

Minutes of the Town of Farmington  
Regular Town Council Meeting  
July 14 , 2020  
Zoom Webinar Meeting due to the COVID19 Pandemic

Present:

C. J. Thomas, Chair  
Joe Capodiferro  
Brian F. X. Connolly  
Christopher Fagan  
Edward Giannaros  
Peter Mastrobattista  
Gary Palumbo

Kathy Blonski, Town Manager  
Paula B. Ray, Clerk

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Presentations and Recognitions

1. Proclamation on Racial Injustice

Mr. Giannaros read the following proclamation into the record:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the nation and the Town of Farmington have been galvanized by the tragic death of George Floyd; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Floyd's death, and the deaths of so many others in our nation's history, highlights the destructive nature of racism and prejudice in our society; and

WHEREAS, these tragic deaths have propelled our nation into a serious conversation on the devastating effects of racial injustice; and

WHEREAS, communities throughout our nation's history have had to deal with the toxic effects of racism; and

WHEREAS, we are proud of those people in our town's history who worked for social justice, such as Farmington abolitionists, who used their homes as stations along the Underground Railroad to help escaped slaves; and

WHEREAS, members of our community gave shelter and support to the African survivors of the Amistad slave ship after their trial, until they were able to return home to Sierra Leone; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Farmington takes the mantle from our forebearers to assert that racism, prejudice, and social injustice have no place in Farmington, and to affirm the statement Black Lives Matter; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Farmington recognizes and commemorates Juneteenth, the day on June 19, 1865 when the Union Army freed the last remaining people who were enslaved; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Farmington condemns acts of racism which have impacted people of color;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Farmington encourages creating a more diverse, inclusive and equitable community where everyone is treated with respect and because it sees diversity as a strength and pledges to continue to work to make Farmington an inclusive community for people of all backgrounds;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, in order to address these issues, the Town Council will create a task force to be made up of diverse community members, police, town and education officials, and town employees to engage with our entire community.

Dated at Farmington Connecticut, this 14th day of July 2020

2. Eagle Scout Proclamation - Timothy D. Germano
3. Eagle Scout Proclamation – Benjamin J. Cooley
4. Girl Scout Gold Award Proclamation – Gabrielle Sweet

The Chair played a video of the presentation of the following proclamations:

#### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Scouts BSA helps train the youth of our community with skills which serve them well in the future; and

WHEREAS, many of our youth participate in activities of the Scouts BSA which benefit our community; and

WHEREAS, one of the crowning achievements of Scouting is the attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, Timothy D. Germano from Troop 170 Scouts BSA recently completed the requirements for Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, Timothy D. Germano's project involved restoring Suburban Park to its original beauty by clearing pathways and installing 13 posts with the park's history and photographs of the era. Timothy researched the history of the park and created a walking path exhibit at the Unionville Museum which allowed the physically unable to enjoy the park with photographs and costumes from the time period; and

WHEREAS, Timothy D. Germano was also instrumental in creating an event for the community to enjoy tours of the park and historic homes in the area, experience a trolley ride and carousel with food trucks in coordination with the Lyons Club; and

WHEREAS, Timothy D. Germano has demonstrated leadership and academic success as part of Troop 170 Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, Timothy D. Germano attends Farmington High School in Farmington, and is a member of the Varsity Swim Team, member of the Sycamore Pool Swim Team, a Scouting for Food Volunteer, a KOC Family Events Volunteer, a Town Cleanup Volunteer; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Timothy D. Germano's work, the lives of the people of Farmington will be enriched and enhanced.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on behalf of the Farmington Town Council, we hereby extend Timothy D. Germano our best wishes and we hereby proclaim July 14, 2020 as Timothy D. Germano Day in Farmington, Connecticut.

DATED AT FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020

#### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Scouts BSA helps train the youth of our community with skills which serve them well in the future; and

WHEREAS, many of our youth participate in activities of the Scouts BSA which benefit our community; and

WHEREAS, one of the crowning achievements of Scouting is the attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin J. Cooley from Troop 170 Scouts BSA recently completed the requirements for Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin J. Cooley's project involved building a 10' x 10' Garden Gazebo for the residents of Maple Village of the Farmington Housing Authority. This included petitioning Planning & Zoning for the approval, raising the funds for the materials to build by planning a talent show at the Senior Center and building the Gazebo from scratch with help from his troop; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin J. Cooley also worked hard coordinating his troop to help build the Gazebo to the appreciation of the residents of Maple Village who love their new Gazebo and enjoyed their interaction with Benjamin and his troop; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin J. Cooley has demonstrated leadership and academic success as part of Troop 170 Boy Scouts of America and assisting the Farmington Community Services with numerous other projects, and

WHEREAS, Benjamin J. Cooley attends Farmington High School in Farmington, and is part of the FHS Drama Department, and is a Camp Counselor at Winding Trails Summer Camp; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Benjamin J. Cooley's work, the lives of the people of Farmington will be enriched and enhanced.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on behalf of the Farmington Town Council, we hereby extend Benjamin J. Cooley our best wishes and we hereby proclaim July 15, 2020 as Benjamin J. Cooley Day in Farmington, Connecticut.

DATED AT FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020.

#### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Girl Scouts of America help train the youth of our community with skills which serve them well in the future; and

WHEREAS, many of our youth participate in activities of the Girl Scouts of America which benefit our community; and

WHEREAS, one of the crowning achievements of Girl Scouting is the attainment of the Girl Scout Gold Award; and

WHEREAS, Gabrielle Sweet, from the Girl Scouts of Connecticut Council, recently completed the requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award; and

WHEREAS, Gabrielle Sweet's Take Action project was to renovate four miles of hiking trails around Lake Garda in Unionville and Burlington. This project included clearing the trail, adding "Trail Blazer" markers, renovating and rebuilding three bulletin boards, redrawing the trail map and creating a QR code for hikers to pull up the maps and follow the trails using their cell phones; and

WHEREAS, Gabrielle Sweet has been a Girl Scout since Kindergarten and attends Farmington High School in Farmington, is on the Girls Volleyball Team and the Lacrosse Team, and is an active member of the United Methodist Church in Avon; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Gabrielle Sweet's work, the lives of the people of Farmington will be enriched and enhanced by hiking and enjoying the beautiful scenery and wildlife of Lake Garda, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on behalf of the Farmington Town Council, I hereby extend to Girl Scout Gold Award recipient, Gabrielle Sweet, our best wishes and we hereby proclaim July 16, 2020 as Gabrielle Sweet Day in Farmington.

DATED AT FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT this 14th day of July 2020

The Scouts presented the Town with the names of all members of the Troop that have attained the Eagle Scout rank, and they intend to add future names to the plaque.

D. Public Hearing

There were no public hearings held.

E. New Items

There were no items added to the agenda.

F. Public Comments

The Town Clerk read the following public comment into the record:

Dean Delach 29 Basswood Road –

Dear Farmington Town Council Members:

I hope all of you and your families are staying safe and well.

I don't know where the Farmington Town Council stands on the issue of voting by mail but I am writing today to ask you to support a resolution in support of Expanded Absentee Balloting in November. I'm sure you are aware that a number of neighboring towns such as Glastonbury, West Hartford, Manchester, Bloomfield, and Windsor have supported such a resolution and it is being considered in other towns as well. Town leaders in Farmington would be sending a strong, if symbolic, message to Gov. Lamont and our state legislators about the importance the council places on keeping town residents safe while at the same time providing everyone the ability to vote.

As of now, 135,000 Americans have died from COVID-19 and the death toll could well exceed 200,000 by November. Thus far Connecticut has done an admirable job responding to this pandemic. Allowing expanded absentee balloting would further Connecticut's leadership role in the country.

Legislative leaders have promised to call a special session later this month to pass legislation needed to expand AB Voting in November, but have yet to set a date. Adoption of this resolution in Farmington will help ensure that they do.

Public health is not a partisan issue. This deadly virus is a threat to everyone, regardless of party affiliation. I hope the Farmington Town Council will support the initiative to expand absent balloting so that Farmington residents as well as all Connecticut residents do not have to choose between exercising the right to vote and staying as safe as possible.

#### G. Reading of the Minutes

##### 1. June 9, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting.

Adopted unanimously

##### 2. June 16, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting.

Adopted unanimously

#### H. Reading of Communications and Written Appeals

There were no communications or written appeals.

#### I. Report of the Committees

##### 1. UCONN Health Committee

The Chair reported they had a meeting and discussed the Covid-19 testing being done at UCONN and the partnering with Jackson Labs facilitating the test analysis.

##### 2. Land Acquisition Committee

##### 3. Green Efforts Committee

There were no reports for Agenda Items I-2 or I-3.

##### 4. Farmington High School Building Committee

Mr. Fagan reported the committee was now meeting on a monthly basis and continuing to monitor the Covid-19 impact on the Town's financial situation.

#### J. Report of the Council Chair and Liaisons

##### 1. Chair

The Chair reported the summer newsletter was full of useful information and was now available on the website; the Registrar of Voters were looking for election workers to

count an expected increase in absentee ballots; the Economic Development Commission's Explore Farmington website provided updates on business openings and events going on in Town. The Chair asked the public to be mindful not to litter on the Town trails, which were getting high volume use due to Covid-19.

## 2. Board of Education Liaison

Mr. Fagan reported the focus for the schools was back to school planning. The State Board of Education had released their guidelines for back to school planning on June 29, 2020. The process was dynamic depending on the level of community spread of Covid-19. There was planning being done for a full return to school, a hybrid of in person/remote learning and a full remote learning model. A committee had been established to address the mascot at Farmington High School considering the issues of racial inequality being discussed on a national and local level.

## 3. Economic Development Commission Liaison

Mr. Giannaros reported the Commission had met on June 17, 2020. They had had a presentation from Metro Realty regarding changes they were proposing to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission to the wording of the Special Innovation Floating Zone regulations, which were established in 2017. The proposed amendments added definitions, standards and limitations for types of development allowed. The intent was to create an environment where people could work, live and play without the need of a vehicle allowing for higher density living, walkable and bikeable communities. The next meeting was scheduled for September 9, 2020.

## 4. Farmington Historic District Commission

Mr. Connolly reported the last meeting was cancelled, and the next meeting was scheduled for July 21, 2020.

## 5. Housing Authority

There was no report for Agenda Item J-5.

## 6. Human Relations Commission

Mr. Capodiferro reported the Commission was excited to help with the new task force, and the next meeting was scheduled for September 23, 2020.

## 7. Library Board

Mr. Palumbo reported that Chris Lindquist had been selected as the new Library Director. The library was operating under limited hours 9:30 am until 2:00 pm Monday through Friday at the Main Branch and 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Monday through Thursday at the Barney Branch. There was no browsing at the libraries. Computers were by appointment only.

## 8. Town Plan and Zoning Liaison

## 9. Unionville Historic District Commission

## 10. Unionville Village Improvement Association Liaison

## 11. Water Pollution Control Authority

There were no reports for Agenda Items J-8 through J-11.

## 12. Other Liaisons

The Chair reported that the Bicycle Friendly Farmington Group were still holding their Wednesday night rides that started 6:15 pm from the Route 4 trail parking lot in Unionville.

### K. Report of the Town Manager

#### COVID-19 Updates

The Manager reported the Tax Office was open to the public for residents to pay their taxes. A part-time firefighter was being used as a monitor in the lobby to control the flow of people and answer question. The Manager commended his work and told the Council he had even helped a resident with a flat tire. She anticipated opening Town Hall to the public September 1, 2020.

#### Factory Mutual (FM) Global Grant Award

The Manager reported the Town had received a Fire Prevention Grant. The grant was for a digital camera, two LED scene light kits and two fire investigation tool kit. This equipment was for the Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal and Fire Inspectors when carrying out their duties.

#### Trails

The Manager reported the Town trails were getting more use than normal because of Covid-19 and that extra patrol officers and community service officers were patrolling the trails. Extra highway department workers were working to clean the trails. She asked the public to clean up after themselves when using the trails and along the river.

#### Community Services

Nancy Parent, Director of Community and Social Services reported they had started their Summer Concert Series. The first concert had been the previous week and very successful. Approximately, 150 people had attended.

The Manager reported that Russell Arnold, Director of Public Works had applied for a sidewalk grant, and the Town had received \$1,000,000 for sidewalks in Farmington Village.

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to accept the report of the Town Manager.

Adopted unanimously

### L. Appointments

1. Building Code Board of Appeals (Charette)
2. Building Code Board of Appeals (Langston)
3. Farmington High School Building Committee (Meehan)
4. Plainville Area Cable TV Advisory Council (Bernier)
5. Unionville Historic District Commission (Brockelman)

There were no reports for Agenda Items L-1 through L-5.

## 6. Land Acquisition Commission

Motion was made and seconded (Giannaros/Thomas) that Ned Statchen be appointed to the Land Acquisition Commission beginning immediately for an indefinite term.

Adopted unanimously

### L. Old Business

There was no Old Business for the meeting.

### N. New Business

1. To establish a taskforce to examine and create a plan to develop strategies and community partnerships to address racial inequality, to educate residents and to increase awareness about Black Lives by identifying areas of improvement in the community and to recommend an Action Plan to eliminate factors that lead to inequality

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to establish a taskforce to examine and create a plan to develop strategies and community partnerships to address racial inequality, to educate residents and to increase awareness about Black Lives by identifying areas of improvement in the Community and to recommend an Action Plan to eliminate factors that lead to inequality.

The taskforce will be charged with the following objectives:

1. To hold meetings with residents to identify issues in the community that have led to unequal treatment based on race and to engage residents through holding community forums, dialogue groups, and training workshops on implicit bias; to develop a campaign to increase public awareness of these issues.
2. To analyze the current Town services in collaboration with the Town Manager to increase transparency, to address racial inequality and to develop initiatives and measurable goals.
3. To support the Farmington Valley Health District in their mission to incorporate and adopt principles of social justice into everyday public health practice.
4. To collaborate with the Board of Education in their efforts to ensure anti-racism, social justice and equity within the PreK-12 school system in collaboration with the Superintendent of Schools.
5. To analyze current procedures and policies of the police department in collaboration with the Chief of Police, including use of force; to increase

transparency to address racial inequality and to develop initiatives and measurable goals in collaboration with the Chief of Police.

6. To encourage a diverse workforce by providing education and training to local businesses in the areas of racial inequalities; and to research possible incentives to increase the number of Black owned businesses in collaboration with the Economic Development Director.

AND,

Due to the urgency of this topic, the taskforce will provide the Town Council with a timeline for the Action Plan and a report on its progress at the October 13, 2020 Town Council Meeting,

AND,

The taskforce will provide regular quarterly reports to the Town Council and the public on its progress.

AND,

The taskforce will provide an Action Plan, including an analysis of the objectives and the recommended initiatives, programs and future actions to the Town Council to continue addressing racial inequality in our community based on the timeline provided by the taskforce.

AND,

To Appoint the Following Members to the Sub-Committee:

- Joseph Capodiferro, Town Council Liaison
- Edward Giannaros, Town Council Liaison
- Kay Higgins, Human Relations Liaison
- Bill Beckert, Board of Education Liaison
- Sarah Smith, Community Member
- Yahmina Penn, Community Member
- Neika Thompson, Community Member
- Jeremy McLaurin, Community Member
- Chris Cloud, Community Member
- Jessica Harrison, Community Member
- Tanner Muszynski, Farmington High School Student or Recent Alumni
- Isaac Varghese, Farmington High School Student or Recent Alumni

AND,

The Following Non-Voting Members:

- Nancy Parent, Staff Liaison

- Kory Vincent, Police Department Liaison
- Anna Savastano, Clerk
- Various Town and School administration as needed

Adopted unanimously

2. To award Bid # 295, Tree Removal and Pruning Services to Distinctive Gardens & Tree Care of South Windsor, CT in accordance with the schedule of costs as listed on the attached spreadsheet.

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to approve the motion recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item N-2.

Adopted unanimously

3. To award Bid # 297, Large Fire Apparatus Maintenance to Fleetmasters Sales and Service of Windsor Locks, CT in accordance with their bid submission dated June 16, 2020

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Thomas) to approve the motion recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item N-3.

Adopted unanimously

4. To accept a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant supplemental funding opportunity for response to COVID-19 for \$13,818.18

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to accept a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant supplemental funding opportunity for response to COVID-19 for \$13,818.18.

Adopted unanimously

5. To cancel the August 11, 2020 Town Council meeting

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to cancel the August 11, 2020 Town Council Meeting.

Adopted unanimously

6. To establish a Town Council Ad- Hoc Committee to work with Town Staff to make recommendations to the Town Council on next steps concerning the Parson's property and the BSC Streetscape Improvement Plan

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to establish a Town Council Ad- Hoc Committee to work with Town Staff to make recommendations to the Town Council on next steps concerning the Parson's property and the BSC Streetscape

Improvement Plan. The Ad-Hoc Committee will make recommendations on the following:

- The future use of Parson's property.
- The environmental liability associated with ownership of the Parson's property.
- The phasing portion of the BSC Streetscape Improvement Plan.
- The selection of a preferred developer for the development of the Parson's property.

AND,

The Ad-Hoc Committee shall consist of:

Peter Mastrobattista, Town Council Member

Brian F.X. Connolly, Town Council Member

C. J. Thomas, Town Council Chair (ex-officio)

Kathy Blonski, Town Manager

Russ Arnold, Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

Rose Ponte, Economic Development Director

Adopted unanimously

7. To approve property tax refunds

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to approve the following property tax refunds.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
T 4 land LLC	Assessor adjustment	\$117.48
Arnold Peter V Kathleen B	Assessor adjustment	\$3,554.85
Beecher Erinleigh	Assessor adjustment	\$321.66
Comer Contracting Inc	Assessor adjustment	\$391.89
Edward Motor Service	Assessor adjustment	\$8.59
Joo Woo Y	Assessor adjustment	\$58.74

Kallman Todd J & Sarah Kallman	Assessor adjustment	\$19.58
Melluzzo Giuseppe	Assessor adjustment	\$97.87
Motorlease Corporation	Assessor adjustment	\$333.96
Pease Lois, Wojciechowski Georgia C	Assessor adjustment	\$117.48
Syed Asif H	Assessor adjustment	\$184.61
VW Credit Leasing	Assessor adjustment	\$634.70
	<b>Total</b>	\$5,841.41

Adopted unanimously

O. Executive Session

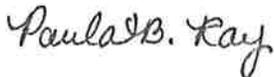
There was no Executive Session held.

P. Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Adopted unanimously

Respectfully submitted,



Paula B. Ray, Clerk

**MOTION:**

**Agenda Item N-2**

To award Bid # 295, Tree Removal and Pruning Services to Distinctive Gardens & Tree Care of South Windsor, CT in accordance with the schedule of costs as listed on the attached spreadsheet.

**Town of Farmington**  
**Bid #295 Tree Removal and Pruning Services:**  
**Bid Opening: June 16, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**

		<b>Bidder 1</b> <b>Distinctive Tree Care LLC</b> <b>South Windsor, CT</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
Two (2)-man crew w/bucket truck, chipper and truck and all related equipment:	per hour	\$120.00
Two (2)-man crew w/chipper and truck and all related tools and equipment:	per hour	\$118.00
Two (2)-man crew w/ bucket truck only.	per hour	\$110.00
One additional crew person to assist two (2)-man crew when needed:	per hour	\$45.00
Emergency callout after hours (Bucket and Chipper & Truck):	per hour	\$150.00
Emergency callout after hours (Chipper & Truck only):	per hour	\$100.00
Mini Excavator with Grapple and Operator	per hour	\$90.00
Crane with Operator	per hour	\$175.00
Climber w/ Equipment	per hour	\$85.00
Skid Steer with Grapple and Operator	per hour	\$45.00
Spider Type Track Lift w/Operator	per hour	\$150.00
Add any Additional Equipment and Rate;		
75' Rear Mount Lift	per hour	\$60.00
50 Yd. Log Truck	per hour	\$160.00
Sennebogen 718 With Grapple Saw	per hour	\$385.00
Albach Chipper	per hour	\$450.00

Recommendation: That award be made to Bidder # 1, Distinctive Tree Care LLC of South Windsor CT for the period, July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Funding: Highway & Grounds Budget Account # 13208-54410  
 FY2020/2021 Appropriation: \$85,000

**MOTION:**

**Agenda Item N-3**

To award Bid # 297, Large Fire Apparatus Maintenance to Fleetmasters Sales and Service of Windsor Locks, CT in accordance with their bid submission dated June 16, 2020.

Town of Farmington  
Bid Tally Sheet

**N-3**

**Bid #297 - Large Fire Apparatus Maintenance**  
**Bid Opening: June 16, 2020**  
**Bid Time: 12:00 pm**

Description	Bidder #1	Bidder #2	Bidder #3
	First Line Emergency Services Cromwell, CT	Fleetmasters Sales & Service Windsor Locks, CT	New England Fire Equipment North Haven, CT
First Service/Major Service	*\$1,275	\$1,829.95 (includes Major Service \$1180.00+\$649.95 Transmission Service As Needed)	\$15,250 (\$1,520*10)
Second Service/Minor Service	\$575.00	\$349.95	\$3,500 (\$350*10)
Pump Testing	\$400.00	\$399.95	\$2,000 (\$250*8)
Road Service (in town)	\$107.00 per hour	\$132 per hour	\$125.00
Road Service (out of town)	\$107.00 per hour	\$132 per hour	\$125.00
Towing Rate (to your facility for repair)	Sublet	\$250.00	\$525.00
Body Repair/Work	\$107.00 per hour	\$132 per hour	\$125.00
Labor Rate for services other than those listed above (per hour)	\$107.00 per hour	\$132 per hour	\$125.00
% markup over dealer cost on parts (Invoices to be made available upon request)	25%	25%	25%
Transportation of Vehicle (to and from facility – non towing)	\$53.50 per hour	No Charge	No Charge
	*Will check air filter annually and will change if needed for an extra charge		

**Recommendation: That award be made to Bidder # 2, Fleetmasters Sales and Service of Windsor Locks, CT.**

**Funding: Fire Department Budget, Account # 12154-54402, FY2020/2021 Appropriation: \$122,000.**