

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
July 12, 2017**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Andrew Bissanti, Robert Dellorco, Glenn Jones, Matthew Kelly, Thomas Mercer (via remote), Peter Padula, Deborah Pellegrini, Judith Pond Pfeffer, Robert Vallee. Councilors absent: None. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jeffrey Nutting, Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney.

CALL TO ORDER: ► Chairman Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *None.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Kelly announced the meeting is being recorded by *Franklin TV* and available for viewing on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. This meeting may also be recorded by others. He stated that Mr. Mercer would be joining the meeting by telephone.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: *None.*

CITIZEN COMMENTS: *None.*

APPOINTMENTS: ► *Conservation Commission.* ► Ms. Pfeffer read the appointment. ► **MOTION to Ratify** the appointment by the Town Administrator of Staci Dooney to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission, with an expiration of June 30, 2020 by **Pfeffer. SECOND** by **Jones.**
Discussion: ► Mr. Nutting stated Ms. Dooney was present at the meeting. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

HEARINGS: *None.*

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: *None.*

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: ► *Richard Henken – The Schochet Company.* ■ Mr. Richard Henken, President, The Schochet Companies, addressed the Town Council and stated they are owners, managers, and developers of mostly apartments, most of which are subsidized and affordable in one form or another. They have about 5,300-5,400 apartments in ME, MA, CT and RI. They have been around for 50 years. He stated that on May 30, 2017 they bought Glen Meadow Apartments from Equity Residential. He reviewed the history of Glen Meadow and stated it was supposed to always be affordable. He reviewed the process undertaken to purchase the property. He stated that with these apartments back in affordable, the Town will now be over the 10 percent threshold for affordable. He stated they have plans for the property including better management and improvement of the character of the property. He stated the goal is to be good neighbors for a very long time.

Chairman Kelly stated that now that the Town is over 10 percent, the Town can be picky and choosy from now on about what we take for 40B and what we do not.

Town Council members congratulated Mr. Henken; they questioned and discussed with him the Glen Meadow Apartments purchase price, affordable units, and vacancies.

► **Safe Coalition.** ■ Representative Jeffrey Roy stated the coalition considers themselves part of the recovery team and they continue to spread the message of awareness, hope, and healing. There have been many community events already held with more educational and community events planned. He stressed that it is vital to have groups like this doing this kind of work at the local level. The SAFE Coalition got its start in 2014; in 2 ½ years this organization has grown tremendously and has done great work. The conversation about substance abuse and addiction has been elevated; lives have been saved. He stated that first responders are now equipped with NARCAN and training has been expanded throughout the community. He thanked the many people for the great work that has been done. He noted that there is still a lot of work to be done. ■ Ms. Jennifer Knight Levine, Vice President, provided an overview of the coalition including a slide show. She reviewed the start of the coalition, mission in the community, and day-to-day involvement. ■ Mr. Jim Derick, President, reviewed the opioid problem here and nationwide, and discussed the opioid related deaths in Massachusetts. He stated it is the nation's largest public health epidemic. He stated that fentanyl is making its way into other drug supplies such as marijuana and cocaine; no one taking street drugs should feel safe taking those drugs. He thanked those in the police department working on this serious problem. He reviewed the coalition's response to this crisis to provide assistance to residents including having quality information available such as the booklet "What Do We Do Now?" and a resource telephone support line. He stated he has experience with having this problem in his family. He stated he is proud of the Board of Directors of the SAFE Coalition. ■ Ms. Knight Levine discussed community events focusing on substance abuse and addiction. She discussed recent NARCAN training, SAFE Coalition's relationship with the Franklin High School, and funding resources. ■ Mr. Dellorco stated the group of people in the SAFE Coalition is tremendous; he is very proud of them. ■ Mr. Derick thanked Rep. Roy, Mr. Nutting, and others for all their help and support. ■ Town Council members thanked the SAFE Coalition for their work. They discussed with the presenters how fentanyl and NARCAN work, and substance abuse addiction and recovery. Addiction can start with prescription medication. They discussed how to remove prescription medications in the home beyond dropping off the medications at the police department. Early education through high school is key. The SAFE Coalition deals with substance abuse of all types, not just opioids.

Chairman Kelly called a two-minute recess.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: ► Ms. Pfeffer stated the library is coming along. The shelving is going in on August 21, then books and furniture mid to late September. There will be a new front walk which was a request from Mr. Nutting. She stated there is a problem with 54 window sills, and the roof and gutters, which are being looked into; we want to make sure that whatever can be fixed now is fixed. Hopefully, everyone will love it when it is done. ► Mr. Bissanti stated the EDC met last week regarding cleaning up zoning and lot lines around Town; there is a lot of zoning that goes back to the 1930s, 40s and 50s.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

- 1. Resolution 17-48: Ratification of Town Administrator's Contract (Motion to Move Resolution 17-48 – majority vote (5)).** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 17-48: Ratification of Town Administrator's Contract by Pfeffer. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated it has been wonderful to work here and he would like to continue to do that. ► Ms. Pfeffer asked about Section 6, Subsection A, regarding the yearly evaluation; has that been done? ► Mr. Nutting stated that has been done about three times in 17 years. ► Chairman Kelly stated the Town Council will do that before the end of the summer. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegri-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

2. **Resolution 17-49: Acceptance of Gift – Franklin Fire Department (Motion to Move Resolution 17-49 – majority vote (5)).** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 17-49: Acceptance of Gift to Franklin Fire Department from Sassy Nails & Spa Corp. for \$100.00 by Jones. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated the donation was great. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting thanked Rep. Roy, Sen. Spilka, and Sen. Ross as the Town did get the \$65,000 grant for the firefighters’ hearing; it will be great as firefighters have great hearing loss over their career based on the noise of the equipment. ► He thanked Gary and Paul as a grant for \$220,000 was received for the SCBA which is the breathing apparatus that firefighters use; it took a couple of years, but they were successful. ► He thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to continue to work here; it has been a wonderful experience to work for the Town Council and citizens of the community.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: ► Mr. Bissanti mentioned Ms. Deborah Murphy and asked what is going on down there regarding the drainage? ► Mr. Nutting stated it is a completely private property matter at this point; it has been addressed over and over. He has contacted her on several occasions. He told her that if she had a concern at this point, it is between her and the neighbor. He will continue to monitor it. He stated had reached out to her within the last three weeks.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Mr. Padula read a letter dated May 26, 2017, written by the Franklin Police Chief and put on the website regarding the support shown to the police department and many agencies that worked together as they searched for Michael Doherty. ► Mr. Jones thanked Warren and Mike for their efforts helping the new Fourth of July group and he looks forward to the new committee taking over. ► Mr. Dellorco thanked the Fourth of July committee. He gave condolences to the Rovani family for the loss of Marc Rovani. ► Chairman Kelly gave condolences to Mr. Jamie Hellen for the loss of his grandfather.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *None.*

ADJOURN: MOTION to Adjourn by Jones. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary