

# TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, March 18, 2021

7:00 p.m.

East Windsor, Connecticut

Meeting held via ZOOM Teleconference

Meeting ID: 332 683 3563

Town Hall closed to the Public by

Executive Order of First Selectman Jason E. Bowsza

Due to Coronavirus pandemic

### Meeting Minutes

*\*\*\* These Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting\*\*\**

#### Board of Selectmen:

Jason E. Bowsza, First Selectman

Marie DeSousa, Deputy First Selectman

Alan Baker, Selectman

Sarah Muska, Selectman

Charlie Nordell, Selectman

**ATTENDANCE:** Board of Selectmen: Jason E. Bowsza, First Selectman; Marie DeSousa, Deputy First Selectman; Alan Baker, Selectman; Sarah Muska, Selectman; Charlie Nordell, Selectman

**ABSENT:** All Selectmen were present this evening.

**GUESTS signing in to teleconference:** Department of Public Works: Joseph Sauerhoefer, Operations Manager; Board of Finance: Noreen Farmer, Tom Lansner.

**GUESTS/SPEAKERS:** Carol Hall, State Representative, representing the 59<sup>th</sup> General Assembly District; Jamie Foster, Representative representing the 57<sup>th</sup> General Assembly District. Department of Planning and Development: Ruth Calabrese, Zoning Enforcement Officer/Wetlands Agent; Clark Chapin, Director of Planning and Community Development.

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**Public (as identified in the Meeting participation list):** Donna, Frodo2's iphone; Gabriela Resto, Michael Ceppetelli.

**1. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:**

First Selectman Bowsza called the March 18, 2021 Regular Meeting of the East Windsor Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00 p.m. The Meeting is being held via teleconference due to closure of the Town Hall to the public as the result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

First Selectman Bowsza requested Selectman Nordell to lead the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ATTENDANCE:**

First Selectman Bowsza noted the Board has established a quorum with five members present via video conference.

**4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

**A. February 16, 2021 Board of Selectmen Public Hearing Minutes Correction (March 4, 2021 agenda was documented as Budget Workshop Minutes):**

**MOTION:** To APPROVE the Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2021 for the Public Hearing for the Broad Brook Fire Department as presented.

Nordell moved/Muska seconded/**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE by rollcall:** In Favor: Baker/Nordell/Muska/DeSousa  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)

**B. February 16, 2021 Board of Selectmen Budget Workshop Minutes:**

**MOTION:** To APPROVE the Board of Selectmen Workshop dated February 16, 2021 as presented.

Muska moved/DeSousa seconded/**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE by rollcall:** In Favor: Baker/Nordell/Muska/DeSousa  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)

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**C. March 4, 2021 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes:**

**MOTION:** To APPROVE the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes dated 3/4/2021 as presented.

**Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION:** Deputy First Selectman DeSousa referenced page 11, regarding the approval motion for the Broad Brook Fire Department. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa cited the reduction for the Fire Marshal line of \$21,138 is different than an earlier value stated for the Fire Marshal. First Selectman Bowsza clarified the number is correct and was reviewed by Treasurer O'Toole as well. He indicated that just because the numbers are different from those identified in other meetings doesn't mean they are not accurate. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa suggested she wasn't questioning the accuracy but was just seeking clarification.

**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/Nordell/Muska/DeSousa  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

**D. March 4, 2021 Board of Selectmen Public Hearing Minutes:**

**MOTION:** To ACCEPT the Minutes for the Public Hearing of March 4, 2021 as presented.

**DeSousa moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None**

**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/Nordell/Muska/DeSousa  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

First Selectman Bowsza announced the first opportunity for the public to offer comments or questions. No one requested to speak.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS:**

First Selectman Bowsza opened COMMUNICATIONS by noting significant work is being done at East Windsor Park which has caused concerns for the residents in the vicinity of the work area. First Selectman Bowsza offered the following update on park improvements:

**Statement Concerning Improvement Work  
Undertaken at East Windsor Park**

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We are aware that some residents have some questions and concerns about the recent improvement activity taking place at East Windsor Park. I wanted to provide some clarity to the projects underway.

Last year, abutting property owners were notified by mail that there would be tree removal work taking place at the park. Abutters were given an opportunity to ask any questions that they may have had, and we specifically visited the one person who came forward at her home to address her concerns.

We have been in touch with an arborist and a landscape architect to confirm both the need for the trees to be removed and to design improvements afterwards. That work is still in process, so we continue to ask for patience until the project is complete.

The trees that had lined the park had become a cause for concern from a public safety standpoint and from a liability standpoint. In a number of instances during recent weather events, trees had fallen onto abutters' property, causing damage to sheds and lawns. This had resulted in the Town having to repair the damage.

Due to the proximity in which the trees were planted to each other, the interior trees did not properly root, leading to additional instability. When the exterior trees were removed, the interior trees would have been even weaker and in more dire likelihood of causing additional damage.

Additionally, removal of the trees along the perimeter added more than three-quarters of an acre to the park grounds. We will be putting in a walking trail along the perimeter, installing benches and other aesthetic improvements, and planting some decorative trees.

Most of the project was paid for out of Capital/Non-recurring funding available in the budget and for specifically this purpose. The balance of the cost was borne out of the Parks and Recreation program money. The work was contracted to Beaver Tree Removal, who is the Town's preferred vendor for tree work. Preferred vendor status is bid from time to time.

Again, we stress that the project is under way and we ask for people's patience as we complete the job. As early as next week, seeding and fertilizing is likely to take place, and we anticipate the freshly renovated park will be ready for the opening of the season this year.

As a second **COMMUNICATIONS** item First Selectman Bowsza also noted Letters from the First Selectmen's Office were sent to Congressman John Larson, Senator Chris Murphy, and Senator Richard Blumenthal regarding the East Windsor Board of

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Selectmen adopting a Resolution in support of the Federal Equality Act. (See Attachment A).

First Selectman Bowsza advised the Board he would like to take Agenda item 9D – Diversity Council Discussion under NEW BUSINESS, out of order.

**MOTION: SO MOVED – to take NEW BUSINESS, item 9D – Diversity Council Discussion next.**

Nordell moved/DeSousa seconded/DISCUSSION: None

**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/Nordell/Muska/DeSousa  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

**9. NEW BUSINESS:**

**D. Diversity Council Discussion:**

First Selectman Bowsza referenced the Resolution to Establish a Diversity Council which had been included in the Board's meeting packet. He indicated that Council constituted by that Resolution can have as few as 5 and as many as 9 members, but because of its constitution, minority representation controls.

First Selectman Bowsza noted his office has received interest from a significant number of people who would like to become members of the Diversity Council which we're able to seat according to the minority representation provision in the Town Charter. Rather than turn away people who are interested in contributing to the community First Selectman Bowsza proposed the following amendment to the Resolution: "... and as many non-voting associate members as deemed appropriate to appoint by the Board of Selectmen, who shall serve for a term of four (4) years." There would still be no less than 5 or more than 9 regular members but we would also allow for "non-voting associate members" as deemed appropriate by the Board. This is a way to share the interest and abilities of the people who are willing to come forward without running afoul of minority representation.

First Selectman Bowsza noted the American Heritage River Commission also has non-voting associate members who participate in the meeting discussion and Commission activities but do not vote.

First Selectman Bowsza indicated he wanted to be sure the Board is being as inclusive as it can while still being in conformance with what the bounds of the law are. First Selectman Bowsza noted the reason he brought this issue up is the

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Board has received applications for membership coming before you this evening, this amendment would allow you to act on those appointments.

Selectman Nordell questioned how the Board would make the determination regarding voting vs. non-voting membership? First Selectman Bowsza clarified the Board of Selectmen are the appointing authority under the Charter and would vote as they do regarding regular vs. alternate membership for other commissions.

**MOTION: To AMEND the Resolution to establish the Diversity Council as discussed.**

DeSousa moved/Baker seconded/**DISCUSSION:** None  
**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/Nordell/Muska/DeSousa**  
**(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

**7. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

**A. Resignations:**

1. Jillian Hubbard (D), Beautification Committee, regular member.

**MOTION: To ACCEPT the resignation from the Beautification Committee of Jillian Hubbard, with regret.**

Nordell moved/Baker seconded/**DISCUSSION:** None  
**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/Nordell/Muska/DeSousa**  
**(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

2. Christine Cresenzi (U), Ethics Commission, alternate member.

**MOTION: To ACCEPT, with regret, the resignation of Christine Cresenzi from the Ethics Commission.**

Baker moved/Muska seconded/**DISCUSSION:** None  
**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/Nordell/Muska/DeSousa**  
**(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

3. Peter Larese (U), Conservation Commission, regular member.

**MOTION: To ACCEPT, with regret, the resignation of Peter Larese from the Conservation Commission.**



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**Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION:** None  
**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/Nordell/Muska/DeSousa**  
**(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

**B. Reappointments:** None.

**C. New Appointments:**

First Selectman Bowsza noted the agenda lists the appointments to the Diversity Council as regular members. As we don't have space to do that based on the constitution of the Council First Selectman Bowsza requested Ms. Resto and Ms. Nadeau be appointed non-voting associate members.

Selectman Muska questioned if the Board could accept one of them as a regular member because we currently have 5 Democrats on that Board; doesn't minority representation mean we can have 6 out of a 9 member Board? First Selectman Bowsza clarified no, not more than a bare majority is the minority representation standard. As an example, First Selectman Bowsza noted on the Board of Education, one party can't control more than 5 seats. It doesn't guarantee any seats to the minority party; it just means the majority party can't control more than a simple majority – not a super majority, which that would be.

1. Gabriela Resto (D), Diversity Council, regular non-voting associate member for a term expiring August 20, 2024.

**MOTION: To APPOINT Gabriela Resto (D), and Narda Nadeau (D), to the Diversity Council as non-voting associate members for terms expiring August 20, 2024.**

**Baker moved/Nordell seconded/DISCUSSION:** First Selectman Bowsza noted while he doesn't know Narda Nadeau he has known the Resto family for years; he believes Gabriela will serve well on the Council.

**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/DeSousa/Muska/Nordell**  
**(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

2. Narda Nadeau (D), Diversity Council, regular non-voting associate member for a term expiring August 20, 2024.

See appointment above.

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3. Kurt Kebschull (D), Zoning Board of Appeals, alternate member for a term expiring November 21, 2023.

**MOTION: To APPOINT Kurt Kebschull (D), Zoning Board of Appeals, alternate member for a term expiring November 21, 2023.**

**Baker moved/DeSousa seconded/DISCUSSION: None.**

**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/DeSousa/Muska/Nordell  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

4. Christina Cresenzi (U), Ethics Commission, regular member for a term expiring January 24, 2023.

**MOTION: To APPOINT Christina Cresenzi (U), Ethics Commission, regular member for a term expiring January 24, 2023.**

**Baker moved/Muska seconded/DISCUSSION: None.**

**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/DeSousa/Muska/Nordell  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**\*A. South Road Ownership Option Update:**

Any starred (\*) items will not be discussed but will remain on the agenda pending receipt of additional information.

**\*B. ACI Auto Group LLC – Tax Incentive Program:**

Any starred (\*) items will not be discussed but will remain on the agenda pending receipt of additional information.

**\*C. Polling Location Change:**

Any starred (\*) items will not be discussed but will remain on the agenda pending receipt of additional information.

**9. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee:**



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First Selectman Bowsza introduced Ruth Calabrese, Zoning Enforcement Officer in the Planning Department to discuss the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Implementation Committee.

ZEO Calabrese shared her screen to present a slide presentation (See Attachment B) regarding the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), the goals and recommendations outlined within the document, and the purpose of the POCD Implementation Committee.

ZEO Calabrese noted the Town is at the midpoint of review of the POCD. As part of her appearance this evening she is also requesting participation in the POCD Implementation Committee by a representative of the Board of Selectmen. ZEO Calabrese noted the POCD is a planning tool which establishes goals and actions supporting the Town's vision. POCDs are created on a 10 year cycle; we're presently in the middle of that cycle which is a good time to reassess what we've accomplished and consider if our goals make sense, or need to be revised.

ZEO Calabrese noted our goal is to keep EW an attractive place to live by preserving our rural, village agricultural and business character. That will require careful management of future development to minimize impact on the community character. The POCD outlines several primary strategies which recommend nearly 100 action items; approximately 25 action items have been touched in some way. Action item #1 is the establishment of the POCD Implementation Committee.

ZEO Calabrese noted she made the same presentation before the Planning and Zoning Commission last month. The Implementation Committee will include members from various boards and commissions, as well as the Town Planner and the Town Engineer. PZC Chairman Joe Ouellette has volunteered to join the Implementation Committee, and to include a standing agenda item for discussion related to the work of the Implementation Committee. ZEO Calabrese indicated she is seeking representation from the Board of Selectmen as well. First Selectman Bowsza suggested Selectman Baker's inclusion makes the most sense as he's the most familiar with the PZC process and he's the PZC liaison; Selectman Baker graciously agreed to participate.

ZEO Calabrese then shared the Implementation Plan Action Item Table related to the 23 strategies noted on the previous slide. She noted the PZC has asked that the Planning Staff prioritize these action items and present an initial list of 10 items for review.

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ZEO Calabrese offered a copy of a progress report on similar action items under review in South Windsor, noting the various departments or agencies involved in their review. She would like to include a similar progress report as part of the Implementation Committee's work.

ZEO Calabrese thanked Selectman Baker for volunteering. She noted she'll be staffing this project within the Planning Department. First Selectman Bowsza noted ZEO Calabrese came up with this proposal on her own; she deserves a lot of credit. He suggested this is another example of being able to demonstrate that we have some really good leadership in the Planning Department that can help move the Town forward. ZEO Calabrese indicated this came out of the Economic Development Commission looking for action items within the POCD; while doing that review, she felt additional work needs to be done.

Selectman Baker questioned if establishment of the Implementation Committee was a Board of Selectmen responsibility? ZEO Calabrese indicated the PZC jumped on this item and intends to include it as an ongoing agenda item. First Selectman Bowsza noted Action Item #1 indicates the PZC and the BOS; assuming the order of listing the agencies the PZC would take the lead. If it's a working group steering the process then that's different than the Board of Selectmen establishing a committee.

Discussion followed regarding member participation. First Selectman Bowsza noted PZC Chairman Joe Ouellette stepped forward, and the Board of Selectmen have recommended Selectmen Baker; ZEO Calabrese noted Economic Development Commissioner Bob Lyke has volunteered; additional members would be Town Planner/Director Chapin and Town Engineer Norton. First Selectman Bowsza questioned if a member-at-large from the community could be appointed; ZEO Calabrese replied affirmatively. Selectman Baker suggested representation from the Agricultural and Conservation Commissions should be included as well.

Discussion continued regarding establishment via the Board of Selectmen vs. creation of a working subcommittee within the PZC. First Selectman Bowsza suggested he and Director Chapin will discuss this further and make a recommendation at the April 1<sup>st</sup> Board of Selectmen Meeting.

**B. Broad Brook Fire Memorandum of Understanding:**

First Selectman Bowsza requested postponement of Item B as it's still under legal review.

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**MOTION: To POSTPONE Item B – Broad Brook Fire Memorandum of Understanding under NEW BUSINESS.**

**Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None.**

**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/DeSousa/Muska/Nordell  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

**C. Priority Urgent Care Vaccine Agreement including Dr. Rampal:**

First Selectman Bowsza reported the next agenda item has been submitted at the request of Dr. Rampal; this is an agreement between the Town and Priority Urgent Care Medical Center, to provide COVID vaccine services on behalf of the Town. First Selectman Bowsza noted we did a similar agreement with them when we did COVID testing; this is a liability agreement to make sure their interests and the Town's are protected. Dr. Rampal has been doing this for a month so, but has asked that this agreement include a retro-date to our first COVID clinic. First Selectman Bowsza questioned that the retro-active aspect of the agreement was necessary but indicated that absent the relationship we have with Priority Urgent Care, the Town of Vernon, and the North Central District Health Department there's no way the Town could provide vaccine for the people in East Windsor. First Selectman Bowsza noted we have a standing waiting list of around 400 people. While some people are trying to get a vaccine from any source, a good number of the people on the waiting list won't go somewhere other than East Windsor to get the vaccine, so this service is the means by which they'll be able to access the vaccine. First Selectman Bowsza indicated it's been a very productive relationship with Dr. Rampal and his team, which he'd like to continue; this is something he's asked us to approve to continue that relationship.

First Selectman Bowsza called for questions from the Board.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa questioned the overlap of the two agreements before her. First Selectman Bowsza noted the first agreement was for COVID testing, while this agreement is for administering the COVID vaccine. It's two different services, performed on two different days – both performed by Dr. Rampal's office. First Selectman Bowsza noted we'll be doing 150 to 160 doses tomorrow.

**MOTION: To APPROVE the agreement with Urgent Care Medical Center, LLC, including Dr. Rampal, and the Town of East Windsor as presented.**

**Nordell moved/DeSousa seconded/DISCUSSION: None.**

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**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/DeSousa/Muska/Nordell  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

**E. Rails to Trails with Carol Hall:**

Carol Hall, State Representative, representing the 59<sup>th</sup> General Assembly District and Jamie Foster, Representative representing the 57<sup>th</sup> General Assembly District, joined the meeting virtually for this discussion.

First Selectman Bowsza asked if State Representative Hall was in attendance at the meeting? Representative Hall acknowledged herself, noting she was traveling and was on a phone call. First Selectman Bowsza noted the Rails to Trails is Representative Hall's initiative which she brought to his attention last week. He invited her to bring everyone up to date.

Representative Hall reported that over 20 years ago she was sitting on the Town Council in Enfield; there were discussions at that time of Enfield taking over the freight rail line and turning it into a Rails to Trails. At that time DOT had just renewed the 20 year lease on the freight line so her proposal was stalled. The Rails to Trails initiative starts in Massachusetts but the line stopped in East Long Meadow; they've recently secured funding to extend the Rails to Trails system at the State line.

Representative Hall noted the Town of Enfield met with DOT to promote turning the rail line into a Rails to Trails. A. J. Bellevue, who currently has the lease, does not have any current contracts with businesses in Enfield, nor has he secured any contracts over the past 20 years. (At this point Representative Hall's connection was breaking up; some of her comments were lost to transcription). When her connection was restored Representative Hall suggested an alternate proposal would be to convert the freight line up to the point where Mr. Bellevue may have business contracts. She suggested the lessee who has the contract for the line in South Windsor could pick up the one client that she's aware Mr. Bellevue services in East Windsor.

Representative Hall suggested we're not trying to dissuade anyone from using what they already have in place, but they are trying to convince DOT not to sign another 20 year lease with Mr. Bellevue's lease because they want to pursue the Rails to Trails proposal. Representative Hall indicated she's here tonight to ask East Windsor to partner with them to make the Rails to Trails a multi-state, multi-town trail project. She understands there is a lot of funding for greenway spaces, which would include Rails to Trails. Representative Hall indicated she is trying

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to meet with the Federal delegation and has reached out to Congressman Larson's office, and East Long Meadow Congressman Neill.

Representative Hall indicated Senator Anwar, herself, and Senator Kissel have sent letters to DOT and the Federal delegation expressing their appreciation for DOT not renewing the freight line lease, and working with them on the Rails to Trails proposal. Representative Hall noted she has also talked to Representative Jaime Foster, who is also on board with the proposal but didn't respond quickly enough to sign their letter. Representative Hall suggested this is a bipartisan effort; she reiterated she hopes East Windsor will partner with them regarding this Rails to Trails project.

First Selectman Bowsza noted Representative Foster has signed into the meeting as well; he asked if she had any comments to offer the Board?

Representative Foster indicated she appreciates Representative Hall including her in this conversation and the process. She indicated she supports any efforts that support accessibility to healthier lifestyles for the people in the community. It's consistent with her life work outside of the General Assembly; she's eager to work with Representative Hall in any way that she can.

First Selectman Bowsza thanked Representative Hall for taking the initiative on this project. He noted that Nutrien Systems/Crop Production Services is the northern-most business on that freight line, and a second business located nearby is a brick company that used to be headquartered in Manchester now offloads near Nutrien Systems; that's the northernmost point that there's any commercial activity. The manager of Nutrien Systems has said if that line were not there it would equate to something like 300 additional dump truck loads coming onto that site per year. It would be preclusive for them because some of those trucks would be coming from Utah and Nevada. They are dependent on that rail line.

First Selectman Bowsza suggested an alternative would be for the end of the line be at the crossing at Park Hill; there would be the opportunity for increased pedestrian access to Reservoir Park and into downtown Broad Brook to support area businesses. First Selectman Bowsza thanked Representative Hall for her leadership on this project.

Representative Hall noted the Enfield Town Council is going to consider this item on their agenda in regard to sending the letter to DOT to not renew the lease for the Enfield portion of the line as Mr. Bellevue has no business contracts at all with anyone in Enfield. Representative Hall indicated she felt ending the line at Reservoir Park was great suggestion.

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First Selectman Bowsza queried the Board for comments or questions.

Selectman Muska thanked Representative Hall and Representative Foster; she would be in support of this. She noted she goes to trails in Vernon and elsewhere; this would be great to have in our community.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa indicated she wasn't familiar with what Rails to Trails was because she isn't a walker, but she found out there is 185 miles of abandoned rail track in Connecticut that have that function. If, in East Windsor, we don't interfere with the two establishments that are currently using that line then she doesn't have an issue with it.

Selectman Nordell felt it's great; he'd love to see it happen. Selectman Nordell felt there would be opposition from the guy who currently holds the lease; he has a lot of money invested in ties and rails in the Enfield area. While he's slow in installing any of that equipment it appears he's invested a lot of money into materials to reconstruct that line. Representative Hall suggested a lot of his money is grant money; the materials in Enfield have been sitting there for 20 years. First Selectman Bowsza concurred, noting the excitement in the area at that time that someone was going to reactivate the rail line. To support Representative Hall's contention, First Selectman Bowsza suggested they're not A. J. Bellevue's train tracks; he's the lease holder, and his lease is up. Representative Hall summarized some of the business relationships between Mr. Bellevue and some of the companies along the rail line in Enfield.

First Selectman Bowsza felt this was a timely issue for the Board to consider. With the Board's acquiescence he'll draft a letter in support of Representative Hall's proposal.

Selectman Baker indicated he's generally in support of any type of outdoor recreation and feels the Rails to Trails lines in Connecticut have been successful. But he doesn't know what any current landowners have for future plans on that, and, as you illustrated with Crop Production Services, rail transportation for a lot of things is a lot greener option than running trucks on the road, and makes a business viable when it might not be otherwise. Selectman Baker indicated he's not saying he's against it, he's just saying he doesn't know who else is out there that may be contemplating or percolating in their heads that they have this piece of land and maybe they're going to do something with it that would also be a relevant use. He suggested when we think of cars on roads and the amount of pollution that they produce – trains have been proven to be a much greener option. Selectman Baker reiterated he's not against it; he's just being a little



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cautionary about committing to it before he knows what others are doing, or planning, that are landowners along that line.

First Selectman Bowsza suggested before submitting the letter he'll have a conversation with Police Chief DeMarco regarding the use of the rail line as an illegal pathway for ATV activity. If we were to convert it to a Rails to Trails he wants to make sure we're not turning it into a highway for ATVs, and that it's feasible and preventable.

First Selectman Bowsza thanked Representatives Hall and Foster for their discussion this evening.

**F. Tax Refunds:**

**MOTION: To APPROVE Tax Refunds in the amount of \$829.56 as identified under Tax Refund Report dated March 16, 2021.**

**Muska moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None**

**VOTE by rollcall: In Favor: Baker/DeSousa/Muska/Nordell  
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

**10. SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS:**

- A. Jason Bowsza: (See Attachment C)**
- B. Marie DeSousa: (See Attachment D)**
- C. Sarah Muska: (See Attachment E)**
- D. Charlie Nordell: (See Attachment F)**
- E. Alan Baker:**

Selectman Baker indicated the Planning and Zoning Commission is back to busy again; they received 4 applications that they'll be hearing at their next meeting, which is on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Most notable of those 4 is SJK Properties, LLC is back with a new application for a Text Amendment for a Multi-Family Development District. That garnered a lot of public input last time so I expect it will get a lot of interest this time as well.

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They also approved a nail salon, and approved the demolition of a building on Route 5, which allows the building of a new automobile workshop, so those are two new businesses in town, or will be in town soon.

Lastly, Director of Planning Clark Chapin proposed Open Space Ordinance that's also being worked on by the Conservation Commission. They presented it over there to see what input the Planning and Zoning Commission might have, and they gave us some good input that we'll take back as homework to make sure we get a good ordinance together. More to come on that.

I had an interesting intersection of my professional and civic life last week. Both of the Fire Departments are getting rid of firehouse software and going online with new software and they needed help extracting their data from firehouse and putting it into a format that could be input into the new software. So, I did that for both Fire Departments. It was kind of a walk-down memory lane; it was kind of fun.

Selectman Baker reported he also attended the Board of Finance Meeting; he intends to attend the rest of them also as we go through the budget process. He would echo Selectman Nordell's comments; Selectman Baker felt the Board of Selectmen put something good together. Hopefully we'll get some taxpayer input, and hopefully there won't be too many changes.

First Selectman Bowsza thanked Selectman Baker for his assistance with the software issues for the Fire Departments, as he expected both departments time and money.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

First Selectman Bowsza noted this is the second opportunity for the public to speak. No one requested to be acknowledged.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION/Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 1-200 (6)(b) negotiations, (6)(e) discussion of any matter which would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein described in subsection (b) of section 1/210 – Action is possible:**

**MOTION:** To GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:17 p.m. Attending the Executive Session were First Selectman Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Selectman Baker, Selectman Muska, and Selectman Nordell.

**DeSousa moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION:** None  
**VOTE by rolcall:** In Favor: Baker/DeSousa/Muska/Nordell

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Regular Meeting –March 18, 2021  
ZOOM Teleconference  
Meeting ID: 332 683 3563  
MEETING MINUTES**

**(No one opposed/No Abstentions**

LET THE RECORD SHOW the Recording Secretary signed out of the ZOOM Meeting at 8:17 p.m.

First Selectman Bowsza announced the Board has returned from Executive Session at 9:04 p.m. As there are no actions to be made this evening he called for a motion to adjourn.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting at 9:04 p.m.**

**Nordell moved/Baker seconded/DISCUSSION: None**

**VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous**

Respectfully submitted

---

Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A – Letters sent regarding adoption of the Resolution in support of the Federal Equality Act
  - B - POCD Slide Presentation
  - C - Selectman's Report – First Selectman Bowsza
  - D - Selectman's Report – Deputy First Selectman DeSousa
  - E - Selectman's Report - Selectman Muska
  - F - Selectman's Report - Selectman Nordell
- (Selectman Baker's Report is included in the Meeting transcription)

EN - 3/18/2021 Attachment A

## **TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR**

FIRST SELECTMAN JASON E. BOWSZA

March 10, 2021

Honorable John B. Larson  
1501 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Larson,

On March 4, 2021, the East Windsor Board of Selectman unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the federal Equality Act, becoming the fourteenth town in Connecticut to adopt such a resolution.

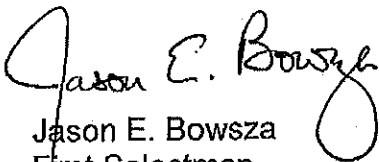
This action, taken on a bipartisan basis, shows the importance placed on equality in our town. Enclosed you will find a copy of the signed resolution to be entered into the Congressional Record, showing our town's support for this legislation.

The Equality Act serves as an important and critical step forward for members of our LGBTQ+ community, as we aim toward the goal fostering a "more perfect union" built on inclusion, equality and understanding of one another.

Your support of the Equality Act will be a meaningful signal to our shared constituents that you stand with them in opposition to discrimination based on sexual persuasion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Jason E. Bowsza  
First Selectman



# **TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR**

FIRST SELECTMAN JASON E. BOWSZA

March 10, 2021

Honorable Chris Murphy  
136 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murphy,

On March 4, 2021, the East Windsor Board of Selectman unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the federal Equality Act, becoming the fourteenth town in Connecticut to adopt such a resolution.

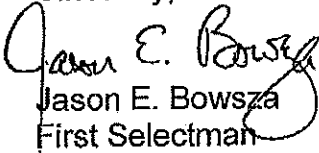
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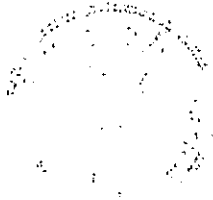
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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Jason E. Bowsza  
First Selectman



# **TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR**

FIRST SELECTMAN JASON E. BOWSZA

March 10, 2021

Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal,

On March 4, 2021, the East Windsor Board of Selectman unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the federal Equality Act, becoming the fourteenth town in Connecticut to adopt such a resolution.

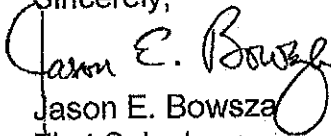
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Your support of the Equality Act will be a meaningful signal to our shared constituents that you stand with them in opposition to discrimination based on sexual persuasion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Jason E. Bowsza  
First Selectman



## TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL EQUALITY ACT

At a meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on March 4, 2021, on a motion by Selectman Sarah Muska and seconded by Deputy First Selectman Marie DeSousa, the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, The Town of East Windsor supports the equality of all its citizens, and;

WHEREAS, the Town of East Windsor is a welcoming inclusive community which supports the rights, freedoms and equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning individuals and;

WHEREAS, the modern history of the LGBTQ+ community started with individuals who took a stand for human rights and dignity at the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 28, 1969, and;

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ individuals in our town have made, and continue to make, vital contributions to every aspect of our community, and;

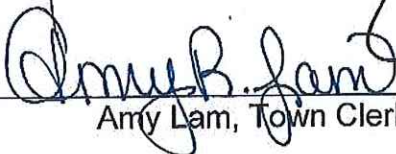
WHEREAS, East Windsor recognizes that LGBTQ + rights are constitutionally protected human rights and all residents of our town, state, and nation should be treated fairly and equally regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Town of East Windsor, Connecticut does hereby endorse the federally proposed Equality Act, and;

Be it further resolved that the First Selectman is hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to our Representatives in the United State Congress.



Jason E. Bowsza, First Selectman



Amy Lam, Town Clerk



ACTION ITEMS																
AC	AHRC	BC	BOE	BOF	BOS	CC	EDC	HPC	IW	NCHD	PR	PW	PZC	WPCA	OTHER	
					X		X						X		TP	
Primary strategy: Preserve More Open Space																
X						X							X			
						X										
						X		X	X				X			
						X										
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# East Windsor, CT Plan of Conservation & Development

Midpoint Check-in

March 2021

# Vision for the Future

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The rural, village, agricultural and business character that define East Windsor must be preserved to keep the Town an attractive place to live, work, and play.

---

Residential and village area development must be carefully guided to ensure compatibility with community character and allow East Windsor to prepare for the impacts of future growth and an aging population.

---

Economic development must be retained and expanded to support the community with services, jobs, and taxes, while remaining sensitive to the community's environment and quality of life.

---

# Primary Strategies

## Conserving Community Resources

- Preserve More Open Space
- Protect Environmental Quality
- Preserve Community Assets: Cultural, Historical, & Agricultural

## Guiding Development Residential and Commercial

- Refine Residential Development Regulations
- Define Village Area Development
- Maintain Housing Diversity
- Restructure Business Zoning
- Improve Municipal Economic Development Capability
- Capacity Building Initiatives
- Marketing Initiatives
- Planning Initiatives for Economic Development
- Development Initiatives

## Meeting Infrastructure Needs

- Address Municipal Facility Needs
- Address other Public Facility Conditions
- Warehouse Point Fire Department
- Ambulance Service
- Broad Brook Fire Department
- Libraries
- Plan for Future School Facility Needs
- Parks and Recreational Facilities
- Improve accessibility throughout town
- Sewers
- Promote Long Term Risk and Resiliency Planning

# Notable Accomplishments

- Open Space/Preserve Community Assets
  - Fee in-lieu-of and purchase of Rye Street and East Road Farmland
- Marketing Initiatives:
  - Real Estate Portfolio – On-line
  - EDC Website
  - Gravel Pit Solar
- Park and Recreation Facilities
  - East Windsor Park Improvements
  - Athletics on Town Properties
- Restructure Business Zoning
  - Warehouse Point Study
  - Route 5 Study



# Implementation Oversight /Facilitation

## Action Item #1

### Create a POCD Implementation Committee [PZC, BOS]

- Committee should include members from various boards and commissions, a member from the Board of Selectmen, the Town Planner and the Town Engineer.
- The checklist in POCD appendix should be utilized to track accomplishments and to remind POCD sponsors of their tasks.
- Regular review of the Regional and State POCD's will help to ascertain compliance and promote harmonious and consistent development goals.

# Halfway Mark Progress

Now is a good time to:

- Establish the Implementation Committee
- Review what has been accomplished (progress at 25%)
- Reassess goals and desires to reflect changing times
- Planning and Development Lead with Reporting to PZC every other month

# Action Items

## Facilitate Primary Strategies

(28 of 97)

- Implementation Oversight
- Preserve More Open Space (1 of 7)
- Protect Environmental Quality (1 of 6)
- Preserve Community Assets: Cultural, Historical, & Agricultural (2 of 4)
- Refine Residential Development Regulations (3 of 7)
- Define Village Area Development (0 of 1)
- Maintain Housing Diversity (2)?
- Restructure Business Zoning (2 of 6)
- Improve Municipal Economic Development Capability (0 of 2)
- Capacity Building Initiatives (0 of 5)
- Marketing Initiatives (4 of 9)
- Planning Initiatives for Economic Development (1 of 6)
- Development Initiatives (1 of 5)
- Address Municipal Facility Needs (IFMP)?
- Address other Public Facility Conditions (5-year CIP)
  - Warehouse Point Fire Department (NA)
  - Ambulance Service (1 of 4)
  - Broad Brook Fire Department
  - Libraries (1 of 2)
- Plan for Future School Facility Needs (status?)
- Parks and Recreational Facilities (4 of 10)?
- Meet Infrastructure Needs (5 of 10)
- Improve accessibility throughout town (0 of 1)
- Sewers (1 of 3)
- Promote Long Term Risk and Resiliency Planning (1 of 5)

# Action Items 2016 POCD



ACTION STEPS		AC	AHRC	BC	BOE	BOF	BOS	CC	EDC	HPC	IW	NCHD	PR	PW	PZC	WPCA	OTHER
<b>Primary Strategy: Preserve Community Assets: Cultural, Historical, and Agricultural</b>																	
Support preservation of historic and cultural assets						X	X	X	X						X		
Preserve agricultural component of East Windsor		X					X								X		
Protect scenic roads, propose a Scenic Road Ordinance to be authorized by the PZC								X	X					X	X		
Continue to develop and establish the scenic loop/driving tour, and develop a brochure with highlights to view and visit		X						X	X	X				X	X		
<b>Primary Strategy: Refine Residential Development Regulations</b>																	
Continue to investigate methods to strengthen incentives for conservation subdivisions, such as set asides, Fee In Lieu of (FIL), conservation easements, and consideration of expanding the sewer service area to accommodate clustered housing.		X						X							X	X	
Continue to develop regulations that promote open space set asides with residential development.		X						X							X		
Develop regulations that guide architectural style, enhancements, and building type for new housing.										X					X		
Perform study to consider increased density of housing units in key locations										X					X		
Review and refine Zoning Regulations to further promote fair and affordable housing.							X								X		GA
Develop regulations to promote the Agricultural component with residential development wherever possible.		X						X	X						X		
Promote a sense of neighborhood and identity							X	X		X					X		
<b>Primary Strategy: Define Village Area Development</b>																	
Develop regulations to promote Village District Zoning and/or Mixed Use Development in key locations									X	X					X		



ACTION STEPS	AC	AHRC	BC	BOE	BOF	BOS	CC	EDC	HPC	IW	NCHD	PR	PW	PZC	WPCA	OTHER
Primary Strategy: Maintain Housing Diversity																
Develop regulations that will allow for mixed use and mixed income housing in key village areas, with focus on Warehouse Point and Broad Brook (See Commercial Development)								X	X					X		
Investigate promoting development of affordable congregate/assisted living and long term care facilities for the elderly, so they may age in place with grace, comfort and dignity						X		X						X		
Primary Strategy: Restructure Business Zoning																
Move forward with development of new regulations for the Route 5 - Proposed Corridor Character Map								X		X				X	X	
Investigate methods to link into the proposed Transit Oriented Development in Windsor Locks								X	X					X		WL
Move forward with planning and development of Warehouse Point Village with a Village Zone and tie into Transit Oriented Development								X						X		WL
Consider effectiveness of the existing TZ-5 zone along Route 5								X			X			X		
Investigate feasibility of bringing public water and sewer service to this area. (Rail)											X			X	X	CT H20
Clarify whether this Industrial area should be minimized or expanded.								X						X		
Primary Strategy: Improve Municipal Economic Development Capability																
Consider new approaches for Commercial Development								X		X				X		
Develop a Town Wide Infrastructure Improvement Plan								X		X			X	X	X	



ACTION STEPS	AC	AHRC	BC	BOE	BOF	BOS	CC	EDC	HPC	IW	NCHD	PR	PW	PZC	WPCA	OTHER
<b>Primary Strategy: Capacity Building Initiatives</b>																
Economic Development Team Building and Training						X		X						X		
Continue to revise and implement recommendations of the Economic Development Action Agenda developed with the 2004 POCD						X		X						X		
Participate in and promote Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.						X		X						X		
Prepare written Economic Development Incentive Policy.						X		X						X		
Work with local businesses to establish a Small Business Development Center.						X		X						X		EW, COC
<b>Primary Strategy: Marketing Initiatives</b>																
Update and continuously maintain Town EDC webpage or consider creating separate website								X								
Consider implementing tax incentives for new businesses.					X	X		X								
Continue to include available commercial properties for sale or lease in the CERC Sitefinder Inventory [EDC]								X								
Continue to support HPC and development of villages as an integral part of Economic Development								X	X					X		
Support Agricultural Commission and farming as an integral component of Economic Development	X						X	X						X		
Continue to participate in and utilize resources from Metro Hartford Alliance (MHA) and other Marketing, Promotions, and Economic Development Programs								X								TP
Improve contact with existing businesses						X		X								TP
Create a DVD of East Windsor highlighting community assets						X		X								TP
Create a Town sponsored Tourism website or webpage and map which should include Historical, Recreational, and Agricultural Assets in East Windsor. Seek grants, and/or local business support.	X						X	X	X							TP



ACTION STEPS	AC	AHRC	BC	BOE	BOF	BOS	CC	EDC	HPC	IW	NCHD	PR	PW	PZC	WPCA	OTHER
<b>Primary Strategy: Planning Initiatives for Economic Development</b>																
Restructure Zoning Permit and Application fees								X						X		TP/BO
Consider revising sign regulations to benefit businesses								X						X		TP
Support Village and/or TOD Zoning District and Regulations Amendments (specifically for Broad Brook and Warehouse Point)								X	X					X		
Support further definition and development of Village Areas								X	X					X		
Create Plan of Conservation Development								X						X		TP
Implement Committee to meet quarterly								X						X		
Investigate potential development of town property known as "Kogut property" for new town school and/or other municipal uses.				X	X	X		X		X				X		
<b>Primary Strategy: Development Initiatives</b>																
Assure re-use of Broad Brook Mill						X		X	X					X		
Strongly consider taking custody of the Connecticut Children's Place in Warehouse Point and/or the US Army Recruitment Center on Phelps Road for Municipal purposes, should they become available and offered to the town.					X	X		X						X		
Initiate and promote Speculative Building Development whenever possible – shovel ready projects						X		X						X		
Continue to work with State Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) and CRCOG as the traffic study on Route 5 is performed to improve traffic conditions and accommodate growth.						X		X						X		PD
Continue to request money to be set aside in the annual budget for matching funds for grants.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	TP
<b>Primary Strategy: Address Municipal Facility Needs</b>																
Improve and expand current facilities- Development an Integral Municipal Facilities Program (IMFP) for our active and growing community.			X	X	X	X							X	X		



ACTION STEPS	AC	AHRC	BC	BOE	BOF	BOS	CC	EDC	HPC	IW	NCHD	PR	PW	PZC	WPCA	OTHER
<b>Primary Strategy: Address other public facility conditions</b>																
<b>Public Safety: Police, Fire, and Ambulance</b>																
Provide for upgrade and maintenance of public safety facilities and associated equipment.			X		X	X							X			PD
Analyze Current and Future Public Safety Facility Needs			X		X	X							X			PD
<b>Warehouse Point Fire Department (WHPFD)</b>																
Remove underground 1000 gallon oil tank at the Bridge Street Fire Station.																WHPFD
Replace a section of leaking roof at the Bridge Street Fire Station.																WHPFD
Replace/fix broken asphalt parking lot at Bridge Street Fire Station.																WHPFD
Replace the 1969 Ford brush truck with a new utility vehicle equipped with a 300 gallon brush unit for off road fires and rescues.																WHPFD
Update firefighters protective equipment and clothing.																WHPFD
Replace 1990 engine pumper which has currently reached its operating expectancy.																WHPFD
<b>Ambulance Service</b>																
Seek funding sources to add an ambulance substation to the Broad Brook section of the community to improve response time for those in Broad Brook, Windsorville, and Melrose.																AS
Seek funding through grants, donations, or Town to update or replace the ambulance facility in Warehouse Point to include a training center, sleeping facilities, office space, and adequate storage for equipment and vehicles.																AS
Updated Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) should be purchased for all town facilities, police vehicles, fire apparatus and ambulances. Many of the AED's used in the community are extremely outdated.																AS
Seek additional funding to the ambulance association to purchase new heart monitors, replacement vehicles, and other advanced equipment.																AS



ACTION STEPS	AC	AHRC	BC	BOE	BOS	CC	EDC	HPC	IM	NCHD	PR	PW	PZC	WPCA	OTHER
<b>Broad Brook Fire Department</b>															
Seek funding to pay full-time staff and firefighters during the day.															BBFD
Maintain a 30-year equipment rotation schedule															BBFD
Seek funding to support ipads for all vehicles and operators for quick, easy access to data and communications															BBFD
Continue to use FLEET EYES software and maintain active GIS data layers such as hydrant locations.															BBFD
Continue to seek funding opportunities through grants, such as for recruitment and retention of volunteers, new vehicles, and equipment															BBFD
Establish a Windsorville Fire Station, as the Windsorville area falls outside of the standard 2.5-mile radius of coverage from any station.															BBFD
<b>Libraries</b>															
Continue Support for East Windsor's Public Libraries															L
Evaluate School Street Facility ("The Annex") as a Satellite Town Office			X	X	X							X	X		
<b>Schools</b>															
<b>Primary Strategy: Plan for Future School Facility Needs</b>															
Upgrade and maintain all district buildings to promote an attractive, safe and accessible learning environment for all East Windsor students.				X											
Evaluate the trends in student population for use in building and budget preparation				X								X			
Coordinate and Integrate School and Municipal Facility Planning				X	X										
Evaluate the need and feasibility for a new school campus.				X	X								X		



ACTION STEPS		AC	AHRC	BC	BOE	BOF	BOS	CC	EDC	HPC	IW	NCHD	PR	PW	PZC	WPCA	OTHER
<b>Parks and Recreational Facilities</b>																	
Continue to provide Adequate Facilities for Parks and Recreation													X				
Accomplish improvements at East Windsor Park						X	X						X				
Make Broad Brook Pond more attractive and user friendly											X		X		X		
Seek to develop more boat access points to both the Scantic and Connecticut Rivers			X				X	X					X		X		
Develop more passive walking trails throughout town that could feasibly be used for cross country, skiing and snow shoeing in the winter								X			X		X		X		
Seek property to establish a community center, with potential to add a swimming pool, and a multi-use indoor facility. (Consider the Cinema site as a possibility)						X	X						X				
Continue to Develop specific facility and program needs assessment for indoor programs and additional athletic fields. Provide assessment for incorporation in the Integrated Municipal Facilities Program and for future program and capital budget planning.													X				
Monitor Town planning for open space acquisition to incorporate passive recreational designs such as greenway paths wherever possible and identify potential multiple use opportunities													X				
Continue to seek grants and utilize volunteers such as Scouts.		X	X					X		X			X				
Continue to coordinate the use of athletic facilities and fields with the East Windsor School System					X								X				



ACTION STEPS	AC	AHRC	BC	BOE	BOF	BOS	CC	EDC	HPC	IW	NCHD	PR	PW	PZC	WPCA	OTHER
<b>Primary Strategy: Meet Infrastructure Needs</b>																
Manage the Town Road System/Adopt a Road Classification system (MAP)													X	X		TP
Continue to implement pavement management program, as adopted in 2012													X	X		TP
Revise Street design standards consistent with residential development goals of this POCD to reduce environmental and aesthetic impacts of new development, such as implementing and requiring green infrastructure													X	X		TP
Adopt standards for new road storm drainage that allows and encourages the use of drainage swales and infiltration systems where feasible													X	X		TP
Continue drainage system improvement of intersections on collector roads. Such as intersections of Route 140 and Winkler Road, and Windsorville and Apothecaries Roads.													X	X		TP
Maintain proper salt storage structure, enlarge raw salt storage shed													X	X		TP
Budget and schedule for regular street sweeping and catch basin cleaning													X	X		
Monitor Public Utility Capabilities								X					X	X		
Plan for Future School Facility Needs				X	X	X							X	X	X	
Maintain Municipal Signage						X							X			TP
<b>Transportation</b>																
<b>Primary Strategy: Improve accessibility throughout town</b>																
Promote Bike and Pedestrian Friendly development in town						X	X				X	X	X	X		
<b>Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) - Sewers</b>																
Increase user base and connections to the Sewer System in order to allow the plant to be more efficient and cost effective														X	X	
Promote connections to increase use and effectiveness of plant															X	
Continue to maintain plant and infrastructure for full functionality															X	

ACTION STEPS	AC	AHRC	BC	BOE	BOF	BOS	CC	EDC	HPC	IW	NCHD	PR	PW	PZC	WPCA	OTHER
<b>Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management</b>																
<b>Primary Strategy: Promote Long Term Risk and Resiliency Planning</b>																
Protect environmental quality and improve infrastructure							X						X	X		
Protect the town from natural and other disasters						X				X			X	X		PD
Promote More Recycling Initiatives						X	X						X			TP
Promote Solar Power/Renewable Energy, and reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Town							X	X		X				X		
Promote Farm to table programs for schools and businesses	X			X			X									
Create a POCD Implementation Committee						X								X		



*BOS 3/18/2021 Attachment C*

First Selectmen's Report – March 18, 2021

As many of you heard, the Governor announced today that a deal had been struck with MMCT concerning sports betting and iGaming in Connecticut. One of the conditions of that deal was the indefinite suspension of construction of a casino in East Windsor.

Now that this is officially off the table, it is important to focus on revenue growth in East Windsor. The state has an obligation to compensate East Windsor for the \$3 million per year that we stood to gain from this project, and a portion of the nearly \$80 million the state stands to gain from this needs to be allocated for local support. To that end, I've had extensive conversations with our legislators and with municipal CEOs in surrounding communities to advocate for exactly that.

Beyond that, we cannot allow a parcel with that much potential to be locked up and undevelopable for ten years. The tribes should IMMEDIATELY make clear their willingness to sell it and provide commercial development to take place. I've stressed this point to Chairman Butler as well.

On the 11<sup>th</sup>, Senator Anwar, Representative Foster and I met with residents of the School Hill neighborhood in town to talk about remedies that may be available to them for contaminants in a community well. The well services more than thirty homes, and eighty-seven people, and they are afflicted by a common contaminant in the area – nitrates. We are working with the residents and with Connecticut Water to submit a DPH Revolving Fund grant application to help remedy the situation. We're looking into a similar remedy to extend water down Plantation Road.

On the 17<sup>th</sup>, I presented the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation to the Board of Finance. Our budget is requesting an increase of 0.11% over last year's budget, or an additional \$18,500. Highlights include the establishment of a mental health team within the police department and supported by Community Services, the Youth Services Bureau and the school district; additional consultation funding to help with grant funding and economic development; funding for a cyber security audit; and additional funding to help with inspection work in anticipation of enhanced economic activity in the next year. The mental health team is particularly exciting. It is an out-of-the-box means of complying with last year's Police Accountability Bill that requires social workers integration into police response. We think our approach could be a model for other departments across the state, and on March 10<sup>th</sup> we met with Commissioner Rovella of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to share the idea. The commissioner was so impressed, he had a follow-up meeting scheduled for this week to share the concept with POST-C.

The Town is working on securing certification through Sustainable CT, an initiative being led by our new Town Planner Clark Chapin. Certification would allow the town to receive \$ for \$1 matching grants for qualifying projects, up to \$20,000 per project. Community Services already has our first project identified: a mural right off the exit 45 offramp. The project will focus on the five villages and the specific means of commemoration will be solicited from the community, and then the community will have an opportunity to come and help paint it. Once completed, it will be the largest such project in New England.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason E. Bowsza  
First Selectman



*BoS 3/18/2021 Attachment D*

March 18, 2021

Deputy First Selectman's Liaison Report

Only two more days to Spring! I am looking forward to warm weather and the opening of various venues that have been closed. Wishing everyone a safe and healthy Spring!

**March 8, 2021** – The Park and Recreation Commission held their meeting via zoom which I participated in. The Park projects updates were given. East Windsor Park has gained ½ mile of usable land with the necessary removal of trees. On Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> a meeting was held with the landscape architect to discuss the walking trails, benches and plantings. The framing of the Band Shell was started on the 10<sup>th</sup> and should not take long to complete. They are looking to put driveway aprons on the Dog Park, Skate Park and Community Gardens.

Outdoor programming is being planned for the upcoming season contingent upon Executive Orders and guidelines. In lieu of the traditional Easter Bunny Breakfast a Bunny Scavenger hunt will take place instead. See the Park and Recreation Website for details.

**March 15, 2021** – The BBFD Commission held a meeting via zoom which I attended briefly as they went into Executive Session. Chief Arcari stated in his report that they had 73 calls and training on line is being done. Discussion of the upcoming budget presentation on 3/24/21 to the BOF took place. It was noted that on April 6, 2021 the Department will be 125 years old.

**March 17, 2021** – I attended via zoom the Board of Finance meeting therefore, I was unable to attend the East Windsor Housing Authority meeting. The most notable agenda item was the presentation for the installation of Solar Panels on the Community Hall roof.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie E. DeSousa, Deputy First Selectman

*Box 3/18/2021 Attachment E*

Selectmen's Report - March 18th, 2021

On March 10th, 2021 the Board of Education met via Zoom. Middle School Principal Timothy Field and Library Media Specialist Jessica Fisher gave a school report, focusing on the 2020-2021 Library Program. During Read Across America Week, there were ninety books taken out of the library by students at the Middle School! Mrs. Fisher has implemented a Library On Wheels mobile cart where students can have their requested books delivered to their classroom or be available for meal pick-up for students who are fully remote. School Resource Officer Laura Devlin will soon be giving a talk to students in regards to cyberbullying and social media.

Superintendent Dr. Christine DeBarge noted that East Windsor could receive \$1.7 million-\$2.5 million of COVID relief funds, since the recent passing of the American Rescue Plan Act at the Federal level.

Dr. DeBarge also reported that tentative plans are being made for Summer School for all grade levels and the goal is to run the program for a month immediately following the Fourth of July.

Two hundred and ten people, mostly consisting of our own School staff, were vaccinated on March 5th, with the second dose of shots to be administered on April 6th. Discussions have started about bringing students back into the building five days a week and a survey will go out to parents of students who are fully remote to see their plans about bringing their child(ren) back to school.

The Veterans Commission met on March 11th, 2021 and there are plans to hold a Memorial Day parade this year. More details will follow soon.

Last night, the Board of Finance received FY 2021-2022 Budget Presentations from the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education. The Town's budget totals: \$16,606,573, which is a 0.11% increase over the current fiscal year. The BOE Budget comes in at: \$25,417,365, which is \$717,365 over the current year and a 2.9% increase. The Board of Finance will hold a Public Hearing and their first Budget Workshop at 7:00PM on March 24th, 2021.

Finance Director Amy O'Toole indicated that the Town has collected 96.4% of the budgeted 98.5% of taxes for this fiscal year and we have received half of our Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding to date, with the other half expected in May.

Submitted With Sincerity,

Sarah A. Muska, Selectman

*BOV 3/18/2021 Attachment F*

Selectman Nordell's Report 3/18/2021

On Tuesday March 9th I attended the Planning and Zoning meeting which Alan Baker will report on.

On Wednesday March 10th I attended the Police Commission meeting. The Police Department was preparing for their first Teir 1 hearing for the Police Accountability Bill and is confident they will be found in good standing.

On Wednesday March 17th I attended the BOF meeting which Sarah Muska reported on. I think the Board of Selectmen presented a frugal comprehensive budget for the fiscal year 21/22. I am hopeful the BOF makes no adjustments to this budget without first seeing how the town reacts on the first budget referendum.

On Friday March 19th, at 7pm, the PTO and Dave Mosher will present a family fun Trivia Night. The event will be held via zoom and the game will be played through the Kahoot app. You can go to the East Windsor PTO's facebook page for more information.

On March 22nd the WHPFD Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting an Easter Riddle and Puzzle Solving fundraiser. See the WHPFD facebook page for more details on how to participate.