mr. Hoey said they have to put together a plan for continuing pickup at the Waste Transfer Station.

Ms. Plaziak said there are not many facilities that take food scraps and convert to energy. DEEP has been trying to encourage more, but there are not enough facilities throughout the state to make it affordable and feasible to send food scraps there. The infrastructure needs to be there to support the programs.

She added that they are hoping to serve 350 residents, but it will depend on the haulers to set up routes that make sense for them. They will know soon how many they will have for the town. They will have it available at the transfer station for everybody.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Ms. Renner, the board voted unanimously to approve the grant agreement identifying Waste Zero and Blue Earth as sole source vendors for the Pilot Food Scrap Program and to approve expenditures, which will be reimbursed from the grant.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

5. Discuss and take possible action on Noise Control Variance Application for KAREFEST taking place June 10, 2023.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Federici and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the board voted unanimously to approve the Noise Control Variance Application for KAREFEST taking place June 10, 2023.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

6. Discuss and take possible action to set a public hearing date for an ordinance change related to Cannabis.

Mr. Hoey said as a result of Ms. Renner's suggestion, they will set a public hearing date to discuss various operations that can take place related to cannabis. The board discussed whether to have in person or hybrid and decided to have the first meeting on

April 3, 7:30 p.m. in person so they can utilize the larger room at the Community Center. If they feel it is necessary after that meeting, they can schedule a Hybrid Meeting on April 10th, 7:30 p.m. in the Menunkatuck Room at the Community Center.

Mr. Hoey asked the board to forward to him specific issues they would like to discuss. The first discussion is if it should be allowed or not and if allowed what restrictions they would like to see.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Havrda and seconded by Mr. Renner, the board voted unanimously to set a public hearing date for discussion on a cannabis ordinance for April 3, 2023, 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center and if needed a second date for April 10, 2023, 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

6a. – Mr. Hoey said they never officially voted as a board to move the bond request forward. They are projects they had agreed on to move forward to capital bonding. The important thing to recall is they also had over \$3.5 million in for funding for Lake Quonnipaug, but he has assurances from Comptroller Scanlon and Speaker Ritter that the bond allocation for Guilford in last year's budget agreement will cover that easily. Guilford has \$7.5 million coming in bond proceeds from the state. They have two different sets of proposals for those projects. One includes Lake Quonnipaug and the other are resilience projects for Falcon Road and Chimney Corners.

Mr. Hoey went over the proposed bond projects:
Public Safety Communications Infrastructure, Pedestrian Improvements to Hubbard Road, Road Improvements, Ambulance Replacement, Replacement of an Engine/Pumper/ Vehicle Port/Garage/Storage for the Police Department, and Replacement of a Backhoe.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Renner and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to move the above projects to the Board of Finance for consideration as a bond question during the budget referendum.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

7. Consider and take possible action to set a public hearing date of April 3, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall and Via Zoom to obtain comment on "An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the Town of Guilford Chapter 24-4 - Elections-Voting."

Mr. Barrett said they did redistricting with maps in the Registrar's office. The verbal descriptions of the districts, however were off a little bit in one place and there was some lack of clarity on one of the boundary lines. These proposed changes will now exactly match the maps they are using in the Registrar's office.

Ms. Kops said on one there was a typo with regard to an east and west description that was reversed. On the others, they were looking at very old ordinances from 2002 and something was a little off so it is their intent to correct language.

Mr. Hoey said he just wanted to be sure that this will not impact voters in anyway and that this is just a language change.

Ms. Kops said that is correct, it will not impact voters in any way.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the board voted unanimously to set a public hearing date for April 3, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall and Via Zoom to obtain comment on "An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the Town of Guilford Chapter 24-4-Elections-Voting."

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

8. Appointments and Resignations:

1. Act on the resignation of Charles Detelich from the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Federici and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board voted unanimously to accept with regret and appreciation the resignation of Charles Detelich from the Water Pollution Control Authority.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

2. Act on a recommendation to appoint Chip Dorwin to the Standing Fields Committee.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Hoey and seconded by Ms. Renner, the board voted unanimously to appoint Chip Dorwin to the Standing Fields Committee.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

3. Discuss and take possible action on the reappointment of the Tree Warden for the Town of Guilford in accordance with Section 23-58 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to reappoint Kevin Magee as the Tree Warden for the Town of Guilford in accordance with Section 23-58 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

4. Act on a recommendation to appoint Christine Mennone as an alternate to the Youth and Family Services Board to fill a vacancy for a term to expire September 30, 2026.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Renner and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to appoint Christine Mennone as an alternate to the Youth and Family Services Board to fill a vacancy for a term to expire September 30, 2026.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

9. Requests for Use of Town Property:

1. Act on request from the Community Dining Room to use the Green July 25, 2023, to raise awareness for food resources.

Ms. Renner said similar to some other applications they have reviewed in the past this is not a Guilford non-profit and she thinks that would be an issue.

Mr. Federici said they do serve Guilford residents and it is a good organization.

Ms. Renner said they also might not be prepared for this undertaking by the way they answered some of the application questions.

Mr. Havrda said perhaps they could approve it with the understanding that they talk to them about the concerns.

Mr. Hoey said while it is the board policy to allow only Guilford non-profits, it is not a hard and fast rule and the board does have discretion, but that can also be dangerous. The board decided to table the application at this point.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to table the application for further discussion.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

2. Act on request The Country School to place signs on the Green advertising its Open House and School Fair both taking place on April 27, 2023. (Sign Placements 4/13-4/27)

The board made the distinction that in the past they have approved certain organizations like the Country School to place signs on the Green since they serve some Guilford residents, however, use of the Green is a little different.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the board voted unanimously to approve the request by The Country School to place signs on the Green advertising its Open House and School Fair taking place April 27, 2023.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

10. Committee Reports

Ms. Ruoff said the Housing for Economic Development Plan Committee has been meeting in relation to the possibility of language for inclusionary zoning in the upcoming Planning and Zoning rewrite. Their official meeting for rewrite has been pushed out. The committee is meeting a lot at this point. She is on another committee representing the Board of Selectmen with some members of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the parks and recreation director about their reporting on their program funds so they can better understand that fund in relation to the total town budget. They are going to meet again and she is going to include the finance director at the next meeting.

11. Correspondence

12. Old Business

Mr. Hoey said with regard to the polar bear colony on the Green some questions were raised about the process applying for that. They did receive an application for that. He thought he had gotten the artist to agree to have the non-profit beneficiary be the sponsoring agency for use of the Green. He added that while the application did say Meals on Wheels, they did not submit it. For something like this in the future he does think they should enforce that the application has to come from the beneficiary, but he thinks they can grant some leeway regarding when that display may take place.

Ms. Ruoff said the most important thing is that it comes from a not-for-profit so it fits the guidelines. If they don't address it, it leaves them open for anyone to put something on there.

Mr. Havrda said there has to be some control of it, but he doesn't want to inhibit the spontaneity of it all.

Ms. Renner also raised insurance concerns.

Mr. Hoey said they will continue to refine the process.

13. New Business

None

14. Public Forum (Limited to 3 minutes on any issue)

Nona Bloomer of 988 Leetes Island Road. Said it was brought to her attention that the Shoreline Greenway Trail has been displaying a good deal of publicity about itself in Guilford public places. She wants to remind the board about the hundreds of Guilford residents that rejected their initial proposal to build a segment at Route 1 by the Madison town line. They have no map, no plan and deserve no approval for any standalone segment. Their vague line from Branford through Guilford center to Madison town line does not qualify as a map and neither do earlier ones, which ran across wetlands, private areas and Route 146. Do not reintroduce a situation that pitted townspeople against each other and the board should insist on complete plan from the Branford line to the Madison town line. It does not need go along the fragile shoreline.

Mr. Hoey said he has had discussions with members of the Shoreline Greenway Trail and similar sentiments were expressed to them given the nature of that troublesome period as well as assumptions made to utilize private property. There is an acknowledgement on their part that the methodologies and representations are accurately described as being less than honest and above board. They have acknowledged that the portion through Guilford is likely to be on Route 146, which would require state approval, and it is already a scenic bike route. They have come back to the table with a different attitude, but the points Ms. Bloomer made are still valid and they need to see a fully fleshed out plan.

15. Discuss and take possible action on appeal from a resident in accordance with Section 247-31 Right of Appeal, Article VII Elderly Tax Relief Program. (Executive session may be required)

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Havrda and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board voted unanimously to enter executive session at 9:29 a.m. to discuss an Elderly Tax Relief Appeal.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to return to public session at 9:55 a.m.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

No motions were made and no action was taken in executive session.
The board took no action on the item at this time.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Federici and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

Respectfully submitted,

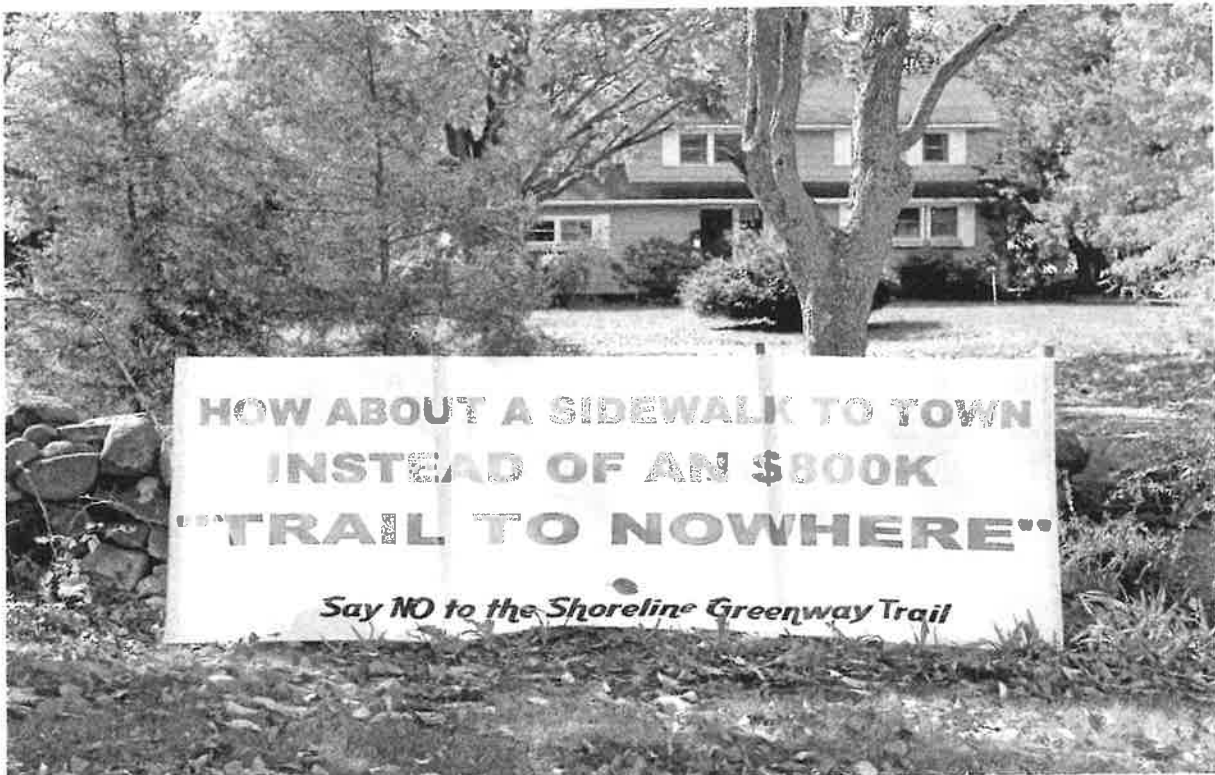
Traci K. Brinkman
Clerk
Board of Selectmen

NEWS//CONNECTICUT

Guilford Board of Selectmen say no to Shoreline Greenway Trail

Jan. 17, 2017

[Comments](#)



A banner protesting the Shoreline Greenway Trail is posted along Route 1 in Guilford last year. Arnold Gold — New Haven Register File Photo

GUILFORD >> After more than 500 residents signed a petition opposing the construction of a Shoreline Greenway Trail in town until a detailed map and plan was publicly available, the Board of Selectmen voted against approving the \$840,000 project.

During a special meeting Tuesday, the board defeated a plan to build a 0.7-mile Shoreline Greenway Trail that would run along the south shoulder of Route 1

from the Madison town line to the Route 146 intersection. The trail was slated to be part of a 25-mile continuous path starting from Lighthouse Point in New Haven, through East Haven, Branford and Guilford to Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison.

First Selectman Joseph Mazza, Selectmen Carl Balestracci and Gary MacElhiney and Selectwoman Cynthia Cartier voted against approving the project. Selectman Charles Havrda abstained from voting.

The decision was met with applause from the more than 25 residents who attended Tuesday's meeting.

"There is no plan, there is no map and there should be no approval," Guilford resident Nona Bloomer said. "This first SGT intrusion into Guilford, which I am repeating myself, would have irretrievably provided the SGT directors with a permanent propaganda springboard catapulting their unplanned recreational thruway toward Branford along our fragile Shoreline section-by-section."

Tuesday's decision comes more than two months after more than 300 residents attended a public hearing to express their opinions on the trail.

During November's public hearing, 57 people spoke in favor or against the path that would have allowed residents to walk, bike and wheel to the town's center safely.

But after abutting property owners and neighboring residents raised concerns about the financial burden the trail's upkeep would have on taxpayers and the possibility that historic property would be destroyed during construction, the Board of Selectmen agreed the proposed location was not the proper site for a bikeway.

During a Jan. 3 Board of Selectmen workshop, Havrda said that while the 0.7-mile Shoreline Greenway Trail segment would give pedestrians access to the town's center, it was the wrong plan at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Rather than constructing a Shoreline Greenway Trail along Route 1, board members suggested it would be in the town's favor to consider an alternative design that would cater to Guilford residents' needs.

The 0.7-mile trail would have been entirely funded by state and federal grants — the federal government committed \$484,000, the state provided \$121,000 and the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection gave \$270,000 — and was estimated to cost \$840,055 to construct.

To receive the federal grant, Mazza previously said the town had to match it 20 percent, or \$121,000. Rather than paying for the 20 percent match using the town's checkbook, the Shoreline Greenway Trail organization applied for and was awarded a state DEEP grant for \$121,000. The Shoreline Greenway Trail organization also received a \$270,000 Recreational Trails grant from the state DEEP to fund the creation of a bikeway in Guilford.

If the Board of Selectmen decides to pursue building a different walkable path in Guilford, the town would retain its \$484,000 grant, but the other \$390,000 in state money would remain in the hands of the Shoreline Greenway Trail organization. The organization, however, can reassign those dollars to the town of Guilford, Mazza said during the board's Jan. 3 workshop.

However, Guilford resident Patricia Klindienst said she "was troubled" by the board's suggestion to consider alternative plans for a walkable path to the town's center.

"Once you accept SGT's money and allow them to offer up an alternate plan, you have bought into the beginning of the Shoreline Greenway Trail's 25-mile trail through our town," Klindienst said. "Leave the SGT out of this process completely. Let's spare our town an ongoing battle."

Sam Norton can be reached at 203-680-9906.

