

TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

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RULES & RESEARCH COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JULY 26, 2021

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follow:

Present: Bruce Elstein, Chairman (Via conference call), Eric Paulson, Vice Chairman Bill Mecca, Joanne Glasser Orenstein, Steve Lemoine, Patricia Borghesan, Alternate Carl A. Massaro, Jr., Alternate

Absent: Donna Seidell

Also Present: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Chief Administrative Officers Cynthia Katske and Kathleen McGannon, Town Council Chairman Dawn Cantafio, Town Council members Kevin Shively, Mary Isaac, Jason Marsh, Joy Colon, Lori Rosasco-Schwartz, Tony Scinto and Town Attorney Daniel Schopick

The Chair explained there was a group of three who conducted interviews for the EDIT Task Force. Interviewers were: Joanne Owens, (republican), Tom Whitmoyer (unaffiliated) and himself (democrat). They interviewed the four existing members to gauge where they were and to assist in the process to recommend other members, including those to hold leadership positions. Each expressed an interest in remaining on the committee. They interviewed ten additional people who expressed an interest in serving, there were only four position to fill, so they recommended the 4 be expanded to six to permit two alternates. The individuals being recommended met certain criteria such as majority rules. If the committee was expanded to eight, no more than 4 from one party could be seated, the same with alternates. Atty. Schopick corrected that number to read as not more than 5 from one party. They asked the same questions to all in those interviewed. The questions are as follows:

1. Why do you want to serve on EDIT?
2. What strengths do you bring if selected to serve?
3. What challenges do you think face EDIT?

4. Describe and experience where you needed to bring a group of people with different viewpoints together.
5. Have you made public comments about EDIT and if so describe generally what they were?

Mr. Whitmoyer followed up by asking each person to describe what they saw the purpose of EDIT to be? A resource for the town, an educational starting point providing meetings and so forth.

After the interviews were completed they met and decided on their recommendations, which were unanimous. They all feel strongly that these people can help ground the work of EDIT and contribute to its success moving forward. They also came to a unanimous recommendation on who should be considered to fill the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair. They are pleased to report that the nominees have each accepted the position offered. They were pleased with the interest shown and had some difficult choices. They tried to recommend those with diverse backgrounds, age, sex, ethnicity and color. They were constrained a bit because the people who showed interest did not hit each category/group they wanted represented, but are pleased with those selected. Each of these people showed that they are committed to the purpose of the Task Force and bring a collaborative viewpoint to help move it forward and do good for the town.

The Chair indicated he was out of town and would have to leave the meeting at 7:30 p.m., he wanted his votes to be reflected as yes for each proposed member, in favor of recommending to the Town Council they serve in the capacities as stated on the agenda.

Moved by Glasser-Orenstein, seconded by Borghesan to take TC28-191 out of order.
VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

1. RESOLUTION TC28-191: Moved by Borghesan, seconded by Glasser-Orenstein
BE IT RESOLVED, That David Rosenburg of 30 October Lane, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2022.

David Rosenburg of 30 October Lane was present and indicated his party affiliation as democrat. He wants to serve because after reading about the previous EDIT members he felt he needed to step up and offer his services. It is his civic duty. What bothered him about what he read was that it was on social media, this is an example of how someone posts something and it gets out of control, people stop listening to each other and only hear the parts they want to hear. His hope is that if he is in the room he will help take the temperature down so what happened before won't happen again. He is a blank slate because he is not sure how this committee fits into town policies and procedures. He has a commitment to EDI at work and life, so this feels like a natural extension and is open to what the committee decides by majority how they can best serve the town. He is a part owner of company based in Norwalk that consults on new and newly renovated theatrical performing spaces. They looked at their company and came to the conclusion that they needed to fix their business, it is a white bred community, hiring isn't the only answer,

they have set up a college scholarship for all minorities, and internships. In their small way if they are to fix the problem they should be part of the solution.

Moved by Borghesan, seconded by Paulson to pass without recommendation.
Mr. Paulson explained the motion is so that this can be debated by the full Council and they can hear from Mr. Whitmoyer, an interviewer not present.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 6-1 (AGAINST: Elstein)

2. RESOLUTION TC28-189: Moved by Massaro, seconded by Lemoine
BE IT RESOLVED, That Jeannine Stauder of 153 Governor Trumbull Way, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2024 and is further appointed Chairman of said Task Force.

Ms. Jeannine Stauder of 153 Governor Trumbull Way was present and indicated her party affiliation as republican. She read about this in the newspaper which was her first inkling that something like this was happening. When the opening came up she thought it was very important to be on a committee. If the town has these issues it's important to discuss the issues intelligently. It is good to learn where the town's weaknesses and strengths are, what can be changed and improved on and what should be left as is. It is a matter of education and inclusion of everyone who can give them ideas, considering these three issues. Ms. Stauder explained she had been on the Library Board for many years as a leader, there were disagreements. They worked them out through compromise and hearing everyone's viewpoint and then coming to a good decision, all to benefit the library. She was also a marriage and family therapist where she dealt with disagreements in families all the time and knows how to handle those. The Great Minds Exhibit were paintings donated by a Trumbull resident, but a library card holder objected to inference the paintings made. As Chair of the Library Board she believed everyone is allowed to express what they want and refused to have the paintings removed. They ended up with a compromise. The paintings stayed for their period of time and they would do more due diligence on painting exhibits in the future. She thinks it worked out well, the paintings went from Trumbull to Sacred Heart. The subject of the paintings was religious. She thinks the Library Board handled it very well, they worked with a lot of people in town, including the then first selectman.

Moved by Paulson, seconded by Borghesan to pass without recommendation.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 6-1 (AGAINST: Elstein)

3. RESOLUTION TC28-190: Moved by Mecca, seconded by Borghesan
BE IT RESOLVED, That Andrea Fonseca of 82 Bonnie View Drive, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2022 and is further appointed Vice-Chairman of said Task Force.

Ms. Fonseca was not present but would be at the full Council meeting.

Moved by Paulson, seconded by Glasser-Orenstein to pass without recommendation.
VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent

4. RESOLUTION TC28-192: Moved by Lemoine, seconded by Massaro
BE IT RESOLVED, That Dede Robinson of 97 Moose Hill Road, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2022.

Mr. Dede Robinson of 97 Moose Hill Road was present and indicated is party affiliation as republican. He saw the article in the news and wanted to be a part of the change in Trumbull, he saw an opportunity to make an impact on his community, rather than complain, he would rather be a part of it. He hopes this will change in a positive direction. The last four years the country has been divided and has trickled down to the town. We are all taking it out on each other v. taking it on the problem. If there is a racial issue then we all have to address it, or if there is any type hate, ethnicity, police or political issues we all need to work together. Right now we have a hate problem in the country v. a racism problem. He grew up in Bridgeport for 31 years and never dealt with racism, but did grow up around a lot of hatred, when he decided to move to Trumbull he did not see hatred, maybe it was hidden, but believes the politics has brought the hatred to the surface. He just wants to be part of the positive change. He is open minded and willing to compromise, but believes if we all work together we can tackle any issues the town is facing. He wants to learn as much as he can and hopefully give his opinion and input and make a difference. He is a single father, his daughter watches him closely, and this would be a good example for her. His priority is to be the example and not complain, he needs to get out there and make an impact.

Moved by Paulson, seconded by Glasser-Orenstein to pass without recommendation.
VOTE: Motion CARRIED 6-1 (AGAINST: Elstein)

It was confirmed the interviewees would not have to be re-interviewed at the full council meeting.

5. RESOLUTION TC28-193: Moved by Glasser-Orenstein, seconded by Borghesan
BE IT RESOLVED that TC28-87, adopted by the Town Council on July 9, 2020, is hereby amended by adding the following before the last sentence of the Resolution:
The Task Force shall also consist of two (2) Alternate members who shall be appointed by the Town Council. The Council shall first appoint two (2) Alternate members whose terms will run until the first Monday in December, 2022, and thereafter all appointments of Alternate members shall be for a term of one year each. Said Alternates shall not be members of the same political party.

Atty. Schopick explained the resolution is based on the thought of bringing additional people into the discussion by further enlarging the size of the Task Force. This will provide the people to establish a quorum. It was clarified there were ten applicants.

Moved by Massaro, seconded by Lemoine to pass without recommendation.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 4-1-2 (AGAINST: Glasser-Orenstein) (ABSTENTION Mecca)

The Chair left the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Atty. Schopick confirmed passing without resolutions does not make the resolutions invalid at the full Council.

6. RESOLUTION TC28-194: Moved by Mecca, seconded by Glasser-Orenstein
BE IT RESOLVED, That Martin Isaac of 50 Skating Pond Road, be and the same is hereby appointed as an alternate member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2022.

Mr. Martin Isaac was present and indicated his party affiliation as democrat. He and his wife have lived in town thirty years and have had a terrific experience here. He wants to make sure the rest of the community has the same inclusive, warm experience they have had. He wants to make sure that is the case for all.

Moved by Borghesan, seconded by Mecca to pass without recommendation.
VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent

7. RESOLUTION TC28-195: Moved by Massaro, seconded by Glasser-Orenstein
BE IT RESOLVED, That Zdena Quinn of 29 Waller Road, be and the same is hereby appointed as an alternate member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for a term extending to the first Monday of December 2022.

Zdena Quinn of 29 Waller Road was present and indicated her party affiliation as unaffiliated. When the committee was first formed she was not aware of the committee, once it hit the news she was greatly saddened because it is a worthwhile committee and is necessary. Every town will have different problems and wants this town to deal with its own problems and not take everything that is outside the state and country, because we will never be able to manage that. She has been lucky and hasn't had any personal experiences with the exception of childhood bullying because her name is unusual. She has many friends that are parts of various minorities and feels for them and hates to see what they go through. She has had experience at work where she was a manager and then a director of operations in a travel company, they did have many meetings on how to do certain things, they were a small company and were able to make up the rules as they went along. They had to deal with each other and hammer things out to figure out to best move forward, they usually worked the solution with a combination of their opinions. They were never afraid to say ok that didn't work and let's do something else.

Moved by Borghesan, seconded by Mecca to pass without recommendation. VOTE: Motion Carried by unanimous consent.

8. RESOLUTION TC28-196: Moved by Lemoine, seconded by Massaro

BE IT RESOLVED, That Lynne Salta of 57 Wildwood Drive, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Middlebrook Elementary School Roof Building Committee.

Lynne Salta of 57 Wildwood Drive was present and indicated her party affiliation as unaffiliated. She had been asked to be part of the committee. She has been a member of the community for thirty years and never found the time to give back, she has the time now so it would be an honor to do so. She does have experience with building, she has been a realtor in this area for twenty five years and has a lot of experience with residential real estate. She has also served on the Board of Directors for the Bridgeport Board for twenty years including as president. She has experience with bids, her husband is an audio & lighting contractor and has helped with bids.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent

9. RESOLUTION TC28-197: Moved by Glasser-Orenstein, seconded by Mecca
BE IT RESOLVED, That Patricia Borghesan of 11 Scattergood Circle, be and the same is hereby appointed Chairman of the Middlebrook Elementary School Roof Building Committee.

The Vice-Chair explained the building committee is in need of a new chairman because the current chair is resigning. Patricia Borghesan of 11 Scattergood Circle was present and indicated she was vice-chair of the committee and has stepped into the role as Chair, this would make it official.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent

10. RESOLUTION TC28-198: Moved by Borghesan, seconded by Massaro
BE IT RESOLVED, That Robert Christiani of 10 Sciortino Road, be and the same is hereby appointed Vice-Chairman of the Middlebrook Elementary School Roof Building Committee.

He Chair indicated Mr. Christiani is a current member of the committee. VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent

11. RESOLUTION TC28-199: Moved by Mecca, seconded Borghesan
BE IT RESOLVED that the First Selectman, be and the same is hereby authorized to initiate the marketing of Town-owned properties at 77 Church Hill Road, 85 Church Hill Road, 93 Church Hill Road, and 2 South Edgewood Avenue.

First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro explained she was asking to be allowed to begin to market the four houses on Church Hill Road purchased by the Town. Three of them in late 2016 and the other was purchased in early 2017. The property for the last five years has been studied for a community center and then a senior center. Both building committees were asked not to meet during COVID. The current market is a hot market for sellers and believes this is the time to sell the property, to return it to the tax roll and its purpose per the POCD as residential real property. Atty. Schopick stated it would only

be necessary to go into executive session if discussion of evaluations is necessary. Conceptually it's open to discussion in public. Attorney Schopick explained that they propose any transaction/sale would be deed restricted as a single family residence, so a buyer could not combine the lots into one. The town is not proposing to put any money into the properties, one is a knock-down the others could be saved. Each one of them will need an investment of capital from whoever buys that would be their decision. Based on former appraisals, not a realtor market analysis, they are expecting to recoup the town's money.

First Selectman Tesoro explained they had asked the chairman of the building committee to reach out to the members to see if they were interested in staying on the committee and to start to look at plans and spaces they could put a senior center. It's her opinion and has always been her opinion that she was not in favor of that location for a number of reasons. It wasn't big enough and doesn't believe it is a safe location for the community. This is up to the building committee to discuss. She is asking the council to return the properties as residential real property. She will have a conversation with the building committee to look for other locations in town for a senior center. There were other locations the committees have studied. Mr. Marsh added the state DOT would not put in a crossing signal at that location. First Selectman Tesoro noted that was an ongoing conversation for years, they have asked the DOT to restudy the area and they still come to the same conclusion for the intersection crossing over to Quality. She feels it is an accident waiting to happen, and wouldn't be comfortable knowing there is a possibility of someone getting hurt there.

Mr. Massaro noted one of the reasons why the properties were purchased was to take control of the properties before somebody else did. That goal was met. First Selectman Tesoro explained she believes the properties should be returned to its original use for those that live in the area. They were never in favor of building a complex in that area. As far as aquatics goes the property is not big enough to accommodate the pool needed in town, there is not enough parking in the area. Mr. Marsh stated as chairman of the Aquatics Building Committee, they did look at the site and it did not have enough acreage for the conceptual blueprint of the facility. First Selectman Tesoro stated the properties are very sloped which makes accessibility to the trail not easy, it isn't the property they are looking at to serve the purpose at this time. The topography made the building 2-stories because of the slope of the land which was extra space not needed for the senior center and caused the cost of the building to grow out of control. The property has been studied for five years.

Attorney Schopick explained the properties had been owned privately and everyone who has property has the ability to walk down to the trail and doesn't know of right-of-way. It could be conveyed with a right of way. We wouldn't want to do so or have people parking on Church Hill Road. First Selectman Tesoro added it is quite a steep slope to the trail and the property behind the houses is part of the water company. When the grant was applied for it was going to be a switch back. Ms. Cantafio added they would need to get an easement from the water company to use the property.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED 4-2 (AGAISNT: Massaro, Lemoine)

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Lemoine, seconded by Massaro the Rules & Research Committee adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni
Town Council Clerk