

# TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, ~~April 17, 2019~~ April 18, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting Room  
11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT. 06016

### **REVISED Meeting Minutes**

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

#### **Board of Selectmen:**

Robert Maynard, First Selectman  
Steve Dearborn, Deputy First Selectman  
Jason E. Bowsza, Selectman  
Andy Hoffman, Selectman  
Charles J. Szymanski, Selectman

**ATTENDANCE:** **Board of Selectmen:** Robert Maynard, First Selectman; Steve Dearborn, Deputy First Selectman; Jason E. Bowsza, Selectman; Charles J. Szymanski, Selectman.

**ABSENT:** Andy Hoffman, Selectman.

**SPEAKERS/GUESTS:** **Public:** Paul Anderson, Ed Filipone, Bob Leach, Bill Loos, Sarah Muska, Dick Pippin, Kathy Pippin, Cathy Simonelli, Elizabeth Tarlatian.

**Press:** No one from the Press was present.

#### **TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETING:**

First Selectman Maynard called the Meeting to Order at 7:02 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Everyone present stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

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**MOTION:** To ADD under NEW BUSINESS, Item E. Approval of Administrative Services Agreement.

**Maynard moved/Dearborn seconded/DISCUSSION:** None.

**VOTE:** In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Szymanski)

**ATTENDANCE:** See page 1.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES/Regular Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2019:**

**MOTION:** To APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting dated April 4, 2019 as presented.

**Maynard moved/Szymanski seconded/DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Szymanski)  
(No one opposed/No abstentions)

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

**Elizabeth Tarlatian, 123 Main Street:** Ms. Tarlatian wanted to speak about the Mill. She understands everything there is contaminated, and she understands you guys are planning to move it from one place to another, and she kind of feels like that's a bad idea because it's still contaminated and moving it from one place to another isn't really going to change it. The ground and the water, it will just keep seeping in. And even moving it will decrease it, Ms. Tarlatian feels like it's still going under there; it's all contaminated. Ms. Tarlatian would like it removed.

First Selectman Maynard suggested if Ms. Tarlatian can stay for the rest of the meeting the Board will be talking about the Broad Brook Mill under UNFINISHED BUSINESS. First Selectman Maynard reported he has information about the Mill, and, basically, other people agree with you. Things are changing.

Selectman Bowsza thanked Ms. Tarlatian for her willingness to stand up and share her thoughts in a public forum. He noted there's been a lot of effort over the last two years to clean that site up, in one way or another. If we get it to the point where it's clean, whether that would be to store the contaminated soils or remove them entirely off the site, what would you like to see happen there? Ms. Tarlatian suggested something that would be nice there would be a public place for everybody. She noted we have the schools but to have just a spot where everybody could go to would be nice.

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Selectman Szymanski cited the Board was in agreement with Ms. Tarlatian, and have been from the very start of this thing. So, you'll see tonight what Mr. Maynard will say about what our progress is.

Deputy First Selectman Dearborn agreed 100%.

**Paul Anderson, 89 Main Street:** Mr. Anderson questioned what was happening with the property the Town owns on Woolam Road? Mr. Anderson thought the Town was unloading the property for \$1; what are we doing with it?

First Selectman Maynard reported the property will be sold in a few days. When the sale was originally transacted the title wasn't clear.

Mr. Anderson reported Elizabeth is here tonight because she came to the Broad Brook Library about the Mill. Mr. Anderson convinced her to come to the meeting tonight and give her comments during **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**.

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS/A.**

**Resignations:** None.

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS/B**

**Reappointments:** Mary Morgan (R), Veterans Commission, Alternate Member for a term expiring February 1, 2023:

First Selectman Maynard noted the Board had reappointed Mary Morgan at the previous meeting but had not included a term of service; the reappointment tonight is to include the term.

**MOTION: To REAPPOINT Mary Morgan (R), as an Alternate Member of the Veterans Commission for a term expiring February 1, 2023.**

**Maynard moved/Dearborn seconded/DISCUSSION:** None.

**VOTE: In Favor: Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Szymanski**  
**(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS/C. New**

**Appointments:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/A. Broad Brook Mill Discussion:**

First Selectman Maynard referenced a report provided by Selectman Hoffman regarding an update of the progress between the Broad Brook Mill Remediation Committee and UTC (**See Attachment A**). First Selectman Maynard noted that Collins Aerospace is now involved with the Mill site. First Selectman Maynard read Selectman Hoffman's report for the audience.



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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/B. Discussion of Charter Revision:**

First Selectman Maynard reminded everyone that the Charter Revision Commission is holding a Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> to take public comment on the draft revisions. He noted a draft documents is available on the Town website; Bill Loos noted copies of the document should be available in the Town Clerk's Office. Selectman Szymanski noted the document is a draft for discussion. First Selectman Maynard suggested the language in the document shouldn't be taken as the finalized changes; it's a straw document for discussion.

First Selectman Maynard noted the Charter Revision Commission will open their Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m., and then recess that meeting to open the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/C. Casino:**

First Selectman Maynard reported he hasn't visited the casino site recently but people are telling him the homes are being demolished. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn noted the homes are down.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/D. Discussion of Hartford Foundation's Greater Together Community Funds:**

No discussion this evening.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/E. Clean Up East Windsor – April 20, 2019:**

First Selectman Maynard noted this Saturday a number of people will be going through town and cleaning up debris. This event was organized by Erica Giroux and Michael Yost. First Selectman Maynard reported he is part of a group of people who will be cleaning up along Newberry Road.

Deputy First Selectman Dearborn questioned if staff from DPW will go through and pick up the bags of debris? First Selectman Maynard indicated he had spoken to Len Norton (Director of DPW) who indicated he could send out a driver and assistant on Monday. First Selectman Maynard noted other people may be picking up the bags of debris and taking them to USA Hauling.

Discussion followed regarding the cost of sending out a crew on the weekend. First Selectman Maynard noted the recent budget deliberations. The Town doesn't have a lot of money to spend; he hasn't the money in the First Selectmen's budget. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn indicated he'll call Mr. Norton tomorrow. If Mr. Norton will send out a crew on Saturday Deputy First Selectman Dearborn will cover the cost of the staff payroll.

**NEW BUSINESS/A. Warehouse Point Study:**



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First Selectman Maynard referenced plans submitted by LADA, P.C., Land Planners, regarding updated information related to the Warehouse Point Study. The documents include:

- Warehouse Point – Amenities & Development Opportunities Aerial, Map #2.2
- Soils, Wetlands and Flood Limits Aerial, Map #4.6
- Existing Uses Aerial, Map #4.7
- Warehouse Point POCD Master Plan Aerial, Map #2.1

First Selectman Maynard reported Map #4.6 references the 100 Year Flood Zone, and the 500 Year Flood Zone. He noted that most of the Warehouse Point business area was flood during the 1938 hurricane. First Selectman Maynard reported that Map #4.7 is also associated with a database which provides property information for parcels located within the study area.

*(See Attachments B through E).*

### **NEW BUSINESS/B. Discussion of Resolution Adopting the Capital Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2019-2024:**

First Selectman Maynard read the Resolution, *(See Attachment F)*. The Plan as proposed is for adoption by 38 towns, including East Windsor.

**MOTION: To APPROVE the Resolution adopting the 2019-2024 Capitol Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update as presented.**

**Maynard moved/Dearborn seconded/DISCUSSION:** Selectman Bowsza questioned if the Town has put in for any reimbursements from FEMA? Deputy First Selectman Dearborn recalled the Town hired Holden and Botticello to clean up debris from an October snowstorm a couple of years ago. Selectman Bowsza questioned if there had been any FEMA related catastrophes since 2014? Paul Anderson, Chairman of the Water Pollution Control Authority, indicated the WPCA had received reimbursement for water damage since 2014; he didn't recall the specifics but the records are available in the WPCA's Office. Selectman Bowsza questioned if full, or partial, reimbursement was received; is the Town on the hook for any of the costs? Mr. Anderson didn't have that information available.

First Selectman Maynard noted a representative from CRCOG could attend the Board's next meeting to give a presentation which may address Selectman Bowsza's questions; the Board could delay approval/adoption of this plan until the next BOS Meeting. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn cited concern for the rain predicted for this weekend, and the current rising level of the Connecticut River. He felt the Board shouldn't delay approving this plan. He cited the river isn't that far from South Water Street now. Selectman Szymanski agreed with Selectman Dearborn.

**VOTE: In Favor: Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Szymanski**  
**(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

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**NEW BUSINESS/C. Beautification Committee:**

First Selectman Maynard noted forms are available on the table for anyone who would like to volunteer for the Beautification Committee. The Committee can consist of nine members. First Selectman Maynard noted Republican Town Committee Chairman Leach is present in the audience tonight; he will notify the Democratic Town Committee Chairman tomorrow regarding putting appointments forward. First Selectman Maynard suggested some of the people involved in the Clean Up East Windsor Committee may want to join the Beautification Committee as well; Selectman Szymanski reported he has been approached by two people who would like to be included also.

Selectman Bowsza questioned if this Committee has been given a charge? First Selectman Maynard will research discussions at previous BOS Meetings. Selectman Bowsza requested the Committee's charge be included in the next BOS Agenda.

Mr. Anderson questioned if the Committee will have an age requirement? Selectman Szymanski felt anyone could participate. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn suggested that when the Committee gets going his company will donate mulch at no charge.

**NEW BUSINESS/D. Approval of Tax Refunds:**

**MOTION: To APPROVE Tax Refunds in the amount of \$275.70 as identified under Tax Refund Report dated April 15, 2019.**

**Bowsza moved/Dearborn seconded/DISCUSSION: None**

**VOTE: In Favor: Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Szymanski  
(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

**NEW BUSINESS/E. Approval of Administrative Services Agreement:**

First Selectman Maynard noted that when the Board approved the Resolutions at the last meeting regarding the employee retirement accounts the Clerical plan included two members who were vested for three years while the other members were vested for five years so consequently a separate 401 account had to be created for each group. The Board needs to approve the accounts as designated tonight.

**MOTION: To AUTHORIZE the First Selectman to sign the Administrative Services Agreement between ICMA Retirement Corporation and the Town of East Windsor for 401(a) Account #100027 and 401(a) for Account 100037, and 457 for Account 300245.**

**Bowsza moved/Szymanski seconded/DISCUSSION: None.**

**VOTE: In Favor: Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Szymanski  
(No one opposed/No abstentions)**



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**PLEASE NOTE**, Resolutions related to this Agreement were included as Attachments to the April 4<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen Minutes.

**SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/A. Andy Hoffman:**

No report this evening; Selectman Hoffman is absent.

**SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/B. Jason E. Bowsza**

**See Attachment G** for Selectman Bowsza's report.

In addition, later in the Meeting Selectman Bowsza also noted that Abby's Walk will be held at Reservoir Park on April 27<sup>th</sup>. He suggested typically 600 plus people come out to support that organization.

**SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/C. Charles J. Szymanski:**

Selectman Szymanski noted the Board hasn't seen the Fire Marshal's Report in a couple of months, and the last report the Board did receive wasn't up to the specifications that was agreed to by the Fire Marshal a year ago; he would like an update on the status of the Fire Marshal's Reports.

Selectman Szymanski also questioned if the Town is responsible for fire inspections of the churches in Town. He noted seeing the Notre Dame Cathedral burn was devastating and personally upsetting to him. He noted he doesn't know how that works; is the Town responsible for doing fire inspections in the churches? He noted they're places of congregation, and there are a number of them in Town. The two newest churches in Town are what was the Grace Episcopal Church, which is about 100 years old, and St. Philip's, which is probably 60 years old. He felt this was something we should do quickly to put that fear out of people's minds; he felt in good conscious we should do that. Selectman Szymanski requested First Selectman Maynard check with the Fire Marshal on that.

First Selectman Maynard agreed, and also noted he would take responsibility for the status of the Fire Marshal's Reports; he suggested Selectman Szymanski visit his office for an update.

**SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/D. Steve Dearborn:**

Deputy First Selectman Dearborn noted that after the fire at Notre Dame there was a guy that was a copycat who intended to burn down another large church; he had cans of gas and was ready to go. Selectman Szymanski noted that incident involved St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

Deputy First Selectman Dearborn reported that Jim Stremper was going to have his horses over at the Community Garden on Saturday for plow day but that's been cancelled because of the



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inclement weather. He suggested they may reschedule the event. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn suggested it's a neat event. He attended another event where this old man they call Mr. Plow walks behind the plow like they did in the old days. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn indicated he was privileged to be allowed to do that by the gentleman. He suggested it's a neat thing to do to watch how they did that back in the day. Selectman Szymanski agreed, noting it's not an easy thing to do.

### **SELECTMEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS/E. Robert Maynard:**

First Selectman Maynard referenced Selectman Bowsza's comments about the budget during his Selectman's Report. First Selectman Maynard suggested the Board of Selectmen worked very hard on the budget and gave the Board of Finance a budget that he felt was very fair; they went through department by department and held the increases down. First Selectman Maynard felt the Town side of the budget was very good; the Board of Selectmen sent the Town side of the budget to the Board of Finance at a 3.45% increase; if that's what the Town needs that's what they should vote on. The Board of Finance increased it slightly. First Selectman Maynard noted that since he's been here he's seen the Board of Selectmen give the Board of Finance a budget that they felt the Town needed and the Board of Finance cuts them. But this time the Board of Finance increased it, but not significantly. First Selectman Maynard felt the Board of Selectmen did a good job and the Board of Finance confirmed that the Board of Selectmen did a good job because the Board of Finance didn't change very much. First Selectman Maynard felt it's a very fair budget; he felt that the Town needs that, and if Selectman Bowsza was saying the budget is high it certainly has nothing to do with the Town or the Board of Selectmen; it has to do with the other fundings that are needed in the Town.

Selectman Bowsza indicated he felt starting the process earlier with particular targets - perhaps that may be something for the Board of Finance to assign to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education - with recognition of what the goal for the budget is. Selectman Bowsza indicated he thought starting with how much money you have to spend before thinking about what you're going to spend it on... Selectman Bowsza indicated he thought it gets back to that Revenue conversation, to understand what the appetite of the Board of Finance is in terms of a spending or tax increase and then apportioning out the available funding between the different aspects of the Town government and the Board of Education and figure out how to spend it. Selectman Bowsza felt the system is inverted; we put out what we need to spend and determine if we can tax enough to cover that. Selectman Bowsza indicated he thought there's a demonstrated history in the community of at least attempting to invert that might yield greater support.

First Selectman Maynard indicated that his point was that when Selectman Bowsza spoke it sounded like he was actually saying that it was a bad budget and that the taxpayers shouldn't support it; it's a good budget. First Selectman Maynard indicated that's not the impression he wanted to give at all. Selectman Bowsza indicated what he was trying to relay was that at the

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end of the day the numbers are just too high. First Selectman Maynard felt by Selectman Bowsza saying that the numbers are too high, it isn't the Town's numbers. First Selectman Maynard noted that Selectman Bowsza always seemed to support the schools. Selectman Bowsza concurred, but suggested he believed there's an equal agreement of balance in terms of what our spending..., it's a policy document, right? So it's equilibrium of what we ought to be spending on and what the willingness of the community to support it is. Selectman Bowsza suggested he didn't think the Board of Finance has found it either but he thought they're closer than what they were given. Selectman Bowsza suggested he thought that a kind of re-examination of the way that we go about doing that would be helpful.

Selectman Szymanski indicated he agreed with Selectman Bowsza; he thought the same thing from his background. Selectman Szymanski noted he did ask the Treasurer what the expected Revenue would be while they were doing the budget review but she indicated that she wouldn't know that number for some time. Selectman Szymanski reiterated the Board couldn't get anything for the Revenue figure. First Selectman Maynard suggested it was pretty much like last year; a \$500,000 increase because of the Pilot money that we got so that was a good thing. Selectman Szymanski reiterated the Treasurer didn't have a number at that point. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn raised a quick question - the school system wanted \$2 million over the previous year, where are they right now? First Selectman Maynard noted he didn't bring the budget document to the Meeting tonight; it was finalized last night. The information requested by Deputy First Selectman Dearborn was not available.

### **SIGNATURES FOR APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTERS:**

The Selectmen reviewed the registers presented and took appropriate action.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION/Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 1-200 (6-a), Sec. 1-210 (b-1) (b-4)** **Employment, Litigation and Negotiations – Action is possible:**

No Executive Session this evening.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting at 7:55 p.m.**

**Bowsza moved Dearborn seconded/DISCUSSION: None**

**VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Bowsza/Szymanski)**

Respectfully submitted

  
Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen

See next page for Attachments.

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- Attachment A: Broad Brook Mill Report submitted by Selectman Hoffman
- Attachment B: Warehouse Point – Amenities & Development Opportunities Aerial, Map #2.2
- Attachment C: Soils, Wetlands and Flood Limits Aerial, Map #4.6
- Attachment D: Existing Uses Aerial, Map #4.7
- Attachment E: Warehouse Point POCD Master Plan Aerial, Map #2.1
- Attachment F: Resolution Adopting the Capital Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2019-2024
- Attachment G: Selectman Bowsza's Report



*BN 4/8/2019 Attachment A*

April 14, 2019

Note to: Jessica Bottomley

cc: K Montstream  
L. Norton  
R. Stanley  
T. Talamini  
K. Yagaloff  
R. Maynard – First Selectman  
Chris Davis – State Representative  
Bill Penn - UTC

Subject: Telephone Call with Martin D'Eramo

This note covers the content of a telephone call about progress that has been made recently in reference to the Broad Brook Mill site remediation and mill restoration. The following are the points covered:

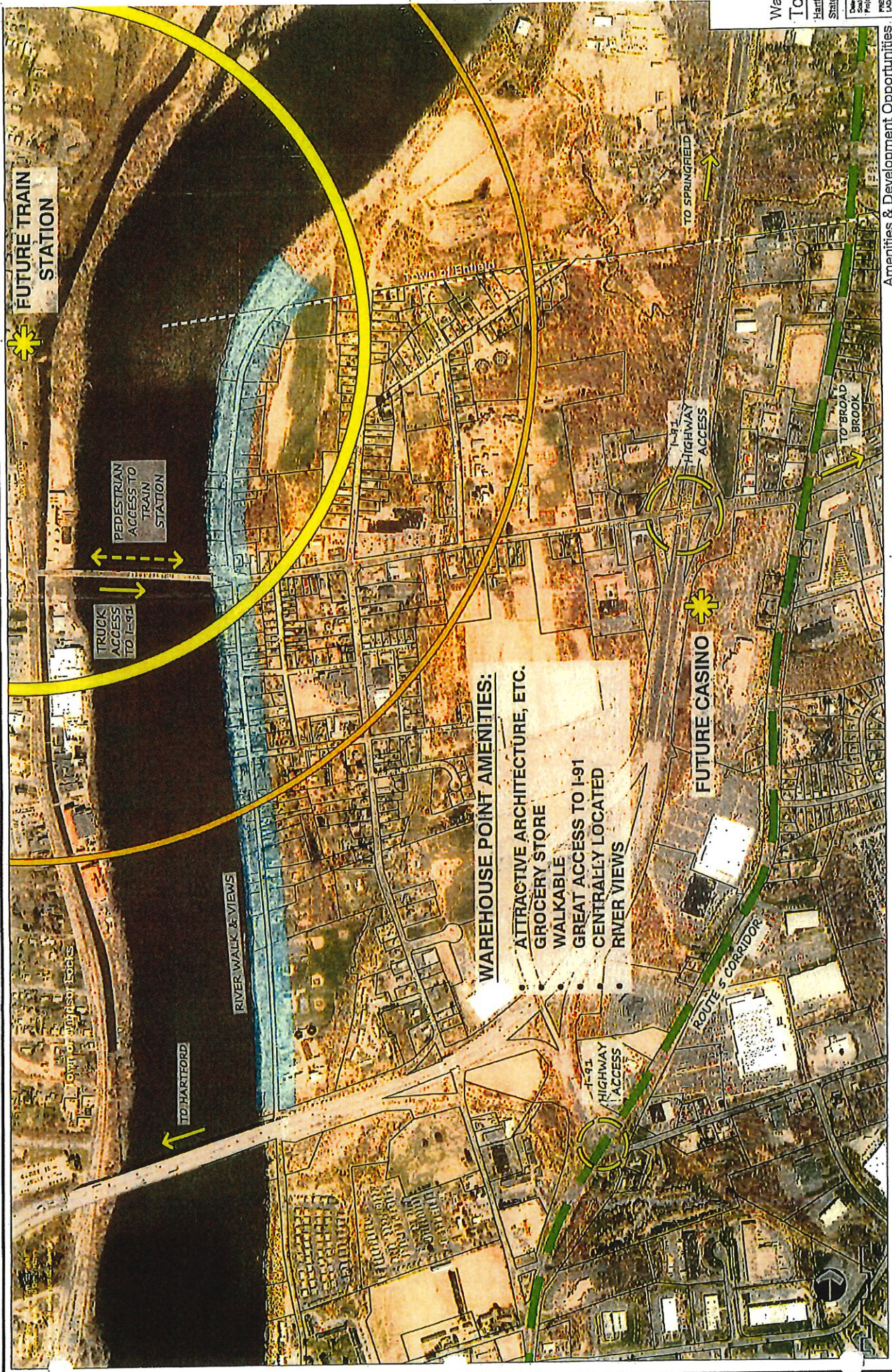
- Gail Baker, President of the Collins Aerospace Windsor site, has agreed to fund the removal of the "consolidation pile" and clear/clean Building 11 once a developer is found. Collins wants to give the site away.
- Collins has placed a commercial real estate company on contract to seek a developer.
- The company is preparing plans to obtain a demolition permit to remove the powerhouse and garages.
- Collins has obtained a list of potential brownfield redevelopment companies from the Connecticut DECD. Martin was a little disappointed that the list contained four names not the 10 to 12 that DECD had previously stated.
- Collins is looking into brownfield funding for mill remediation. The undersigned offered to help based on information supplied by Representative Davis. Martin stated that the town may be able to help after a plan is developed.
- He thought that working group meetings may be able to start in May.

Martin was upbeat. He felt that real progress was made in the last week. He is anxious to get working level group meetings started. Additionally he stated that the acquisition of a commercial real estate company with contacts in the historic restoration field is a major step. He said it is an indication of the company's good faith....it's costing a lot of money.

Our committee must be prepared to provide people to work with Collins at a working group level. During the April 17 meeting we must select people to work with Collins personnel.

Andy





Amenities & Development Opportunities

*Box - Highway - Attachment B*





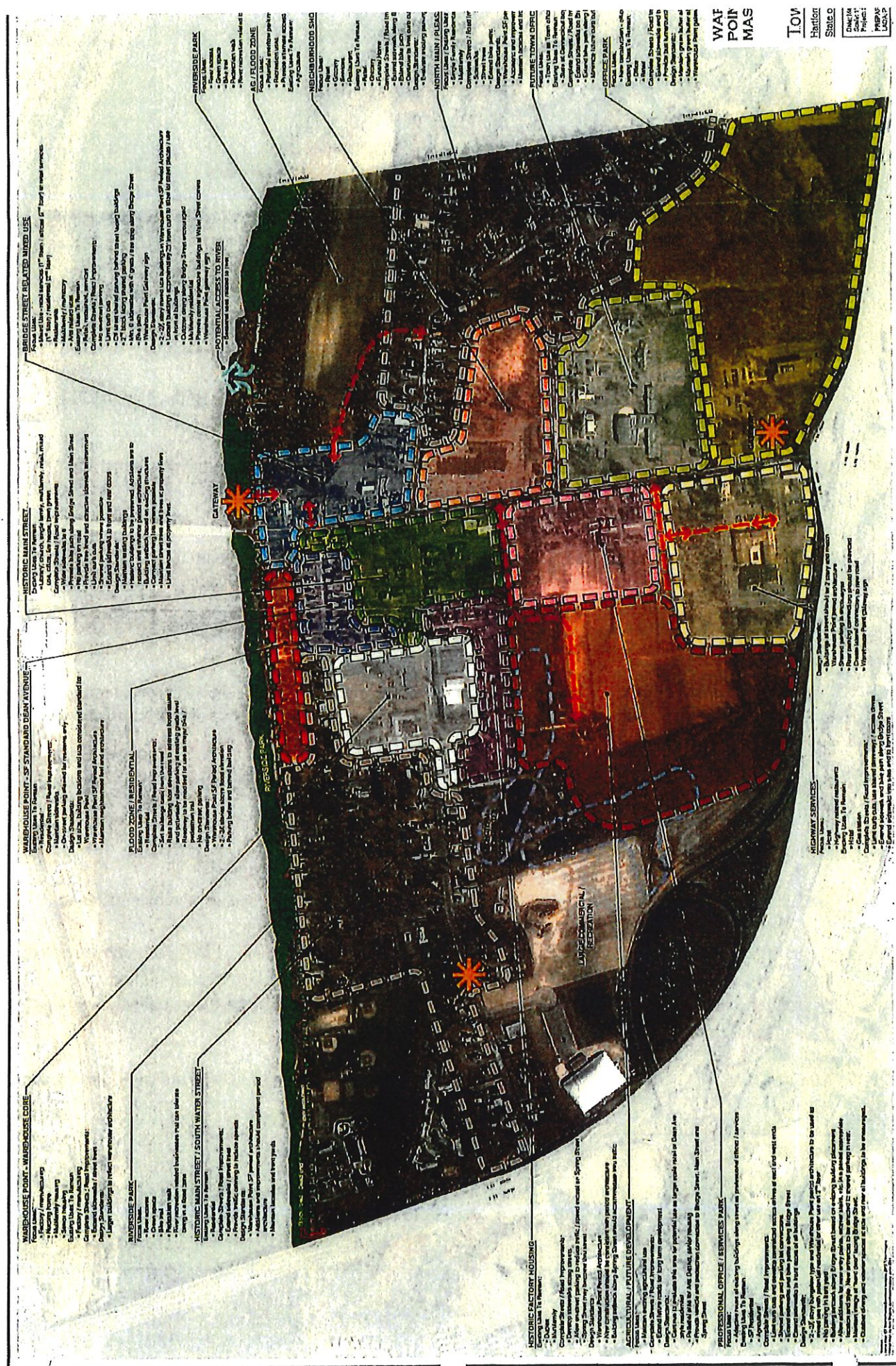
*Bas- 4/18/2019 Attachment C*





*Bas - 4/7/2009 Attack meet D*





Box- 418209 Blackmont E



BN- 4/8/2019 Attachment F

**PLACE ON TOWN LETTERHEAD**

**CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION  
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CAPITOL REGION NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION  
PLAN UPDATE, 2019-2024**

WHEREAS, the Town of East Windsor has historically experienced severe damage from natural hazards and it continues to be vulnerable to the effects of those natural hazards profiled in the plan (e.g. *flooding, high wind, thunderstorms, winter storms, earthquakes, droughts, dam failure, and wildfires*), resulting in loss of property and life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the East Windsor Board of Selectmen approved the previous version of the Plan in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Town of East Windsor and Capitol Region Council of Governments developed and received conditional approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2019-2024 under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, public and committee meetings were held and public input was sought in 2017 and 2018 regarding the development and review of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2019-2024; and

WHEREAS, the Plan specifically addresses hazard mitigation strategies and Plan maintenance procedure for the Town of East Windsor; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends several hazard mitigation actions/projects that will provide mitigation for specific natural hazards that impact the Town of East Windsor, with the effect of protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Plan will make the Town of East Windsor eligible for funding to alleviate the impacts of future hazards; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Board of Selectmen:

1. The Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Town of East Windsor;
2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation strategy of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;
3. Future revisions and Plan maintenance required by 44 CFR 201.6 and FEMA are hereby adopted as a part of this resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution.
4. An annual report on the progress of the implementation elements of the Plan shall be presented to the Board of Selectmen.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019 by the Board of Selectmen of East Windsor, Connecticut

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Selectman

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has affixed his/her signature and the corporate seal of the Town of East Windsor this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk



*BW- 4/18/2019 Attachment 9*

**Selectmen's Report - April 18, 2019**

This time of the year is budget season, and it is the most important thing that the Board of Selectmen does each year. In addition to setting out the spending priorities for the coming year, it should be a policy document that outlines the direction that the board thinks is in the Town's best interests.

The budget that was approved by the Board of Selectmen and submitted to the Board of Finance, in my view, leaves a lot of work still to be done. The Board of Selectmen's recommended budget is a spending increase of 6.51%, inclusive of the Board of Education request, historically far to high to meet the voters' expectations. It also makes some spending decisions that I think are shortsighted.

For example, this proposal as it stands only funds capital projects at a 0.4% increase, or 2.3% of our overall budget. The Board made decisions about the projects and funding levels recommended by the Capital Improvement Committee based on a desire "to get to a number," rather than based on a sound review of the project recommendations, or the urgency of the request.

The recommended budget added staff positions to several town departments, without a clear understanding of the need for those positions, and with some departments refusing to take on additional responsibilities as assigned by the first Selectmen. To me, that is not the way to run a government.

This budget also fails to include adequate funding for road maintenance and repairs. This is an area that is consistently underfunded and in my view prevents commercial development.

The Board of Selectmen did not have a meaningful discussion about the revenue side of the budget, which is a key piece in making a recommendation to the Board of Finance. Without considering the revenue picture, we are effectively only forwarding a spending sheet to the Board of Finance. The budget as submitted to the Board of Finance is a mill increase of 2.77 mills, or an 8.1% tax increase.

Since the BOS approved the budget, the Board of Finance has been hard at work. They have reduced the budget proposal to an increase of 4.84% spending increase, for a mill rate of 35.41 mills (which is still an increase of 1.51 mills) and a tax increase of 4.17%. While I appreciate the due diligence of the Board of Finance thus far, that is still a very steep ask of our taxpayers. I think there is still work to be done to balance the varied aspects of our community.

On April 17, the Pension Board met for our quarterly meeting. While Q4 of 2018 was rough, almost all of the losses from that quarter were recovered in Q1 of 2019, earning 13.65% in the quarter. Year-to-date, the Town's portfolio outpaced the benchmark by 19 basis points, which is modest over performance, but still ahead of what we would have earned under a standard index fund, further demonstrating the value of a professionally managed fund (and at no cost to the taxpayer).

Respectfully submitted,

Jason E. Bowsza  
Selectman