

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Chaplin, Connecticut
Thursday, April 3, 2025**

Members Present: Juan Roman, First Selectman; Kenneth Fortier, Selectman (remote); Joe Pinto, Selectman

Members Absent:

Others Present: Dick Weingart, Chair of BOF; Jordan Lumpkins, Town Administrator; Helen Weingart, Leslie Ricklin, Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm

1. **First Audience of Citizens:** Leslie Ricklin of the Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission announced that they will be holding an event at the Arboretum on Arbor Day (April 25th) which will include a guest speaker, a tree walk, and a talk by Tree Warden, Dave Stone. She requested that the event be posted to the Town's electronic signboard. L. Ricklin, as Chair of the Library Board, also informed the Board of Selectmen that the Library would like to place a free "Little Library" up near the playscape at Garrison Park where children can swap books. The design of the "Little Library" will be presented to the Recreation Commission for approval. The Board of Selectmen fully support the idea.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** None
3. **Approve the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting on March 6, 2025.** Tabled until next month's meeting.
4. **Communications and Reports**
 - A. Trooper Report – None
 - B. Board Members Reports: None
 - C. Board of Finance Discussion: Board of Finance Chair D. Weingart reported that Budget Meeting workshops by the Board of Finance have been on-going with Town agencies like the Chaplin Volunteer Fire Department, Senior Center Library, Town Clerk/Registrar of Voters and the First Selectman's office attending at different times to present their agencies' budget requests. These presentations have been very helpful and productive. A discussion concerning scheduling a joint Board of Finance and Capital Improvement Plan Committee (CIP) meeting occurred.
 - D. Correspondence: J Roman and the Board of Selectmen received an invitation from the Veteran's Base Camp to attend the ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for their new Zapadka and Stenglien Greenhouse on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 1 PM. First Selectman Juan Roman will be attending.
 - E. Building and Infrastructure: J Roman reported that Town Administrator Jordan Lumpkins is looking into infrastructure grants for the Town.
 - F. Treasurer Report: None

- G. Department of Public Works Report: The Department of Public Works is mainly performing routine maintenance while carefully watching their budget expenditures.
- H. Chaplin Volunteer Fire Department Report: J Pinto reported that one fire truck remains out of service and in the shop.
- I. Senior Center Report: Please see attached.

New Business

- A. Tax Collector Refunds: ***J Roman made a MOTION to approve the following Tax Collector Refunds: George Makuka=\$36.36; Donald Pike=\$2.00; Donald Pike=\$2.10; Donald Pike & Brenda Rich-Pike=\$108.09. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION CARRIED.***
- B. All Pending and New FOI requests: None
- C. Appointments and Resignations: None
- D. Discussion and possible action on a request from the Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission: J Roman read out a Memo from the Arboretum Commission to the Board of Selectmen regarding their request that a MOTION be made to classify the current pine grove area in front of the Town Hall as an extension of the Chaplin Arboretum and, when all pine trees have been removed and the ground is suitable for planting, that the maintenance of this area be placed under the management of the Arboretum Commission as well. Also read out was an email from the Town Tree Warden, D Stone, supporting this request (please see attached). Selectman Ken Fortier joined the meeting remotely at 7:43 PM. ***J Roman made a MOTION to approve the request from the Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission to designate the pine grove area on the east side of Town Hall facing Route 198 as an extension of the Arboretum and the management of the Arboretum, once the pine trees are removed and the ground is suitably prepared for planting. J Pinto seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION CARRIED.***

5. Old Business

- A. American Rescue Plan Funds: The remaining Arpa Funds balance of \$112,196.51 has been earmarked for the completion of the new fire pond, a washer and dryer system for the firehouse, and the digitalization of the Town's land records. Any remaining funds not earmarked will be returned to the federal government.
- B. Update for the construction of fire pond and dry hydrant: Paving is scheduled to begin in two weeks.
- C. Discuss/updates on Bedlam and England Road Bridges: The ribbon cutting and opening of the new England Road Bridge is to be scheduled for June 2025.
- D. Town Administrator Update: J Roman introduced new Town Manager Jordan Lumpkins and stated that a contract between the Town of Chaplin

and NECCOG for his services has been reviewed by Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien and sent to Jim Rivers, Executive Director of NECCOG, for review.

- E. Update on IT services: An incoming malware attachment was detected by Athens Micro and was intercepted and removed before any computer systems at Town Hall could be effected.
- F. Update on the Community Connectivity Grant Fund/Sidewalk Project: The First Selectman will be meeting with the NECCOG engineer to review the first draft of the project's site plan.

6. Second Audience of Citizens - Note: Comments are limited to agenda items and subject to Chair discretion: D Weingart mentioned that he will be reviewing comments submitted by the Office of Policy Management regarding the recent audit submission. L Ricklin stated that there will be a Library Report submitted for next month's BOS meeting. J Roman inquired about who uses the library the most. Is it local citizens or folks from out of town? L Ricklin stated that these numbers are determined by library card use and will include these numbers in the Library Report next month.

7. Agenda Suggestions for next meeting: None

8. Date, time, and place of next meeting (May 1, 2025 at 7:00 PM, Chaplin Town Hall).

9. Adjourn: Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted by,
Susan Welshman
Administrative Assistant*

Senior Center Monthly Report

Date March 2025

Total number of guests for the month 961

Total lunches served for the month 531

Activities:

Breakfast 66

Fit & Fun 206

Mexican Train 10

Bingo 39

Mahjongg 62

Pickleball 59

Yoga 29

Memoir Group 10

Walking Club —

Haircuts —

Massage 14

Special Activities

Chili Challenge 19 Contestants / 80 Guests

Foot Care Specialist 11

To: First Selectman, Juan Roman III

CC: Selectman Joe Pinto, Selectman Kenneth Fortier, Susan Welshman

From: Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission

Re: BOS Agenda and Action Request from the Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission

Please include on the agenda, and act on the following, at the Board of Selectman April 3, 2025 meeting.

The Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission requests the board of Selectman, with the support of the Tree Warden, to classify the current pine grove area in the front of Town Hall for the extension and management of the Arboretum Commission, once the trees are removed and the ground is suitably prepared for planting.

Suggested motion for the BOS agenda: "Motion to approve the request from the Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission to designate the pine grove area in front of Town Hall for the extension of the Arboretum and management of the Arboretum Commission, once the pine trees are removed and the ground is suitably prepared for planting".

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Weingart

Chair, Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission

Attachments: Arboretum Commission Special Meeting minutes from March 26, 2025 and the "Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum" Commission Ordinance.

Susan Welshman

From: DPW
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 3:25 PM
To: Juan Roman III; Susan Welshman
Cc: Helen Weingart; Leslie Ricklin
Subject: BOS meeting RE: Arboretum request

Hi Juan, and BOS members,

It appears family duties have risen and I won't be able to attend your meeting tonight in regards to the Arboretum Commission request you have on your agenda. I'd like to share my support in my absence as the Tree Warden.

It's always unfortunate to lose mature trees however, as life goes on, it's refreshing to know that when one door closes one will open. I'd like to express my support of the Arboretum Commissions request to take charge of the area in front of Town Hall for their expansion. There's no better stable, vested, tree loving entity in town better suited to manage the long-term care and appearance of this property. Although the park has what seems to be plenty of space, in time as the new trees mature, that space will become limited and it's important to not infringe on the qualities of an open recreational area. The preliminary discussions held by the Arboretum Commission consisting of the expansion to include ornamental trees, fruit trees, and shrubs, with a focus on pollinators would create a lasting improvement to the properties entrance both aesthetically and environmentally. With this expansion, this small property could attain a level of biodiversity incomparable to anything around which is a goal shared by many horticultural organizations.

Please consider my support in the boards decision to approve the Commissions request.

Thank you!

David Stone

Supervisor, Chaplin Public Works

Tree Warden, CT Lic. Arborist S-4582

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