



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW
60 CENTER SQUARE
EAST LONGMEADOW, MA 01028

TOWN COUNCIL

(413) 525-5400 ext. 1001

Ralph E. Page, President,
Marilyn M. Richards, Vice President
Matthew Boucher, Kathleen G. Hill, Anna T. Jones
Connor J. O'Shea and Jonathan Torcia

Approved 8-8-2023

MINUTES
Town Council Meeting
Council on Aging Media Room, 328 North Main Street
East Longmeadow MA 01028
And Via –Zoom
July 11, 2023 6:00 pm

Present: President Page, Vice President Richards, Councilor Boucher, Councilor Hill, Councilor Jones
Councilor O'Shea and Councilor Torcia.

Council President Page opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a Moment of Silence. Announcements were made in accordance with Mass General Law, and it was noted that ELCAT was taping the meeting.

Public Comments: None

Council Comments: Councilor Richards commented that in the newsletter put out by the condominiums she lives at, both ELCAT Director Don Maki and IT Director Ryan Quimby were featured in it. Councilor Richards thanked them both for all they do.

Newly elected Councilor Torcia commented he is looking forward to what he can do for the community. Councilor Torcia thanked former Councilor Michael Kane and former Town Manager Mary McNally for their service to the town.

President Page welcomed Councilor Torcia. President Page was extremely impressed with the Fourth of July Parade; the Parade Committee has outdone themselves as they usually do. East Longmeadow should be very proud. President Page thanked all who were involved.

Communications. Correspondence and Announcements:

Town Manager's Report: Town Manager Tom Christensen gave his report as shown in Attachment A.

*Councilor O'Shea made a motion to waive the Council's remaining veto period for the appointments as presented in the Town Manager report. Councilor Richards seconded the motion. **The vote was 6 in favor, 0 opposed.** (Councilor Boucher was not present at the time of the vote).*

Approval of Minutes:

- A. Approve May 30, 2023 Open Session Minutes
*Councilor Richards made a motion to approve the May 30, 2023 Open Session Minutes. Councilor Torcia seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor 0 opposed and 1 abstention.** (Councilor Boucher was not present at the time of the vote)*
- B. Approve June 13, 2023 Open Session Minutes
*Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the June 13, 2023 Open Session Minutes. Councilor O'Shea seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor and 3 abstentions.***
- C. Approve June 13, 2023 Executive Session Minutes.
*Councilor Hill made a motion to approve the June 13, 2023 Executive Session Minutes. Councilor Boucher seconded the motion. **The vote was 4 in favor and 3 abstentions.***

Communications. Correspondence and Announcements:

- A. Pine Knoll Day Camp staff recognition for outstanding performance during a medical emergency

Donna Prather explained what had transpired when a young camper became unresponsive at camp on a very hot day. The staff followed the protocols as to what to do in this kind of an emergency. Deputy Fire Chief Chris Beecher had gone over with the staff what to do in case of an emergency. The staff stepped up, went into action, and followed protocol. The camper was treated at the hospital and released and came back to camp the next day.

The Council presented the staff with a citation for their outstanding performance in the activation of the emergency medical protocol to care for an unconscious camper at the East Longmeadow Pine Knoll Day Camp on June 20, 2023.

The staff members recognized are as follows:

Michael Carlone, Head Lifeguard
Elizabeth Edwards, Camp Director
Katelyn Gibbings, Assistant Director
Lylah Jeanotte, Counselor
Emily Harris, Head Lifeguard
Joseph Mara, Head Counselor
Avra Mayuski, Head Counselor
Kristen Sears, Pool Member & ER Nurse
Gabriel Tassinari, Head Counselor
Ciera Tseka, Aquatic Director/LGI
Beckett Vigneux, Caretaker

*Councilor O'Shea made a motion to move out of order on the agenda to Orders of the Day, Financial Matters. Councilor Richards seconded the motion. **The vote was 6 in favor and 0 opposed.** (Councilor Boucher not present at the time of the vote)*

Orders of the Day:

Financial Matters

1. Approve the FY23 Year End Interdepartmental Transfers, as recommended by the Town Manager

Councilor Hill asked about the amount available under health insurance; it seems like a significant amount to be left over at the end of the Fiscal Year. Mr. Christensen explained that last year and the year before they turned back a similar amount. He believes what appears to have happened is at some point between 2020 and 2021 we had a big jump in the appropriation for health insurance and is guessing that because of the pandemic we were not sure what was going to happen. We used the allocated budget number, which is why the number is similar to what we have turned back in the last three years. Mr. Christensen stated that we know what the numbers are going to be and can plan it out so that it will be fixed for Fiscal Year 2025.

*Councilor Richards made a motion to approve the FY23 Year End Interdepartmental transfers, as recommended by the Town Manager and presented in the schedule titled "TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW FY2023 YEAR END INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS." Councilor Torcia seconded the motion. **The vote was 6 in favor and 0 opposed.** (Councilor Boucher not present at the time of the vote)*

New Business:

1. Town Council to review and affirm all Council Rules and will affirm and submit an attesting signature to the Clerk of the Council, per Rule 15 of the Council Rules.

President Page asked if any of the Councilors had any thoughts on the rules and regulations or any adjustments or changes.

Councilor O'Shea commented on Rule 5E that speaks about the format of the agenda. Councilor O'Shea believes it would be worthwhile to move the section where we do the approval of minutes and maybe even the Town Manager Report to after the Public Hearings so the people who are present for Public Hearings would not have to wait around longer.

Councilor Richards would like to keep the Town Manager Report where it is and has no problem with moving the Approval of Minutes.

President Page would also like to leave the Town Manager Report where it is and has no problem moving the Approval of Minutes.

*Councilor O'Shea made a motion to amend Rule 5E for the order of business to move the approval of minutes under Orders of the Day, New Business. Councilor Richards seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 1 opposed.** (Councilor Boucher absent at the time of vote).*

Councilor O'Shea commented on Rule 11, where we have the Committee Parameters and Guidelines, the Communications Adhoc Committee does not seem to apply anymore.

*Councilor O'Shea made a motion to amend Rule 11 Committee Parameters and Guidelines, to remove Communications Ad Hoc Committee. Councilor Torcia seconded the motion. **The vote was 5 in favor and 1 opposed.** (Councilor Boucher absent at the time of vote).*

2. Discussion of Town Manager Goals

President Page would like each Councilor to send him three or four goals and then he and Vice President Richards can compile them into a list, meet with the Town Manager and go through the list together.

Public Hearings:

- A. 6:15 p.m.: Continued from June 13, 2023 - To address a Petition for a Zone Change at 312 Parker Street (Parcel ID 75-5-0) from Residence AA to Residence A.

President Page opened the Public Hearing. Town Clerk Jeanne Quaglietti read the legal notice into the record. Councilor Torcia recused himself, as he was Chair of the Planning Board when this came before the Planning Board.

Attorney Levine and Dr. Dominic Nardi were present. Attorney Levine explained the Zone change that Dr. Nardi was seeking. The applicant is asking the town to change the classification of 312 Parker from residence AA, where it is a pre-existing non-conforming lot, to resident A. Then it could be altered through an ANR plan. The ANR plan would allow the frontage of 312 Parker to be altered and be brought into conformance with residence A. Attorney Levine explained that this came about because Dr. Nardi wanted to give some portion of his land to his daughter.

Public Comments:

Christina Bent of 306 Parker Street feels that this is selective. Ms. Bent stated that she lives right next door and believes if the zoning is changed for 312 Parker; it should also be changed for 306. Dr. Nardi had explained to her everything that he wanted to do, how nice it will be, and now he wants to change the zoning and give property to his daughter. There are things she cannot do on her property because it is under AA which is a lot different than A.

Marc Frisino of 322 Parker Street commented that when Dr. Nardi bought the land there were rotted trees, trash, pieces of metal and all kinds of things in the woods. Dr. Nardi cleaned all of that up and made it look a lot better. He has gotten a serious water problem mostly under control. Mr. Frisino feels that Dr. Nardi is trying to do the right thing by all the neighbors and personally does not see anything wrong with what he trying to do.

Council Comments:

Councilor Hill asked if Dr. Nardi's intent was to build a particular structure on that land. Attorney Levine explained there are no plans to build any structures right now on 31 Rollins. If there was to be any construction on any of these lots it would potentially be an attached garage addition on the side of 312 Parker.

Councilor Jones commented that Attorney Levine had made a comment that it is not setting a precedent but if we change 312 then that brings the line further down and we would be opening it up for other residents to request to change their zoning to A.

Attorney Levine stated what he meant was that legally it is not setting precedent. If Ms. Bent or Mr. Grant came to the Board and said, you gave it to 312 you have to give me the zone change as well, that is wrong the Board can say no.

Councilor Richards commented that she went to the Planning Board meeting and heard the discussion; the vote was three to two to recommend. Of the two Planning Board members who voted not to recommend one was concerned about setting a precedent and the other was concerned about losing the value of a AA Zone.

We also heard that AA Zone was obsolete; which Councilor Richards finds curious. Councilor Richards spoke to the Assessor's office to determine what this means. The Assessor's explained that if you had a parcel in the AA Zone and a parcel in the A Zone if they were both vacant parcels and the value of the land was comparable what creates value is what is put on the parcels. Councilor Richards commented that she is trying to dispute the fact that AA Zone is obsolete, it is our most valued zone based on tax revenue.

Councilor Richards has walked the property and to her it is a piece of protected preserved open space right in the back of all these houses; no one has put fences up and you do not see where the lot lines are.

Councilor Richards is not in favor of this proposal and feels that creating these two 25,000 square foot parcels on Parker Street sets them into a substandard position because they are smaller. Councilor Richards believes that zone changes are done for a significant hardship and does not believe this is one of them.

Attorney Levine wanted to clarify one thing that he may have said which is the AA Zone was obsolete, what he meant was the line was obsolete. Attorney Levine understands that AA is desirable but we are talking about this lot. This lot as it is does not have the room to build a massive home with all the accessories that will drive up property value.

Dr. Nardi explained why he purchased property behind his daughter's house. There was a garbage heap back there that he cleared it all out to beautify it for his daughter and his neighbors. His primary goal in annexing the property is not to build an unsightly structure but to make sure one is not built.

Councilor O'Shea commented when it comes to zoning the only concern he has is if there are different rights of uses allowed on property because of different zones. Councilor O'Shea feels that there is no difference functionally in terms of what they could do. They are not asking to put a commercial district in the middle of a residential space. For that reason, Councilor O'Shea is in favor of this zone change.

The public comment portion of the hearing was closed.

Councilor O'Shea made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilor Jones seconded the motion. The vote was 6 in favor 0 opposed and 1 abstention (Councilor Torcia).

President Page made a motion to approve a zone change for 312 Parker Street (Parcel ID 75-5-0) from Residence AA to Residence A. Councilor Richards seconded the motion.

Councilor Boucher commented that he is up in the air in terms of how he feels about this. We have talked a lot about precedent and he does have concerns about precedent being set in terms of how the Council is going to act going forward when zone changes are presented to us. If this does not pass are we going to be okay with what they bring forward again? Councilor Boucher feels if this does not pass we could potentially end up with the weird shaped lot.

Councilor Richards explained that we have an assortment of parcels throughout town like that.

Roll Call Vote- Councilor Jones-No, Councilor Boucher- Yes, Councilor Hill- No, President Page- No, Councilor Richards- No, Councilor O'Shea- Yes and Councilor Torcia –recused.

- B. 6:30 p.m.: Approval of Community Preservation Act First Congregational Church Window Project in the amount of \$40,000.00 from the Historical fund account.

President Page opened the public hearing. Town Clerk Jeanne Quaglietti read the legal notice into the record. Councilor Torcia recused himself, as he was Chair of the Community Preservation Committee when this came before that Committee.

President Page stated that he has asked the town attorney to give a legal opinion. Our attorney is on vacation until the July 14 so he has not received the full legal opinion yet; therefore, they will not be taking any action on this tonight.

Tony Zampiceni, Chair of the CPC, gave a brief overview of the project. Mr. Zampiceni explained that the church wants to replace windows in the old part of the church, six large and three small windows on the side that faces Somers Road. Mr. Zampiceni commented that it is a complicated issue and he would like the attorney's opinion on this.

Councilor O'Shea made a motion to continue the Public Hearing until August 8, 2023 at 6:15 pm. Councilor Hill seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote- Councilor Jones-Yes, Councilor Boucher- Yes, Councilor Hill- Yes, President Page- Yes, Councilor Richards- Yes, Councilor O'Shea- Yes and Councilor Torcia –recused.

- C. 6:45 p.m.: Approval of Community Preservation Act Historical Documents Preservation Project in the amount of \$1,250.00 from the Historical fund account

President Page opened the Public Hearing. Town Clerk Jeanne Quaglietti read the legal notice into the record. Councilor Torcia recused himself, as he was Chair of the Community Preservation Committee when this came before that Committee.

CPC Chair Tony Zampiceni explained the project. There are about 22 large boxes in the history room at the library full of history that are important to save. The Historical Committee needs archival approved boxes in order to preserve the records. The CPC is in favor of this project.

George Kingston of 66 Rural Lane and a member of the Historical Commission explained that they have a lot of stuff up there just shoved in boxes in non-archival folders, which will deteriorate over time. We would like to stop that from happening and store them properly.

There were no public comments.

Councilor O'Shea made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Councilor Hill seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote- Councilor Jones-Yes, Councilor Boucher- Yes, Councilor Hill- Yes, President Page- Yes, Councilor Richards-Yes, Councilor O'Shea- Yes and Councilor Torcia –recused.

Councilor Boucher made a motion to approve the application for the Community Preservation Act Historical Documents Preservation Project in the amount of \$1,250.00 from the Historical fund account. Councilor Hill seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote- Councilor Jones-Yes,

Councilor Boucher- Yes, Councilor Hill- Yes, President Page- Yes, Councilor Richards-Yes, Councilor O'Shea- Yes and Councilor Torcia –recused.

Reorganization of the Town Council, per Article 2, Section 3 of the Charter.

President Page explained that Article 2 Section 3 of the Charter requires the Council to vote to reorganize at their first meeting in July that is attended by the full Council. President Page asked if there were any nominations for the Town Council President.

*Councilor Richards nominated Ralph Page for Town Council President. There were no other nominations. **The vote was 7 in favor for Ralph Page.***

*Councilor Torcia made a motion to nominate Marilyn Richards as Vice President. There were no other nominations. **The vote was 7 in favor for Marilyn Richards.***

New Business:

3. Action Items for Next Meeting

- Send the goals to President Page for the Town Manager by Sunday or Monday of next week.
- Fee schedule

*Councilor Hill made a motion to adjourn the Open **Session Meeting.** Councilor O'Shea seconded the **motion.** The vote was 7 in favor and 0 opposed.*

The Open Session Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm. The next Open Session Meeting will be August 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Sullivan

Assistant Town Clerk

Documents: Agenda, Town Manager Report, CPC First Congregational project, CPC Historical documents preservation, Memo from Planning Board re: Zone Change 312 Parker Street, June 13, 2023 Open Session draft minutes, June 13, 2023 Executive Session draft minutes, Town Council Rules, FY23 interdepartmental transfers, May 30, 2023 Open Session draft minutes and Pine Knoll staff recognition citation.



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

July 11, 2023

Attachment A

Good evening:

First of all, I want to give a special thanks to former Town Manager, Mary McNally, on her retirement from the Town of East Longmeadow. It's hard to quantify the impact she has had on this community. As the Town's second Town Manager, she instituted many processes and procedures that we were lacking and in the true spirit of the Charter, affirmed the impact that a strong TM can have. I am obviously grateful for the time we spent together, but as a resident, I will sing her praises to anyone that will listen for a long time.

Secondly, I am thrilled for the opportunity that this Council has bestowed upon me. I assure you that I will, in the same spirit, do my very best every day to continue to lead with character and discernment.

A special thanks to everyone involved in another amazing 4th of July celebration! The meeting would go on well into the night if we tried to thank all of the volunteers and Town staff that had an impact on the day. We are fortunate to live in a community where we all recognize the significance of the day and strive to make it fun and enjoyable for all.

We have a special ceremony tonight to honor some of the amazing staff of the recreation department up at Pine Knoll. Their quick action and the wherewithal to rely on their training in a dire situation, helped saved the life of one of the campers. The Council will be honoring some real life heroes tonight to let them know of our appreciation.

Town staff will be meeting with Westfield Gas and Electric's Whip City Fiber team on the 12th to discuss an inter-governmental agreement and scope out some pilot program areas to offer another option for internet in Town. Special thanks to the voters for seeing this great opportunity to provide an upgraded service to the community and, if things go like we are projecting, a potential new revenue stream to the Town.

Chief Williams led a nice ceremony to welcome Michael Ingalls as the newest Sergeant serving the East Longmeadow Police Department on July 3rd at the COA. Sergeant Ingalls brings excellent leadership and a great skill set to an already outstanding Sgt. Room at the PD. Congrats to Mike.

The Eastern Hampden County Veterans Board of Directors has entered into contract with Jason Burgerer to be the new VSO for the district and his first day will be July 17th. We look forward to Jason's start date and his assistance with much needed services for all of our veterans in the District.

Council on Aging Director, Erin Koebler, has secured yet another grant for the COA. This one from the Massachusetts Council on Aging to the tune of \$45,000 for the Tri-Town Trolley service. This grant counts towards the 50% match required for the Community Transit Grant stipend we receive through PVTA to operate the trolley.

I submit with this report three applications for appointment to Boards and Commissions. David Boucher is seeking reappointment to the Board of Library Trustees, which I endorse. I would like to appoint Bill Fonseca and Rob Tirrell to the Planning Board to fill the vacancies left by the resignations of George Kingston and John Torcia. Other appointments to Boards, not requiring Council review but offered for your information are as follows: William Arment, Conservation Commission; James Channing, Zoning Board of Appeals (full member); Simon Brighenti, Historical Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas D. Christensen
Town Manager

Coll. ✓ 6/16/23



RECEIVED
MAY 01 2023
Town Manager's Office
East Longmeadow MA

Town of East Longmeadow Board, Committee, and Commission Application Form

Name: DAVID BOUCHER

Home address: 138 PEASE RD East Longmeadow, MA

Email Address: DAVIDJOHN@AOL.COM

Preferred Phone #: 413-237-6577

Occupation: CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR

Board/Commission of Interest: LIBRARY TRUSTEES - Reapplying

Briefly explain the reason(s) for your interest in serving the town in this capacity and note any qualifications you have which will be an asset to this Board or Commission.

I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER FOR
10 PLUS YEARS and I WOULD
LIKE TO CONTINUE

Please include three (3) references with your application.

Name	Address	Phone
ERIC BOUCHER	20 DANIEL RIDGE WESTFIELD MA	413 568 4267
KARON MARSIAN	EAST LONGMEADOW	413-525-3125
BOB STEVENS	WESTFIELD MA	413-642-3800

Date: 4/27/23 Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this application. Volunteers play a vital role and we appreciate your interest. Upon completing your application please forward to the Town Manager's office at townmanager@eastlongmeadowma.gov. The application can also be mailed or dropped off to Town Hall, 60 Center Square, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

Call ✓
3/15/23 at Noon (INTV)

RECEIVED

MAR 10 2023

Town Manager's Office
East Longmeadow MA



Town of East Longmeadow Board & Commission Application Form

Name: William Fonseca

Home address: 31 Van Dyke Rd. East Longmeadow, MA

Preferred phone #: 413-537-2515

E-mail address: fon24@charter.net

Occupation: Retired

Board/Commission of Interest: Planning Board

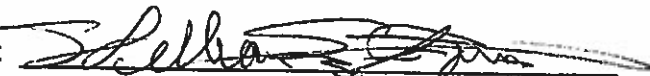
Briefly explain your reasons for being interested in serving your town in this capacity and note the qualifications you have which you think will be an asset to this Board or Commission.

I am currently Chair of the By-Law Review Committee charged with reviewing by-law changes as identified by the Town Council. I was also on this Committee when the Town decided to codify all the by-laws including the Zoning By-laws, which gave me the opportunity to review all of them. I also served on the School Committee for seventeen years. I feel my experience makes me a great fit for the Planning Board.

Please include three (3) References with your application.

Name	Address	Phone
Gordon Smith	180 Maple St.	413-537-5749
Sid Starks	28 Elm St.	413-537-7050
Russ Denver	2 Lester St.	413-374-5538

Date: 03/10/2023

Signature: 

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this application. Volunteers play a vital role in the East Longmeadow government and we appreciate your interest. Upon completing your application please forward to the Town Manager's office either at:

town-manager@eastlongmeadowma.gov

or

Town Hall, 60 Center Square, East Longmeadow, MA 01028

Call ✓



RECEIVED

MAR 24 2023

Town Manager's Office
East Longmeadow MA

Town of East Longmeadow Board & Commission Application Form

Name: Rob Tirrell

Home address: 13 Pondview Dr East Longmeadow, MA

Preferred phone #: 413-219-8376

E-mail address: Rtirrell82@yahoo.com

Occupation: Business Owner/ Financial Sales

Board/Commission of Interest: Planning Board

Briefly explain your reasons for being interested in serving your town in this capacity and note the qualifications you have which you think will be an asset to this Board or Commission.

As a long time resident of East Longmeadow I can add value from a business owner standpoint who has worked on building businesses as

well as a full time job in the corporate industry, to help our town grow in a manner best suited for all residents. I will bring a view from

a vested resident with young kids who wants to see this be a great place to raise family's but still at 41 yrs old, have

a younger sense of what the town needs. I look forward to your consideration, Thank you very much for your time!

Please include three (3) References with your application.

Name	Address	Phone
Bob Tirrell	818 Granville rd Westfield, MA	413-250-9756
Robert Buoniconti	112 Garland Ave Springfield, MA	413-883-8697
Peter Drane	37 Evergreen dr	860-597-5628

Date: 3/24/23

Signature: 

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town-manager@eastlongmeadowma.gov

or

Town Hall, 60 Center Square, East Longmeadow, MA 01028