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**MINUTES**  
**Board of Selectpersons**  
**Tuesday, April 15, 2025 – 7:00 PM**  
**Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall**

**Members Present:** Annmarie Drugonis, Trisha Danka, Fred Stanek, Theresa Conroy, Rob Findley, Patrick Lombardi and Al Bruno.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Town Counsel, Bryan LeClerc; CAO, Kurt Miller, Deborah Zamoic Alterio, Jean Sosnovich, Linda Bellevance, Judy Simpson and Nicole Klarides-Ditria.

**ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.**

First Selectwoman, Annmarie Drugonis, called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM.

**ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.**

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM #3: Public Comment.**

Chris Edwards, Emergency Management Director, 1 First Street, presented his resignation as Emergency Management Director for the Town of Seymour effective immediately. He discussed his passion for helping the community. He discussed recent actions and statements against him from a member of the Board of Selectpersons which made him feel targeted. He discussed a recent letter to the editor in the Voices newspaper. He discussed what he had accomplished as EMD for the Town of Seymour. He discussed the stipend and wished people would contact him directly if they had questions.

**ITEM #4: Approval of minutes from the April 1, 2025 Regular Meeting.**

- Motion to approve minutes from the April 1, 2025 regular meeting

Motion: Patrick Lombardi

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

2-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Pat Lombardi – Abstain

Bob Findley – Abstain

Trisha Danka – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Frederick Stanek – Yes

**ITEM #5: Presentation and discussion with U.M. Army about their mission to provide home repair and maintenance needs for low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners who are physically or financially unable to make needed repairs themselves**

Laura Parago, discussed what UM Army is. UM Army is a youth adult-based organization based out of Texas. She discussed the program and the work they do to help residents in various communities who need work that is needed that they cannot afford or cannot do themselves. They do not charge homeowners for the services they do. They will do three camps in New England and will be in Seymour the week of July 13<sup>th</sup>. She is the president of the northeast jurisdiction. She also serves on the National Board. They do painting, yard work, build access ramps, etc.

She discussed the families she has helped over the years. They are excited to come to Seymour and do some good work for the residents. They do not do roofs, plumbing and electrical.

Pat asked about their funding. Laura stated their youth pay to go to camp. The money is proportioned out in the budget for the week for materials, food, first aid, etc.

**ITEM #6: Discussion with Mackenzie Browning regarding her Junior National Honor Society Environmental Program.**

Mackenzie discussed her presentation regarding her program for an Earth Day Cleanup – Chatfield Park Clean Up '25 (Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>). She discussed what the program will entail and what work they will do. She discussed why this would be beneficial for Earth Day.

The board members all spoke excitedly about this project and initiative.

The National Junior Honor Society is the Middle School level of the Honor Society.

**ITEM #7: Discussion and possible action regarding the potential mural at the corner of Main and Broad Streets with the Culture & Arts Commission.**

Linda Bellevance, 7 Molsick Road, discussed the proposed mural. The mural will start at the bridge and goes all the way through to the end. There will be a river, 'Welcome to Seymour' in blue, a picture of the gazebo and the Indian on the town seal; pictures of school bus, a couple drinking coffee, flowers, snowmen, scarecrows with pumpkin heads. The mural depicts Seymour. Blue sky and the river. In the very beginning of the mural it will include the established date – June 24, 1850 – of the Town of Seymour. The Culture & Arts Commission members loved it and are seeking approval. It will take approximately 2.5 weeks. The artist will tentatively start June 1<sup>st</sup>. She discussed the payment plan for the project.

- Motion to approve the mural at the corner of Main and Broad Streets as presented in the drawing by Culture & Arts Commission.

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Pat Lombardi – Abstain

Bob Findley – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Frederick Stanek – Yes

**ITEM #8: Discussion and possible action regarding reduction or abatement of civil penalties at 26-28 Main Street.**

Attorney Steven Zelous discussed his client's unfortunate circumstance with the property. He discussed the details of the situation with blight. That property is no longer a nine-room boarding house. The building was converted to two, two bedroom apartments. She completed her repairs and asked for the inspection and C.O. of the property. It will be maintained well going forward. His client came before the Board of Selectpersons asking for a waiver of blight fine.

Annmarie discussed the notice of decision of assessment from Karen Fisher, Blight Citation Officer.

Bryan LeClerc stated there was a delay in getting a response back to the blight officer (July 2022 – December 2022). A hearing took place and the hearing officer noted that a considerable amount of time had passed without any response from the property owner. He continued to discuss the hearing officer's assessment. The Blight Citation Officer indicated that if the work was completed within so many months, she could ask for a reduction in penalties through the Board of Selectpersons. She does not think they should be reduced from July 2022 to December 2022 due to lack of response. It has been addressed today. Under section 4-151 of the ordinances the Board of Selectpersons may reduce or abate civil penalties. Work is done but a CO has not been issued yet.

The Blight fine totals to \$15,300.

The board members proposed to reduce the fine to \$10,000.

- Motion to reduce the blight fine from \$15,300 to \$10,000

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Patrick Lombardi

<b>Vote: 7-Yes</b>	<b>0-No</b>	<b>0-Abstain</b>	
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes		Al Bruno – Yes	Pat Lombardi – Abstain
Bob Findley – Yes		Trisha Danka – Yes	Theresa Conroy – Yes
Frederick Stanek – Yes			

**ITEM #9: Executive Session**

- a) Potential sale of town owned property at 100 Prospect Street
- b) Potential sale of town owned property at the corner of 35 Cogwheel Lane and 136 New Haven Road

- Motion to enter into executive session with Town Counsel, CAO Kurt Miller and members of the Board of Selectpersons for the potential sale of 100 Prospect Street and for the potential sale at the corner of 35 Cogwheel Lane and 136 New Haven Road at 8:11 PM.

Motion: Trisha Danka		Second: Patrick Lombardi	
<b>Vote: 7-Yes</b>	<b>0-No</b>	<b>0-Abstain</b>	
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes		Al Bruno – Yes	Pat Lombardi – Abstain
Bob Findley – Yes		Trisha Danka – Yes	Theresa Conroy – Yes
Frederick Stanek – Yes			

- Motion to exit executive session at 8:52 PM with no votes or action

Motion: Patrick Lombardi		Second: Bob Findley	
<b>Vote: 6-Yes</b>	<b>0-No</b>	<b>1-Abstain</b>	
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes		Al Bruno – Yes	Pat Lombardi – Abstain
Bob Findley – Yes		Trisha Danka – Yes	Theresa Conroy – Yes
Frederick Stanek – Abstain			

**ITEM #10: Discussion and possible action regarding the sale of town owned property at 100 Prospect Street.**

- Motion to table ITEM #10 discussion and possible action regarding the sale of town owned property at 100 Prospect Street to allow the town to do due diligence and consider public comments.

Motion: Al Bruno                      Second: Patrick Lombardi

*Discussion:* The person who is interested in purchasing the property owns the surrounding properties.

<b>Vote: 6-Yes</b>	<b>0-No</b>	<b>1-Abstain</b>	
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes		Al Bruno – Yes	Pat Lombardi – Abstain
Bob Findley – Yes		Trisha Danka – Yes	Theresa Conroy – Yes
Frederick Stanek – Abstain			

**ITEM #11: Discussion and possible action regarding the sale of town owned property at 35 Cogwheel Lane and 136 New Haven Road.**

- Motion to allow the Town to commission an appraisal of the property located at 35 Cogwheel Lane and 136 New Haven Road.

Motion: Al Bruno		Second: Bob Findley	
<b>Vote: 7-Yes</b>	<b>0-No</b>	<b>0-Abstain</b>	
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes		Al Bruno – Yes	Pat Lombardi – Abstain
Bob Findley – Yes		Trisha Danka – Yes	Theresa Conroy – Yes
Frederick Stanek – Yes			

**ITEM #12: Discussion regarding the 2025 Town of Seymour Strategic Plan.**

Kurt discussed the current standing of the strategic plan. He said nine out of fourteen sections are currently being worked on based on timing. Of the fourteen sections, there are eight different departments.

- Items 1 and 2 are being worked on by Kurt
- Items 3, 4 and 13 are being worked on by IT
- Item 5 are being worked on by Finance
- Items 6, 7 and 8 are being worked on by Community Services
- Items 9,10 and 11 are being worked on by Police Department and Emergency Management
- Item 12 is being worked on by the Fire Chiefs
- Item 14 is being worked on by the Town Engineer

Each department has their own strategic plan which feeds up into the master plan. Everything is tracked through the OneDrive. Department Heads are responsible for updating their strategic plans. ClearGov is the new software provider for budget process. It is an interactive software which allows residents to go on website and access. They will be working with ClearGov to get a Strategic plan software going.

Annmarie asked to make changes to the font and colors.

Kurt explained the green items still have action items left to it; red is considered completed and white means it has not been touched yet.

Trisha asked to have a key for the public to help them understand. Bob suggested not using red.

The board members discussed economic development regarding the plan.

Trisha stated the whole plan was to get the right components and people together. It is not sustainable with volunteers. It will continue to develop and morph. It is difficult for the Board of Selectpersons or the Board of Finance to add initiatives.

Kurt stated that some pieces are foundational pieces. He explained that by improving some pieces, it would benefit economic development. Once they hit the goals, they will establish a new set of goals.

**ITEM #13: Discussion regarding the Strategic Planning Committee.**

The board discussed whether they should disband the committee or if it is feasible to keep the committee. Trisha stated the intent was to get it up and running and self-sufficient. The Board of Selectpersons role now is to govern and see it continue to move forward. The board will discuss quarterly.

- Motion by Trisha to disband the strategic planning committee and move strategic planning to the Town of Seymour. Fred states we have to amend the agenda.

- **Motion to add to the agenda - action regarding the Strategic Planning Committee**

**Motion:** Al Bruno

Second: Bob Findley

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

**Annmarie Drugonis – Yes**

Al Bruno – Yes

Pat Lombardi – Abstain

**Bob Findley** – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

**Theresa Conroy – Yes**

Frederick Stanek – Yes

### Action regarding the Strategic Planning Committee

- Motion to disband the Strategic Planning Committee and move strategic planning to the Town of Seymour.

**Motion: Trisha Danka**

**Second: Bob Findley**

<b>Vote: 7-Yes</b>	<b>0-No</b>	<b>0-Abstain</b>	
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes		Al Bruno – Yes	Pat Lombardi – Abstain
Bob Findley – Yes		Trisha Danka – Yes	Theresa Conroy – Yes
Frederick Stanek – Yes			

**ITEM #14: Appointments.**

- Motion to appoint Nancy Chucta to the Seymour Beautification Commission for a term of 2 years expiring April 2027.  
 Motion: Trisha Danka  

<b>Vote: 7-Yes</b>	<b>0-No</b>	<b>0-Abstain</b>	
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes		Al Bruno – Yes	Pat Lombardi – Abstain
Bob Findley – Yes		Trisha Danka – Yes	Theresa Conroy – Yes
Frederick Stanek – Yes			
  
- Motion to appoint Stuart Brannen to the Seymour Beautification Commission for a term of 2 years expiring April 2027.  
 Motion: Trisha Danka  

<b>Vote: 7-Yes</b>	<b>0-No</b>	<b>0-Abstain</b>	
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes		Al Bruno – Yes	Pat Lombardi – Abstain
Bob Findley – Yes		Trisha Danka – Yes	Theresa Conroy – Yes
Frederick Stanek – Yes			
  
- Motion to appoint Rick Bender to the Seymour Beautification Commission for a term of 1 year expiring April 2026.  
 Motion: Trisha Danka  

<b>Vote: 7-Yes</b>	<b>0-No</b>	<b>0-Abstain</b>	
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes		Al Bruno – Yes	Pat Lombardi – Abstain
Bob Findley – Yes		Trisha Danka – Yes	Theresa Conroy – Yes
Frederick Stanek – Yes			
  
- Motion to appoint Zachary Succow to the Seymour Beautification Commission for a term of 2 years expiring April 2027.  
 Motion: Trisha Danka  

<b>Vote: 7-Yes</b>	<b>0-No</b>	<b>0-Abstain</b>	
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes		Al Bruno – Yes	Pat Lombardi – Abstain
Bob Findley – Yes		Trisha Danka – Yes	Theresa Conroy – Yes
Frederick Stanek – Yes			
  
- Motion to appoint Jeff Baryla to the Seymour Beautification Commission for a term of 3 years expiring April 2028.  
 Motion: Trisha Danka  

<b>Vote: 7-Yes</b>	<b>0-No</b>	<b>0-Abstain</b>	
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes		Al Bruno – Yes	Pat Lombardi – Abstain
Bob Findley – Yes		Trisha Danka – Yes	Theresa Conroy – Yes
Frederick Stanek – Yes			
  
- Motion to appoint Emily Birsch as a Planning & Zoning Alternate replacing Shannon Bullard a term expiring December 1, 2025.  
 Motion: Trisha Danka  

<b>Vote: 7-Yes</b>	<b>0-No</b>	<b>0-Abstain</b>	
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes		Al Bruno – Yes	Pat Lombardi – Abstain

Bob Findley – Yes  
Frederick Stanek – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

**ITEM #15: Transfers.**

None.

**ITEM #16: Tax refunds/abatements.**

- Motion to approve the tax refunds/abatements as presented.

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Pat Lombardi – Abstain

Bob Findley – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Theresa Conroy – Yes

Frederick Stanek – Yes

**ITEM #17: Correspondence.**

- Letter from Shannon Bullard resigning as a Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate

**ITEM #18: Public Comment.**

Deborah Alterio, spoke out against about selling 100 Prospect Street.

**ITEM #19: Selectperson's Public Comments.**

Trisha thanked Chris Edwards for the work that he did.

Al thanked the UM Army and Mackenzie brown for coming out and discussing their initiatives. Thanked Chris Edwards for his effort and hard work.

Theresa requested an updated roads program. She addressed the comments from Chris Edwards. She discussed her thoughts and concerns regarding the recent budget process for the stipend for the Emergency Management Director. She stated she is sad to see him resign and thanked him for all his work.


**ITEM #20: Comments from the First Selectwoman.**

- Affordable Housing Committee Assessment overview that was presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission.
- Seymour Housing Needs and Assessment
- Baker Associates have lots on Skokorat Street and gave 80 lots to the Conservation Commission. It will be a loss of revenue of \$1.2 million. Baker Associates no longer own the property and are no longer on our tax rolls.
- Budget referendum this Thursday from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM all voting will take place at the Community Center.
- Car taxes – discussed an article about five bills regarding car taxes.
- Annmarie read Theresa Conroy's letter to the Editor, which was publicized on April 2, 2025 in the Voices newspaper.
- She read an email from March McNelis breaking down the budget line items for her employees.
  - Associate Director went up 2.49% and that person went up a step for salary.
  - Factored in contractual salary increases.
  - Read her Letter to the Editor to the Voices for the record that will be publicized April 23, 2025.

**ITEM #21: Adjournment.**

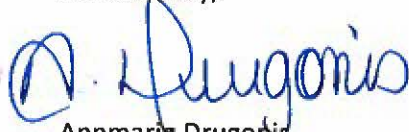
Annmarie Drugonis adjourned the meeting at 9:36 PM

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lianna McMurray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lianna" and last name "McMurray" clearly distinguishable.

Lianna McMurray  
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Annmarie Drugonis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Annmarie" and last name "Drugonis" clearly distinguishable.

Annmarie Drugonis  
First Selectwoman