

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 1, 2018**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall, in the Selectmen's Chamber by Chairperson Maguire. Members present: Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Bernetich, Stokesbury, Pena, and Speich.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Maguire.

III. PUBLIC HEARING: None

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: January 11, 2018 Special Meeting

One correction to the January 11, 2018 Special Meeting minutes was made as follows:
On page 11, 1st motion, last sentence, change "3-2-1" to "3-1-1."

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the January 11, 2018 Special Meeting as amended.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Stokesbury, Speich, and Bernetich voted in favor.

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

Brian McDermott, 70 Reverknolls, shared comments (which are attached and made part of these minutes). Chairperson Maguire thanked Mr. McDermott for his comments.

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Pena brought up a topic he had commented on a few months ago regarding what East Hartford is doing, in particular their Planning and Zoning Commission, by using tablets at their meetings; there is a lot of paper, much of it is in color, a lot of printing, and a lot has to be reprinted, there is cost involved with all of it, including the tablets, paper, delivery by the Avon Police Department who should just be on patrol; we need to look at it more strongly and could eventually also work for the Town Council; it would be very helpful for the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Town Manager responded that he would look in it; one of the ideas with the Police Department making the deliveries was to get them out in the community; one of the problems with the Planning and Zoning Commission is that there are a lot of documents, including different size maps. He noted that some of the larger cities have gone to the point of providing iPads and tablets for that kind of material, for a town of our size it is uncommon but he is happy to look into it; we are well down the road for the budget development process for FY 19 so to go back now and start fitting out that kind of system, determine which Board/Commission to start with and wait until FY 20 and get it then. Mr. Pena responded that it doesn't need to be

done in FY 19 but to think about it for the future; on a regional basis, maybe CROG has some software available. The Town Manager responded that he would look into it.

Mr. Stokesbury commented that Southington as part of their budget process is looking to combine their finance function, a long time issue we have discussed for the Board of Education finance function and Town finance function to work under one department and need to continue to look at, it is functioning well now but improvements are always possible. He reported that he was on the Town of Farmington web site this week and they have an interesting feature that he has asked the Town Manager to into which is a translate feature, to translate information in up to forty languages; we should consider once we look at the cost and accuracy of it. He commented that we are aware of and take for granted that our Police Department is 24/7 working every holiday, every day, every minute and noted that in our monthly reports for December the Avon Volunteer Fire Department call records included a call on December 25th and our volunteer firefighters answered it, and he wanted to recognize them and thank them again.

Mrs. Maguire reported that that the Avon Volunteer Fire Department had their kickoff meeting for their 75th Anniversary a few weeks ago and learned about a little bit of everything that they do in the Department; there are photos and its history hanging on the wall outside the Community Room at the Avon Free Public Library; we wish them luck through the year. She also reported that at the Library is The Amazing Castle in the Children's Department and on loan until mid-May from the Minnesota Children's Museum; our Public Works Department helped put it together and the kids are enjoying it. She noted that tonight the girls' cross country team at Avon High School raised a banner for having a championship season so kudos to them and Coach Al Dadario who is also one of eight finalists for the High School Girls' Cross Country Coach of the Year.

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council move up agenda item 17/18-41 Proclamation: AVFD 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Stokesbury, Bernetich, and Speich voted in favor.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

13/14-48 Synthetic Turf Field Project: Avon High School

Mrs. Maguire thanked Senator Kevin Witkos and Representative Derek Slap for attending tonight's meeting. She mentioned that Senator Witkos was here a few years ago when we talked about the synthetic turf field. She noted that we have a shovel ready project with an estimated cost of \$5 million and we requested \$2.5 million from the State, we sent a letter last year and a follow-up one this year. She noted that this project, much like the Library Renovation Project, we envisioned as a partnership between the State, the Town, and private fundraising; we can't move forward to referendum until we know if we will get State support and if we do, how much; what can we do to help you to help us. Senator Witkos responded that it is his pleasure, along with Representative Slap to be here this evening and speak to everybody who is interested in the Synthetic Turf Field Project. He commented on how things used to be done in the past; they received e-mails from folks about different communities (Derby) had earmarks for the State to pay for turf fields and that has changed; with the process under Governor Rell money was

divided between four different caucuses, Senate Republicans, Senate Democrats, House Republicans, House Democrats, and leaderships of those caucuses would pick different projects amongst their members and that is how things were funded. He noted that under Governor Malloy everything is run through the Bond Commission; legislators could propose a specific bill that says the State shall fund x project and the General Assembly would vote on it and if approved go into an authorized fund, up to \$1.7 billion; or the Town could apply for three different sums of money that are available for this type of project and would be under the Reverend Act Authorization with currently \$81 million in that fund, or STEAP grant application with currently \$30 million in that fund and capped at \$500,000, or DEEP authorization, Grants and Aids or Loans to Municipalities for Acquisition of Land, Public Parks, Recreational, and Water Quality Improvements with a current balance of \$2.8 million; those are all of the bonds that are out there that monies can be applied for this specific project. He noted that the Governor did not have a Bond Commission meeting in January, we have held all of our Transportation Funding for roads, bridges, and things that are in dire need of repair; Avon only received 50% of the money you were supposed to get in Town Aid Road. He noted that Commissioner Redeker, through the Governor, has held everything. He does not see the State authorizing any of these types of projects until we get through this next legislative session they go in next Wednesday and out May 9th and barring they get a budget done on time to fix the budget deficit we are in and address next year's. He thinks everybody from Avon needs to do is work together collaboratively to bolster our case that if we apply for some of these grant monies that we are doing what we need to do as a community, similar to the Library Project – the Town kicked in some money, there was private fundraising that was done, and the State was able to close the gap. He noted that it better our chances as a community if there is some private fundraising that goes on as well, shows the want from the community, citizens to write letters of advocacy to Secretary Barnes at the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) as OPM and the Governor determine the agenda as to which projects get picked or not. He noted that he and Derek wrote letters once before that is still in the file; we will write two more letters to pick up the other grant monies so that they are in the file as well. He added that two more letters should come from the Council and residents should write letters to advocate for this project and if there is a will then folks should start forming a committee to privately fundraise and will go a long way in the Governor's eyes that this community really wants it so let's close the gap and finish this project off for this community. He noted that we may see some projects come out in September/October but it is an election year and a lot of these projects get funded at that time; out of the authorized dollars of \$1.7 billion, some of those projects have been on the books for twenty years. He does not recommend putting in a bill to say the State of Connecticut shall fund a synthetic turf field in the Town of Avon for \$5 million as it will be hard to get that through in a short session in this economic climate and sits in a pile with other projects. He thinks we are better off going towards the three other separate funds where there is already money authorized and the Governor picks. He noted that they stand ready to work with you and see what we can do.

The Town Manager commented that he will get those letters together; we are still in the process of pulling the FY 19 budget proposal together, we are a little late this year primarily because the budget workshop was moved off three weeks; we are going through the debt service budget now, we did make an assumption for our debt into future years and will be pushed out another year or two and for projecting purposes we have looked at a contribution from the Town of \$1.5 million. He noted that from the very start of this project, the three-legged stool was going to be a Town contribution, State contribution, and funding from the public in terms of boosters, etc. He added

that he has conversations about this topic with Kevin and Derek and they have them in mind, out there looking for an opportunity to advance them. Mr. Stokesbury asked the legislators how we explain to the residents of Avon what he will refer to as the Derby grant and substantially funded the entire project. Senator Witkos responded that goes back to the glob of money that went to the different caucuses and each of those caucuses chose that project but that is not how it is done anymore; Governor Malloy has sole discretion with what gets put on the Bond Commission agenda, which he and Derek would advocate for it. Mr. Stokesbury asked the legislators if there is a sense or recommendation to the community what we might in the best case expect from the State; with the three-legged stool it is hard to go to private citizens for fundraising when we know the project, we have some idea where we may be on the Town Council funding side, but need to give them some indication where we might be, what is realistic to expect from the State from a best case scenario. Representative Slap responded that Senator Witkos described the history of it very well and we all know the State's fiscal crisis that we are in; we are all trying to deal with and every legislator is facing very similar type of questions in terms of how we prioritize; what has happened in the past every district is money and has added up to a real bonding crunch and have a real debt crisis in the State; we are a united delegation and will advocate of the project; the message would have to be that every dollar that is raised makes State support more likely and see it as finishing it as opposed to doing most of the heavy lifting. Senator Witkos noted that we don't know what that number is going to be. Mr. Stokesbury commented that given the nature of the project where do you see it falling on the level of recreational priorities statewide. Senator Witkos responded that the focus at the last Bond Commission meeting was on infrastructure for bridges, sewers, etc. He is not sure if you might be able to tie it into a school construction project but then you are set to a formula. Representative Slap commented that it is always beneficial when the parties can work together in a bipartisan fashion and one of those examples where we are going to be united, especially the makeup of the Senate being what it is and the House that could play well for a project like this because both parties are going to be pushing this. Senator Witkos commented that the Governor is mad at the legislature right now so he doesn't see him doing any favors for us right now; we did not have a Bond Commission meeting in January, usually have one once a month so we'll see what the next list of projects are that go on there, if the Governor continues on the path of true road, bridge, sewer projects or start picking other projects and then we can have a meeting with Ben Barnes and tell him that this is a project that if, for example, the Town is committed to putting in \$2.5 million and can you give us a target if private donations are \$1 million, can the State pick up the rest? Mr. Stokesbury questioned if we are well positioned now with our submittals, are we in the cue to be considered or do we have another hurdle to get by for two out of the three funds mentioned and get something formal in. Senator Witkos responded the Town should submit request letters for the other two sums of money available and once we get the letter from the Town Manager, we will put our letters together.

Mr. Speich commented that we did the burn building in Farmington and we went out and solicited funds from people, businesses, even before we knew we would have enough money and then the State stepped in at the last minute and dropped some money into the project. He noted that the synthetic fields are much larger but it is quite possible to get a good momentum from giving from people and neighborhoods and individuals to show that there is some reason to do it. Senator Witkos commented that sometime between the end of session and most recently someone had dropped off a study that was conducted on synthetic turf fields and how dangerous they are, the science and the myth, he would not be surprised as there has been legislation

proposed before in the past to not allow any State dollars to go towards them; we will see what happens; it is a short session and does not see them getting these non-revenue type issues done. Representative Slap commented that he serves on the Environment Committee and if he sees something coming that way he will communicate that with all of you. The Town Manager commented that in/around December 2016 where once the final preliminary design was completed he went to a Board of Education meeting with the Architect of record, BSC Group, and presented the project and there was feedback about the infill material; this project has history as it went through the Recreation and Parks Sub-Committee and to the Town Council a couple of times, what we ended up with was a coated crumb rubber and the project includes about a 15% contingency and when we spoke to the Board of Education, there were members who raised the concern about the synthetic turf and also wanted to be assured that they had representation on a Building Committee if the project were to advance and certainly that would be the case and before the project is final we will have another discussion about the infill material; science is changing so fast and a lot out there; there is a contingency built in and there are alternatives that can be explored.

Mr. Pena concurred with Senator Witkos that money at the end of the session tends to go out. He referred to 2016 when Canton received a grant for \$1+ million. He noted that we need to make sure that all of our letters are in early so when the money is distributed maybe we are accepted. He noted that with the Library Project we knew we were applying for a grant of \$1 million and we also had a fundraiser where more money was raised than anticipated and able to do other things they hadn't been able to. He commented that if we can get a handle on how much money we could get it would help us; if we come up short, the Town or someone will have to make up the difference to make the project happen. Senator Witkos commented that if the Council knows the price is \$5 million, what is the ask of the State? The Town Manager responded that as per our letters the Town's ask is \$2.5 million and our thinking was to split it in half with the State and the Town and private fundraisers pick up the other half. Mr. Stokesbury asked if we should be changing that ask at this point. Senator Witkos responded no; he could not remember what it was. Mr. Stokesbury commented that we want to maximize our opportunity. The Town Manager wondered if it might be helpful to take a field trip, maybe the Town Manager, Mrs. Maguire, Senator Witkos, Representative Slap, and Representative LeGeyt if he is available and visit Secretary Barnes and have a chat about the project to make sure it is front and center. Senator Witkos responded that they would set something up. Chairperson Maguire noted that there are several Board of Education members in the audience who may want to weigh in and ask questions, as well as Susan Rietano Davey, Booster Club President.

Jackie Blea, 135 Carriage Drive, Board of Education member, recalled that we had talked about and amended something so that the Board of Education would have some say on the infill towards the end of the project but during this discussion something that comes to my mind when we are talking about budgets is the recurring costs of the upkeep of the field to the Board of Education budget and would be a concern as a Board of Education member or citizen; we have had some really tough budgets the last two years and it is intimidating to me to make sure that we have all of those recurring costs covered as well. She also thanked the legislators for the work they are doing on their behalf. The Town Manager responded that is an important point and one we talked about during the process; with those synthetic turf fields the playing surface does not last indefinitely; the length of service is a function of the type of infill you are using and the amount of play that it gets, generally you are looking at a service life of ten to fifteen years

and approximately \$1 million to resurface the fields. He added that we never got to the point of coming up with a maintenance plan other than knowing what that big rock was out in the future; on a preliminary basis the thinking would be to setup a sinking fund and every year as part of your capital budget you would have set aside x amount of dollars to make sure that when the bill comes due you don't take a bit hit. Mr. Stokesbury commented that the other part of that equation is just how money is being saved from the operational budget and not fertilizing, mowing, and whatever else would be routine for a natural turf field and have looked at that for five to ten years and all part of the equation as we get closer to the project. Mr. Bernetich clarified that is \$100,000 in maintenance per year. The Town Manager responded not maintenance but in capital set aside or you will wait until the end or you put aside what you can if it cannot be every year and backload it. Mr. Stokesbury noted that the project has two fields in it at present.

Susan Rietano Davey, President of the Booster Club, commented that for many people we are looked at the possible source for fundraising. She does not think that we are in such a great position; she is also on the PTO Board and have been at the high school for a while, we know, many of us who have been involved, that Avon has gotten the least or second to the least amount of funding from the State for our schools for many years; on the surface it could seem very insensitive even outrageous for a town as wealthy as Avon to be asking for something like turf field money in a time when some towns are really in crisis but the history is that we really haven't gotten much at all and now our infrastructure, at least from an athletic perspective, is really well behind about everybody in our Conference and certainly in the Valley. She thinks it will be a harder sell; our Booster Club has not made any final decision about whether we want to be the leader in this because we have our own projects and are quite busy but we certainly field a lot of comments; Mark Zacchio came at the end of his term to speak to our membership about a month and a half ago so we have heard the response which is that people have the will to pay for the extras like press boxes and lighting but does not think that there are a lot of people here who have the will to want to pay for the essential project. She clarified that when you say fundraising she would never as President of the Booster Club or a community member want to solicit or donated hard funds until I knew this was an approved project. She asked if you mean pledges. Senator Witkos responded that from our perspective we use those terms interchangeably; if there is a commitment from the Town or private donations and if the State says we'll give you \$2.5 million and that's all then that should complete the project; their easiest sell would be to come in to close the gap for the project. Ms. Davey clarified that for semantical purposes it does not matter that the money would not be in an account anywhere, rather pledged money. Senator Witkos responded that if you fell flat on the pledges for whatever reason the Town would have to make up the difference. Ms. Davey responded that she would hope that the message that the legislators would convey is that yes this does seem like a request in this dire budget situation but within the context of the Town that has not really gotten much and has not asked for much either and certainly on the education side we have not gotten a lot of money from the State, second to last per student investment from the State. Senator Witkos responded that Avon receives under \$400,000 from the State which is very low. Ms. Davey responded that there are much wealthier towns than Avon that were above us so we want to appeal like a Town that has a lot of financial wealth and resources that is asking for turf fields while other towns need homeless shelters. Representative Slap appreciated that as they will have to educate our colleagues. Mr. Stokesbury commented on Ms. Davey's remarks regarding an informal poll from taxpayers and the distinction between the base project and extras only and asked her to restate what she believes

that position is. Ms. Davey responded that it was not a poll, it was people who have talked to us or at the meeting with Mark Zacchio or some of the people on the Booster Club Executive Board and the feeling was that they will pitch in for lights, press box, they feel like the Town should be paying for the field; the point of comparison is Granby and Canton and both fields that our kids play on; she does not know how the funding came through but the donors paid for the extras. For example, Canton Booster Club pushed to raise money for the lights but not asked to pay for the field. Mr. Stokesbury commented that Canton funds their student athletics differently than we do but it is discouraging to him to hear what she is saying, not her personal view but the view of what he would suggest is the strongest group within Town that should be supporting this project and recognizing that it takes an effort within the community to do a project like this. He added that we have talked about the Library with both very significant million dollars' worth of private fundraising led by Mark Nolan and the State as Senator Witkos noted and a significant bond. Ms. Davey responded that things have changed; within recent years Avon parents pay for their kids to play sports-she has three kids playing multiple sports a year at a \$175 per child; many of the uniforms are not covered by the budget and these are things that parents willingly pay for. She would write a check tomorrow for this project but the informal feel that she got and from people raising their hand and saying they are comfortable paying for lights and extras but feel like the Town should pay for the fields. Mr. Stokesbury commented that he is happy she is bringing this up to us. Mr. Stokesbury asked if the Board of Education members have any sense of where their folks are. Debra Chute, Board of Education Chairperson, responded that she appreciates what the Town Manager reminded everybody of in terms of what we had discussed when we took a vote showing support but are very concerned about what the infill would be as their primary concern is safety for children; as far as funding she and Heather have spoken about it, it should not be a Board of Education project but rather a Town project and they are hoping that people will rally within the Town and want to take this on; all of our children will benefit from it, not just the school athletic programs but also the Recreation and Parks programs; we are definitely behind the times in terms of surrounding towns and are hoping that you will take an interest in this because we really need to focus our budget on taking care of the kids and education and rounding out their personal well-being and would ask that you step in and help with this as it would benefit Avon. Ms. Davey asked if they have a feeling that people are ready to pledge. Ms. Chute responded that they have not really broached that conversation and allowing this conversation to happen here and we are waiting to see where it goes.

Mr. Pena agreed with Ms. Davey as he has been out there talking to people who say that it is the Town's responsibility to build the shell and then go from there with the plus items which is same thing we did with the Library – we built, there was a grant of \$1 million and they were going to raise \$500,000 in private money but ended up with \$1 million. Ms. Davey clarified that for the Library project the Town kicked in \$8 million, the State \$1 million, and private donors \$1 million. Mr. Stokesbury responded yes, give or take but just like the Library project, a turf field project and any of these other big capital projects we are talking about, i.e. turf field, firehouse, radios, road reconstruction, they are Town side budget items and part of our capital bonding and would be paid out of the Town side of the budget. Ms. Davey commented that if you use the mathematical logic as the Library project we are looking at roughly \$500,000 from private donors and she was a little influenced by the Town Manager's metaphorical three-legged stool thinking that we were looking at three equal contributors and is not the case. Chairperson Maguire commented that we as a Town, Town Council and Board of Education, have to meet; we used to have a group in Town called ACORN who was instrumental in getting the Roaring

Brook School playground done, the Middle School tennis courts, the track at the High School; that group has dissolved but this is the kind of group we need to get resurrected and behind this as a source of fundraising, they were great at it and a lot got accomplished, and any help from the State will be greatly appreciated. Senator Witkos commented that they stand at the ready if you want to meet with Secretary Barnes and the additional letters for the different funding mechanisms. Chairperson Maguire commented that we will get that out to the community as well, through the schools, and we will inundate the State with letters. She thanked the legislators for their time; there are a lot of feelings about it and we are hopeful to move this ahead.

17/18-29 Celebrate Avon: Committee's Recommendation for 2018

Chairperson Maguire thanked Nancy Anstey for coming tonight and glad the Committee was able to find a date and able to make this happen. Nancy Anstey, Celebrate Avon Committee Chair, commented that there is an extra Saturday in September this year and not competing with Septemberfest which is the first weekend and the Avon Volunteer Fire Department's 75th Anniversary which is the second weekend and this is a break between it to give residents and friends time to not go somewhere and then be happy to come back out to Celebrate Avon; the date is September 29th if that is agreeable to the Town Council, the only one thing that happens that day is an event at the Senior Center and may have to figure out somewhere else to park cars but has no bearing on what we are planning. She noted that their ideas for the event are the same as they were before and having someone else from the Town on the Committee with us would be wonderful and if in fact we run into a little bit of a financial difficulty Council will support us; other than that we will try to keep it as wonderful and make it better. Chairperson Maguire responded that we look forward to it and will rally the troops. Mr. Stokesbury asked the Town Clerk to correct a typo about the reference to an extra Saturday in January which is meant to read September.

Ms. Anstey also thanked the Council for reappointing her as Avon's representative to the Regional Tourism District; it is necessarily defunct but there has not been any funding for regional tourism for two years however the three districts in the state are meeting to see what they can do to get some money that won't be taken out of the budget. Council thanked Ms. Anstey and appreciates what she does.

17/18-34 Review, Discussion and Approval: Potential Acquisition of Property Located at 828 West Avon Road and Schedule Public Hearing for Buffer Zone Lease Back and Request for Supplemental Appropriation in the Amount of \$70,000

Chairperson Maguire recalled that last month we had concurrence about a potential land acquisition of 39.3 acres at 828 West Avon Road; the Town Manager has a housekeeping list of items to get through tonight. The Town Manager reported that this proposed acquisition has a lot of history; we have been in on and off discussions with the sellers for about fourteen years, most recently discussions started again over the summer and in January was the first time we had discussed it in public with the Council, prior to that it was subject to executive session. He referenced a map (which is attached and made part of these minutes); the yellow highlighted part is carved out and the Town does not acquire; we would be acquiring about 39.3 acres (in red and blue), purchase price is \$2 million paid out over eight years with a private placement bond, paying an interest rate of about 1.75%, mutually agreed and percentage that our financial advisor

advised our paper would sell at which is AAA in the open market; the Town would have fee simple interest in the property and own it outright, no development rights; it was very important to the owners to have a buffer area so with the 22.38 acres in red is a proposed lease back area that would go to the owners and can last for up to 18 years, as you get closer to the road (in blue) that is the section not subject to the lease back area but the Town, just like we do with Fisher Farms with lessees on either side, would have an agreement with a farmer to come in and maintain it in its current condition; there are no restrictions when the Town purchases the property; it could be used for any purpose in the future subject to Council, Planning and Zoning, local and state laws and regulations; we have debt service that is declining and able to layer these new payments in for the property through a combination of declining debt service and slightly reducing capital trying to do this neutral to those two categories. He noted that there are a number of formal actions that the Council needs to take; we have been through this with Murtha Cullina, Town Attorney and Day Pitney as our Bond Counsel. He added that we have a very plain language description of the acquisition including agreements for all of the terms, a resolution that has been prepared by Bond Counsel for Council approval authorizing the Town Manager to execute the agreement subject to the conditions in the buy/sell agreement being that and the ultimate acquisition will be subject to approval at Town meeting (it does not hit the threshold for Town referendum which is about \$2.6 million); we refer it to the Planning and Zoning Commission for 8-24 referral to ensure conformance with the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and this property is identified in the POCD as one of the twenty-one properties that were it to come up should consider acquiring; we also have to set a public hearing which would be held on March 1, 2018 to comply with a statute as the lease back portion of the buy/sell agreement requires a public hearing and public notice that we have to put out at the road at the property. He added that he recommending a supplemental appropriation from unassigned fund balance for \$70,000 to pay for soft costs associated with the acquisition as it is not currently budgeted and use for engineering, legal, wetlands delineation, and maybe an A-2 survey. He noted that important to mention, and he made this very clear at the Board of Finance meeting the other night, in the resolution itself we have embedded language that unassigned fund balance will be reimbursed through an appropriation in the capital budget for FY 19 which you will be seeing soon.

Mr. Stokesbury commented that the payment schedule is pretty aggressive as we pay for this in eight years and fortunately we have the capacity to do that, we are in a great financial position without jeopardizing other projects. He commented on the buffer area and the term lease back may be a little misleading to some people; it is a lease back, a grant of an interest in real estate that the Town would own at that point but is not getting paid for it and that buffer zone only lasts so long as one of the Severnis is residing in the house and has a termination of eighteen years but if they decide to move out and sell their property next year the lease back and buffer zone goes away. The Town Manager added that in the lease back in the red area there would be no public access, would not be developed and stay in its current condition; the plan for the blue area would be to have it under a lease with a farmer who would hay it, maintain it just like Fisher Farms. Mr. Stokesbury commented that we have to look at the long view; we are compromising with this eighteen year buffer if you would but speaking for the Council we already say it is well worth the bargain. He noted that there is Avon Land Trust that connects to this property to the left as you look at the map so we are aggregating other land that is available and is a beautiful piece of property and the opportunity has arisen and we should go forth. Chairperson Maguire commented that it is a gateway to Avon so it is important. The Town Manager commented that

the strategic nature of the property is why it is on the list for the POCD.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

(a) **RESOLVED:** that a certain Purchase and Sale Agreement by and between the Town of Avon and William J. Severni for: (i) the Town's acquisition of approximately 39.3 acres of land known as 828 West Avon Road in the Town of Avon, now or formerly owned by William J. Severni, and all improvements and appurtenances thereto (collectively, the "Property"); (ii) the Town's leasing of a 22.38 acre portion of the Property to William J. Severni and Lenore L. Severni (collectively, the "Severnis") to be used and occupied by the Severnis solely for purposes of agriculture and farming; and (iii) the Town's acquisition of a utility easement over certain property known as 8310 Gillette Way, in the Town of Farmington, Connecticut, now or formerly owned by William J. Severni, abutting said Property, is hereby authorized and approved; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Town Manager is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate, execute and deliver that certain Purchase Agreement upon such terms and conditions as the Town Manager deems necessary and appropriate and in the best interest of the Town of Avon, and in the form approved by the Town Attorney for form and legal sufficiency; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Town Manager is hereby authorized and empowered to take all such action and to do or cause to be done any and all other acts, necessary or convenient in carrying out the foregoing resolutions and performing the obligations undertaken by the Town of Avon in connection therewith; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER: that all acts of the Town Manager which would have been authorized by the foregoing resolutions except that such acts were taken prior to adoption of these resolutions, be, and they hereby are, individually and collectively ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted as acts on behalf of the Town of Avon.

(b) **RESOLVED:** That the Town Council hereby refers the following items to the Town of Avon Planning and Zoning Commission for review and approval pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes: (i) the acquisition by the Town of an approximately 39.3 acre parcel of land known as 828 West Avon Road in the Town of Avon, now or formerly owned by William J. Severni, and all improvements and appurtenances thereto, (ii) the acquisition by the Town of a utility easement over certain property known as 8310 Gillette Way, in the Town of Farmington, Connecticut, now or formerly owned by William J. Severni, abutting said 828 West Avon Road property, and (iii) the lease by the Town to Lenore L. Severni and William J. Severni of an approximately 22.38 acre portion of said 828 West Avon Road property to be acquired by the Town, to be used by and occupied by the lessees solely for purposes of agriculture and farming.

(c) **RESOLVED:** That the Town Council sets a public hearing date to be held at its March 1, 2018 meeting to consider and permit all interested persons to speak on the matter of the proposed acquisitions of the aforesaid parcel of land known as 828 West Avon Road and of the aforesaid utility easement over abutting property, and of the aforesaid lease for use solely for purposes of agriculture and farming of a portion of said 828 West Avon Road property to be acquired by the Town.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Bernetich, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made Mr. Bernetich, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council favorably recommends to the Board of Finance an

appropriation not to exceed \$70,000 from Account #01-0390-43913, General Fund, Other Financing Sources, Unassigned Fund Balance, and transfer from Account #01-8700-58000, General Fund, Other Financing Uses, Interfund Transfer Out

to

Account #03-4848-53441, Capital & Nonrecurring Exp Fund, Town CIP-Facil/Land Acquisition, Soft Cost CIP, and Account #03-0390-43918, Capital & Nonrecurring Exp Fund, Other Financing Sources, Interfund Transfers In, not to exceed \$70,000, for the purpose of funding soft costs associated with potential land acquisition.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Bernetich, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

17/18-39 Appointments:

a. Day Pitney – Assistant Town Attorney

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Day Pitney as an Assistant Town Attorney.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Speich, Bernetich, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

b. Depository of Town Funds

On a motion made by Mr. Bernetich, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Bank of New York Mellon, Citizens Bank, Commerce Bank, Connecticut State Treasury's Short-Term Investment Fund (STIF), Farmington Bank, HSBC Group, Key Bank (formerly First Niagara Bank), Liberty Bank, Northwest Community Bank, People's United Bank, The Simsbury Bank & Trust Co., TD Bank, N.A., United Bank, US Bank, and Webster Bank, N.A. as the Town's Depository of Town Funds for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Bernetich, Pena, Speich, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

17/18-41 Proclamation: AVFD 75th Anniversary Celebration

Mrs. Maguire reported that the Town Council is thrilled to be able to do this; the Fire Department does so much for us and you are truly the heroes in our eyes and we are very excited to be part of the 75th Anniversary – road race in April, carnival, parade, fireworks possibly. Mr. Speich gave special credit to David Theriault who is the Committee Chair. Mrs. Maguire read the following proclamation.

WHEREAS, the Avon Volunteer Fire Department, incorporated in 1943, proudly protects more than 18,000 people living in the 22.6 square miles that make up the Town of Avon and is celebrating 75 years of excellent service to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Avon Volunteer Fire Department's mission is to provide fire suppression and prevention, life safety and rescue support, as well as other community support to the citizens of Avon, and the Department provides mutual aid support to those surrounding communities that, in time of need, may request such assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Avon Volunteer Fire Department is staffed entirely by professionally trained volunteers and prides itself on the selflessness and dedication of its 200 members – 77 firefighters, 14 fire police, 16 administrative members, 20 Explorers, 19 active veterans, 10 retired veterans, 32 lifetime members, and 14 honorary members; and

WHEREAS, the Avon Volunteer Fire Department answers more than 500 calls for service every year; and

WHEREAS, no member of the Avon Volunteer Fire Department is paid and over the past 75 years more than 750 Avon residents have donated their time to the Department; and

WHEREAS, the Avon Volunteer Fire Department operates 6 companies and 15 pieces of apparatus out of 4 stations located throughout the Town of Avon; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Avon Town Council on behalf of all residents of Avon, Connecticut, does hereby proclaim September 14-16, 2018 as Avon Volunteer Fire Department Weekend in Avon, Connecticut, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Avon Volunteer Fire Department and its tradition of protecting and serving our community.

17/18-42 Discuss Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Waste Associated with Natural Gas and Oil Extraction and Possibly Schedule Public Hearing

Chairperson Maguire commented that this is also known as fracking waste and know this is something that a lot of this audience has collected petitions. She attended the session at the library that talked about it and it is a real concern for a lot of our citizens in Avon and is getting a lot of attention. She recalled this topic being talked about last month and the Town Manager was going to look at it, give us more information, and we talked to our Town Attorney. The Town Manager reported that there is a group in the community that has an interest in the adoption of this ordinance that would ban the use of fracking waste in Town; there are some local folks, Christine Winter, member of the Avon Clean Energy Commission and in the audience, but it is the Food and Water Watch that is advocating for this ordinance; there are a number of towns that have adopted some version of what they are proposing. He summarized the issues as he saw them and asked for some analysis from the Town Attorney; there is currently a moratorium on the use of this material; the proposed ordinance would ban within the Town of Avon the storage handling treatment disposal and use of all waste associated with natural gas and oil extraction through hydraulic fracturing, again fracking waste; the theory being that this material is toxic and can harm the environment and human health. He noted that back in 2014 State legislature adopted a moratorium and is still in place and will remain so until one of two things happen: 1) the legislature takes action to ban it or 2) the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) could adopt regulations to regulate the material. He added that the moratorium was adopted in 2014 and in May 2017 the House adopted a bill to ban this waste and sent it onto the Senate, the clock ran out and it didn't pass; on the regulatory side there is a requirement in the initial language that DEEP adopt regulations for the administration and regulation of this material by July 1, 2018 but by all accounts from DEEP it is highly unlikely they will be able to do that. He noted that no regulation by July 1, 2018 still means that moratorium remains in place and does so until the legislature does something or regulations are issued. He commented that there is an ordinance that has been proposed and it is more or less redundant of what the State already has in place, a moratorium on this material; there is a strategic way to think about this because the legislature is going to be back in session soon and he knows that CCM is going to talk with co-chairs of the Environment Committee next week about what is going to be coming up and given the fact that the House adopted language banning this stuff last year it is somewhat possible that language will be adopted this year to do the same but remember absent action from the State the moratorium remains in place. He asked to think about where we are now, moratorium in place, let's say the Council adopts an ordinance, the

legislature may go ahead and adopt an ordinance that is duplicative of what the Town has adopted and we would have gone through the cost of the public hearing notifications and taking up more space in the code book, etc. only to have our work nullified by the State because they have done the same thing. He noted that another option is for the Town to adopt an ordinance banning it and let's say the State through DEEP comes out with regulations that permit it and we may have very possibly a pre-emption issue because if the State intends to occupy a field of regulation which based on the Town Attorney's opinion they intend to do, a town cannot say we will ban it even though the State said it is okay and if there was a challenge to the Town ordinance it is very likely that it would fail. He noted that what the Town could do is watch how this process unfurls remembering that there is a moratorium that is already in place and if the State at some point were to issue regulations the Town may want to take a look of those regulations, evaluate them and go further because you cannot say that you're going to not allow something that the State expressly allows but can take the regulation and if the State is allowing maybe push the edges a little further. He added that at this point based on where the moratorium is, where the process is with the session that is coming up, and what is going with the regulations it may send a message and maybe that is what the other towns that adopted this intended to send but it doesn't really have much practical impact where you wait and see what happens, you monitor this closely which we will continue to do through CCM and the State may very well act saving us the trouble or adopt regulations that we may want to evaluate or push a little further. Town Attorney Al Smith noted that the moratorium is in place, it doesn't preclude Avon or any municipality from adopting an ordinance, you are free to do that but it is important to recognize there are practical limits to the legal effect of an ordinance; with or without the ordinance the use of these wastes is prohibited in Avon and statewide; somewhere down the line that may change, through legislative action through regulatory action and depending on the specifics of that State action, any ordinance you adopt now may or may not be pre-empted because we do not know what the scope of that future action is going to be; either way whether you choose to pursue the ordinance or not the people of Avon, the environment in Avon are protected by the moratorium; your unencumbered by the law and free to act on this. Mr. Speich asked when the moratorium ends. Attorney Smith responded that it is indefinite or would end in effect if and when DEEP adopts regulations or by superseding a legislative act. Mr. Speich questioned the July 1, 2018 date. The Town Manager responded that is the date where DEEP is required to come up with the regulations.

Mr. Stokesbury asked about the process for adopting an ordinance and likely timeframe. The Town Manager responded that the draft ordinance is the language that they proposed; we have to give it our legal review, put it into our format, a lot of decisions made to tailor it, have one more meeting to review that, be out to April for a finalized version, notice it in May, assuming approved it would have to be published and probably be effective July 1, 2018 if everything went in accordance with that schedule. Mr. Stokesbury commented five to six months. Mr. Speich asked if the moratorium covers everything that would be in this ordinance.

Christine Winter, 191 Cold Spring Road, Avon Clean Energy Commission member, asked Jennifer Siskind from Food and Water Watch to attend this meeting tonight because she is spearheading this effort going town to town tirelessly and has a lot of expertise and background and can probably answer a lot of the questions.

Jennifer Siskind, 101 Fairview Terrace, South Glastonbury, CT Coordinator with Food and Water Watch, responded that the proposed ordinance is vastly different than the moratorium and much more comprehensive; the moratorium that was passed in 2014 has some weak and ambiguous definitions and also missing many definitions that are included in this language; what the State passed in 2014 was a very clear definition of what hydraulic fracturing is, it is a particular process and then they banned the waste from hydraulic fracturing and the language that is ambiguous is anything derived secondarily to the purpose of that process; there are about five or six different processes that contribute to a huge waste stream coming from the oil and gas industry; first there is the drilling process that produces a lot of solid waste, there is liquid leachate that comes out of that waste because it has a very wet consistency; there is the hydraulic fracturing process itself; during production when the gas and oil is coming to the surface it is pulling with it naturally occurring toxins in a brine form that has to be dehydrated from gas before gas is put in a pipe sent off for distribution; when you are storing in large underground caverns of gas and liquid petroleum gas products you also get some fall out of impurities and additional drawing and that contributes to waste; this language that we are recommending that towns pass covers all of this, but the State language doesn't; we have been working with the State since 2014 to try to get better language forward and in 2014 it included every environmental group that you can think of that is operating here in Connecticut and included lots of grass root groups and churches and synagogues and temples and civic groups and town commissions and clean energy commissions, conservation commissions, watershed associations and unfortunately we have not been able to convince State legislators that they need to make this language more comprehensive so since 2014 when this weak language passed she has been going around to towns educating them as to why we really don't have a great moratorium and how towns can better protect themselves; we are hoping that down the road we will be able to get the State to adopt this type of language; we have also been talking with State legislators and right now the chair of the Environment Committee, Senator Kennedy, has recommended to the Town of Madison at their last Board of Selectmen on Monday it would be a good idea to pass this ordinance and he will be trying to get better language next session but not guarantee that; it is possible that both the House and Senate will pass the same weak language that is based on our current moratorium. She noted that Senator Kennedy stated there are going to be legislators that are peeling off their support that we might have had last year if we ask them to pass something that is more comprehensive. She added that this is an election year, we have one party that is trying to keep the power, we have one party that is going to gain the power, and the amount of lobbying that is going to be happening at the State Capitol is going to be a mess and whether we can actually get consensus from all of our legislators to stand up to the oil and gas industry is highly questionable; so far in 2014 when the moratorium and mandate to develop new regulations went forward a very VIP group in Litchfield County, the Washington Environmental Council, spearheaded this and passed the very first ban and passed it based on the current State moratorium; we weren't involved with them yet and they were not with us or the other environmental groups when we were meeting with legislators to hash out the language that ultimately passed in 2014 with a lot of compromises; again it was a gubernatorial election year and there was pressure on legislators who ended up compromising the language rather than passing what initially went forward out of multiple committees as a ban; we expect that to happen again this year; since that time thirty-three additional towns have passed language that she recommended to them; we already knew what had been passed by county legislators in New York State and when the second town moved forward and wanted to pass a better ban than what Washington did, she was working very closely with this group, she gave information sessions in

their town, we did and they did not have to reinvent the wheel, some of the best environmental legal minds in the country have already passed this is in New York State so let's cross out references to New York State statute and make sure it is compatible with Connecticut General Statutes and go from there; since that time thirty-three towns have passed essentially the same language; some towns have made a change with the prohibition say or what the enforcement is, some towns have passed based on town vote and limited to what could sit on a petition page; the prohibitions, the definitions and the provisions clauses with the exception of Glastonbury who changed their provision clause, those three sections have remained intact for the those towns. She shared a list of all of the participating towns as well as pending actions that are happening (a copy of which is attached and made part of these minutes). She noted that there were some inaccuracies that were explained tonight and would be happy to address those.

Ms. Winters noted that by the time you add the thirty-three towns plus the ones that will likely pass it at this point we are up to almost twenty-five percent of the towns in Connecticut.

Dean Applefield, 24 Oxbow Drive, commented that for the lawyers to argue the answer to your question about the breath of the different moratoriums, the way he reads the State law, fracturing waste includes any other substance used in addition to wastewater solvents, brines, sludge, drill cuttings, or any other substance for or generated secondarily to the purpose of hydraulic fracturing so he is hard pressed to understand in what sense that doesn't cover stuff that is being drilled or things being extracted during that process but leave that the Town's Attorney and to other lawyers who can argue the scope of the moratorium; his personal view is that the State moratorium is adequate and does cover all of the areas that Food and Water Watch has identified. He aligns himself with those opposed to fracking; he is not a supporter of fracking and thinks fracking is environmentally detrimental and problematic; the reality is there is no fracking in Connecticut and there won't be fracking in Connecticut so we need to a little bit clear on what we are talking about; there are no deposits in Connecticut that will be fracked, no area in Connecticut where fracking is likely to occur, fracking has been going on for a while and there is no indication that fracking waste has ever come into Avon or ever will come into Avon; there is no disposal facility in Avon where fracking waste is likely to be deposited. He agrees with the analysis that if you want to send a symbol and make a symbolic gesture to the legislature and indicate your interest in prohibiting something that this is one of doing it and if you choose to do it this way that would be fine but if you don't do anything everybody in this room is going to be equally protected; there is no indication that fracking waste because there is no fracking in Connecticut, most of the fracking is going to be happening in Pennsylvania or Ohio and would have to truck that waste into Connecticut somewhere so it doesn't happen which is why all of these ordinances which towns are adopting no one is ever going to challenge them because nobody wants to deposit that waste in our neighborhood; there has been an allegation that there could be contaminated fill associated with fracking waste and his question then would be that if you have an ordinance prohibiting people from putting fracking in the fill that they deposit in the State or in the town how are you going to enforce it, every homeowner, every developer who brings in fill to certify that none of that fill is from fracking waste and how are those developers or homeowners going to do that. He noted that if you adopt an ordinance you have to enforce it and he is not sure that the Town has the people, resources, or expertise to do that. He added that as a practical matter there is no real issue; we could ban disposal of nuclear waste in the Town as well and it would be somewhat similar, there is no real indication that nuclear waste is going to be disposed of here.

Mr. Stokesbury commented on the original moratorium and what he refers to as the 2014 Acts, he asked for Ms. Siskind's position regarding a 2017 House bill that was adopted and how that bill compares to her proposed form ordinance. Ms. Siskind responded that the 2017 House bill that passed was virtually the same as the current moratorium and with some additional roll backs of protections that were already passed into State law in 2014 unfortunately; as far as the moratorium and the House efforts in 2017 being similar to this bill, she would respectfully disagree with Ms. Applefield and the Town Manager and Town Attorney, you have to have an understanding of what this waste is so you can apply that understanding to how the legislation is written; one of the things that the State legislation does not cover is any waste that comes out of any oil well; there are oil wells in New York and Pennsylvania, they are not common as gas wells, but river keeper who wrote this ordinance language did a Freedom of Information Act as to what was being spread on roads in New York in some areas and found that waste coming out of oil wells that was contaminated with benzene which is carcinogenic and (inaudible) which causes neurological damage and is exceedingly high in chloride levels was being spread on roads in New York and also found waste coming out of storage both underground and liquid petroleum storage and approved for permits to be spread on roads in New York and none of this is covered in the State language; it does not deal with any storage or natural gas, any waste from oil wells, it is ambiguous if the wording derived secondarily to the purpose of hydraulic fracturing includes a stage of drilling before hydraulic fracturing ever takes place; the words "associated with" are generally recognized by environmental lawyers to be much stronger than the words "derived secondarily" because then it would include all phases; the drilling phase happens first and all of that waste that is contaminated with the chemicals they use for the drilling process and any naturally occurring toxins that exist in the ground which include a host of heavy metals, arsenic, leads, strontium, barium, radioactive radium, and liquid leachate that comes out of this waste; we don't have specific definitions in the State language. Mr. Stokesbury asked if she has a critical position paper showing the weaknesses with the House bill. Ms. Siskind responded that she does and would be to share that along with an easy to read graph showing a list of all the wastes that are produced during all of the processes. Mr. Stokesbury commented that there is a massive amount of data here and to do it justice we need to consider all sides; it may be imperfect but there is a moratorium in place and if we are going to do this let's do it right and understand the subject matter. Chairperson Maguire thanked Ms. Siskind for her explanation and the presentation was very helpful. Mr. Pena asked Ms. Siskind if she made a presentation to the Capitol Region Council of Government (CRCOG). Ms. Siskind responded that she was talking with their Executive Director today and there is a possibility that she will present to them in March. She has given presentations to the South Central COG and the South Eastern COG and has a presentation scheduled for next week with the Naugatuck Valley COG, and has an inquiry into West COG. She noted that towns that have already passed or on the cusp of passing some of them are because of the presentations she has given to the COG; it is a short version of what happened at the Library. She would be happy to give that to the entire Council and work with you to understand this; once people have an understanding of what they are dealing with they want to make sure they ban it in their town. She noted that the Office of Legislative Research (OLR) made a horrible error in 2014 when they wrote the summary for the bill and said that when the State develops regulations they can choose to ban waste if they want to; what is currently in the moratorium is the State is currently banning spreading any deicing products on the roads and when they write their regulations the language was specific that they can choose to ban what is spread on roads or under certain conditions can choose to allow that in the future once the regulations are written and finalized; people are reading OLR summaries from 2014,

2015, 2016, and 2017 and in none of these summaries do they explain that there are massive amounts of waste that are being produced from these other processes and from oil; if you do not have an understanding behind you of what this waste is you pick up the OLR summary and read it and not know what you are missing.

Rebecca Nicely, Stony Corners Circle, commented that they have a well and not that she knows that fracking waste would get into it but our whole Town depends on groundwater and she would like our Town Council to protect us as far as they can from this stuff; the heavy metals are poisonous to the environment, people, children, animals and we don't want it in our Town and what is happening with this fracking stuff and does not know if it can happen in Connecticut but there is the potential that businesses that contract to get rid of waste will bring it here; it may not be Avon but she would like to have those regulations in place.

The Town Manager commented that in terms of deicing material, we have checked with our vendors and there is no fracking waste or fracking additive that is included in that; we have also checked with the Transportation Institute at UConn and it is highly unlikely you are going to have any fracking waste that is included as an additive in asphalt mix. He added that one thing we have to keep in mind when thinking about adopting local law is enforceability and reasonableness. He thinks the Council needs to think hard about adopting an ordinance because once you adopt it, it is his responsibility to make sure it is enforced and this is highly technical, highly scientific and sort of supplanting our local judgement for DEEP; if you want to send a message about this there are ways to do it, we can adopt resolutions, we can send letters to the co-chairs of the Environment Committee, one of whom he spoke with today. He cautions against adopting an ordinance that is unenforceable, in this condition he is not sure what the Town would do with it other than have it on the book and write a letter to the legislators saying that we have adopted it. He added that in the meantime we are happy to look at the information. He noted that Murtha Cullina has a deep environmental law practice and we can see what it looks like; in the meantime there is a moving picture with respect to the legislative process; Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) that has the lobbyists that watch these various bills for towns and Donna Hamzy will be meeting with the co-chairs of the Environment Committee next week and we will get some sense of what the terrain looks like. Council agreed about getting more information.

Claudine Fasano, 22 Arlington Drive, commented that she feels like the consequences of possibly not being able to enforce an ordinance are minimal in comparison to the consequences of cancer and birth defects and really going to damage the community so if we can do something, even a little bit, to save lives and people, the harm caused by not passing it is severe versus possibly not being able to enforce it 100%; she is game, if we cannot enforce it that is not as bad a consequence as peoples' lives.

Christine Winter, 191 Cold Spring Road, Avon Clean Energy Commission member, objected with the whole way of reasoning that we are defenseless or someone else is going to protect us as the State has not proven to be very reliable up until this point and it does not look very good in the near future from what she understands the priorities are at the State Capitol right now and this is something that is within our local control and if we are not responsible to protect ourselves locally she is not sure what we are doing here. She noted that perhaps there is a fear of imagined costs that could be involved with passing such an ordinance; she does not have dollar figures

about what it would take to finance a public hearing or put a notice in the newspaper or draft whatever the piece of paper is to make sure it meets our Town criteria, they don't sound like things that would cost a lot of money, but what could really cost a lot of money is if we have not exercised due diligence in taking care of the health and safety of our citizens and things that happen as a result of that we are legally liable and could be taken to court, could cost us tons of money in testing for toxins in our environment, remediation, removal and the heartache of cancer. She added that after someone has cancer we all rally, come to their side, we shower them with love and affection and practical help because it grabs at our heart strings so we have 5K runs, start Go Fund Me campaigns, we bring casseroles and if you ask any of those people whose loved one has cancer at that moment what would they have done if they could have prevented this from happening, imagine what the answer would be. She added that this is a requiring of us, the wisdom and foresight to think ahead about those future possible cancers and future costs to our Town; that is what we need to.

Rebecca Nicely, Stony Corners Circle, commented that one short and more technical problem as a science writer who knows about a lot of this stuff and pesticides, etc. She noted that a lot of things, once they get into the soil they will stay there, they do not break down, a place that has that becomes a super fund site, the soil has to be taken out and put somewhere else. She would think that anybody that wants to get rid of this fracking stuff would say Avon has a regulation, better not try them; that is what is our armor and she would like to see us have that.

Dean Applefield, 24 Oxbow Drive, commented that it really disrespects the process that the 2014 statute was enacted in. He thinks the record of that legislation will reveal that as that bill moved forward it got stronger; that the law as originally proposed had no particular place and was moved to a place where if violated there would be a significant penalty; the ban as originally proposed had no element dealing with products involving fracking waste and as it moved through the process the addition of provisions to ensure that products with fracking waste in it was included. He thinks that if you tell the story of how that moratorium got enacted initially it would be incorrect to suggest that it was a process either riddled with loopholes or run by the lobbyist because he does not think that is accurate and more fundamentally at some level the question is are you going to legislate against problems or things that are not problems; everyone obviously hates cancer and everyone would like to protect and do everything they can to protect against cancer but there is no fracking waste in this Town and no fracking waste that is going to be brought into this Town so we could protect ourselves against lots of different things but they are figments to some degree and the evidence that he would suggest we would look at, fracking has occurred well before the moratorium, it wasn't as though these people that are trying to dump the waste in our Town would have been precluded in the past, it has been going on for twenty years, it is not now, why now all of a sudden do we have to have this enhanced degree of protection; we can do it and say symbolically we oppose but the reality is it makes no difference what we do; there is no waste that is going to come here anyway; we should all sleep well at night regardless of what your decision is.

Mr. Bernetich asked since the moratorium in 2014 has there been any fracking waste of any type brought into the State of Connecticut. Ms. Siskind responded that it is impossible to answer that with a yes or no; she has no way of tracking all of the waste that is brought into the State of Connecticut not can anybody else and this goes back to what the Town Manager was saying about the trouble of enforcement; yes, it is true that you won't be able to enforce all of the fill

that is brought into this Town but you have laws already that you can't enforce on the books for protection of the public; you have laws to prevent dumping in woods instead of putting it in the right place, you cannot enforce that; if you see somebody dumping then you report it and take action; it is the same with fracking waste, if it is noted that contaminations is brought in somehow you already have laws in place to deal with that; controlling what fill comes into Town is not part of the enforcement. She noted that her own Town Manager when it was being passed stated that if something is noticed or if down the road contamination is found you will be able to go back to the source of that contamination. She added that as much as she follows this because of public health and environment, she is also very concerned about the fiscal constraints this is going to put on municipalities and on our State; we have ground fields all over the State that we cannot afford to take care of; we have towns that are saddled with contamination issues that they cannot afford to address; the Town of Greenwich brought in fill to take care of their athletic fields around their high school a number of decades ago, at that point in time citizens spoke up and said do not accept contaminated fill that is mixed with waste with the Cos Cob energy plant, it is contaminated; nobody listened to the advice and instead this contaminated fill was brought in and used in this manner; several decades later after students had been playing on these carcinogenic fields for at least twenty years testing was done and it was determined that all of these fields were now contaminated with PCBs and arsenic; Greenwich has spent \$5.6 million and had to close down all of their athletic fields for four years to do this renovation and have not even completed the job as an estimated \$14 million is needed. She added that as far as this never coming to Connecticut people need to understand that hundreds of thousands of tons of solid waste and billions of gallons of liquid waste are being produced each year by the State of Pennsylvania; the solid waste, the drill cuttings which she believes are not covered under the wording "derived secondarily to the purpose of the process." She added that the State of Pennsylvania was asked to approve permits to use these drill cuttings for the fill and environmental, public health, science advocates begged regulators not to allow this to happen and they were ignored and the State of Pennsylvania spent five years giving out permits for this to occur; after five years they rescinded that policy and said they were not going to give out any new permits as it lacked transparency; there is a business that opened up in her mother's town in Pennsylvania that processes this waste; they screen it, treat it and it would safe to use and sell it off, however you can't separate out radioactive material from this solid waste. She noted that businesses are using counters that do not screen for all of the radioactive particles and most of the radioactivity in fracking waste is radium and primarily alpha particles; if you contaminate soil and that soil turns into dust and you breathe it in you are ingesting radioactive isotopes and increasing your risk that cancer will develop. She noted that all of these businesses that had been selling this soil in the State of Pennsylvania can no longer do that; they are either going to close up completely or look for new markets and if there is a contractor looking to get a lot of fill at a cheap price and then start using it for major construction projects and you have a huge development project down the road here in Avon you run the risk that you will be receiving this cheap contaminated fill.

Martha Lemon, 26 East Woodhaven Drive, commented that she is in the environmental business as a consultant and works with super (inaudible) contractors and knows from personal experience that we tend to move most of our waste out of our state, we don't have any place here to permit it; the cost of bringing in fill to our state is so expensive, no developer or company is going to pay the transportation cost and will find something in the next county over before they will find it in another state. She noted that the concern is not that tanker trucks are going to

come into our state with the fracking waste, but that it is going to come in the form of a fertilizer bag that you buy at a landscape store or Home Depot where they are starting to mix and blend some of these wastes into commercial products that a corporation is selling. She noted that a company in Wisconsin takes their waste from their wastewater treatment plants and sell it to all of us in the United States as compost; that is the way commerce is and should be the concern. She also noted that we are a very expensive place to drive through so that should not be the concern. She asked to do our due diligence when you go to Walmart or Home Depot to read where the materials come from as they are required by law if they are going to move things over state lines as to what actually is in the bag.

Chairperson Maguire commented this is a lot of information to absorb. Ms. Siskind inquired about the possibility for Council to move forward with a public hearing as stated on tonight's agenda. Chairperson Maguire responded that the Council will talk about that. She requested that any information Ms. Siskind can get to the Town would be appreciated and asked the Town Manager to consider the safety of our citizens in Town and do our due diligence and do things that are going to be sustainable.

The Town Manager commented that in terms of the draft ordinance that is not ready to schedule a public hearing; we would have to reformat it. He noted that whenever we schedule a public hearing we have to have the language that we are going to use and we do not have that right now. Chairperson Maguire asked in the meantime if we could do something where we let it be known that there is a great concern, a lot of passion that we want to ban fracking waste, send letters to our legislators and Environment Committee. The Town Manager responded that now is a good time to do it. He corresponded with the liaison from CCM that tracks this is meeting with the co-chairs of the Environment Committee next week and will know that we had this conversation and will correspond with her. Chairperson Maguire commented that there is a lot to absorb and cover and if we are going to do anything we need to do it so it is done right. Mr. Speich commented there is a lot more to learn and know before he is ready to take anything to a public hearing; he has concerns about enforcement and transportation through Town. Mr. Pena agreed that there is a lot of information that we don't have and would help us make a better decision; people are concerned and the health of individuals is extremely important. Chairperson Maguire asked to keep the communication lines open and keep fact finding. Ms. Siskind commented that she can provide Council with some information, fact sheets that are generated for general public and would highly recommend we talk in person further and you need this information because some of the information that is being shared tonight, the people who oppose the ordinance passing she has counter points and their comments are in error and would like to be able to explain that to you. Mr. Speich asked if there are other resources where he can read about it. Ms. Siskind responded yes. She clarified that she is a volunteer with Food and Water Watch; she came into this because her mother lives in Pennsylvania and her home is now surrounded by fracking wells that have popped up in the last ten years and we have seen firsthand these trucks leaking as they travel along the roads; we have had tens of thousands of gallons of spills occurring just from transferring the waste from one container to the next in her neighborhood. She has seen firsthand what happened and have been intricately involved with legislators since 2013 on trying to get legislature passed; we had work committees working on the language that would move forward so she has been watching this very carefully. Mr. Applefield asked if it is possible to the information being provided. Ms. Siskind would like to provide a compendium that has been written by concerned health professionals in New York that takes all of the

research done that relates to any problems related to fracking and summarizes it into paragraphs for an easy read. The Town Manager asked that any information be sent to his office and he can disseminate it. Ms. Siskind responded that she would be happy to. Mr. Stokesbury noted the question in the audience about posting information as it comes forward. The Town Manager responded that he can't promise but will look into it and see what we can do.

Mr. Stokesbury stated that Ms. Lemon's comments really struck home to him on the complexity of this matter; we have heard all sorts of scientific stuff tonight but the real problem we have is that we are looking at the intersection of interstate commerce which is not just regulated at the State level but rather Federally regulated and protecting our citizens. He noted that the fact that you can go down to our local hardware store or landscape store and buy a product that could have fracking waste in it whether it is labeled correctly or not, it creates a very complex issue; it is probably not the issue of tanker trucks coming in and dumping in Avon, we are not a good target for that but we do run the risk of being impacted by everyday interstate commerce. He wants to understand the moratorium or 2017 House bill addresses that interstate commerce and what is a homeowner in Avon that goes and buys the wrong bag going to be liable for under our ordinance for spreading it out on his property. He thanked all. Chairperson Maguire also thanked all.

**17/18-43 Review, Discussion, Set Public Hearing: Sanitary Sewer Easements:
4 Southgate and 415 Lovely Street**

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council set a public hearing to be held at their March 1, 2018 meeting to consider the acceptance of a Sanitary Sewer Easement on land designated as "PROPOSED 20' WIDE SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT IN FAVOR OF TOWN OF AVON OVER PARCEL # 3060415 and PARCEL #5390004" As shown on map entitled "EASEMENT MAP PREPARED FOR CT VALLEY DEVELOPERS LLC PARCEL #3060415 #415 LOVELY STREET AVON, CONNECTICUT SCALE 1" = 30' DATE: 11-7-2013 REVISED 11/27/2013" Prepared by Dufour Surveying LLC 575 North Main Street Bristol, Connecticut 06010, Carmine J. Matrascia –L.S., CT. License No. 70219, on file in the Office of the Avon Town Clerk as Map 1718.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Bernetich, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

Mr. Stokesbury questioned where the sewer line is coming from, down from Country Club. The Town Manager responded that it looks like it does but he will get back to Council on that.

17/18-44 Supplemental Appropriation: Youth Services Bureau Grant, \$19,798.00

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Speich, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 17/18 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

General Fund, Intergovernmental, Youth Services Bureau Grant, Account #01-0330-43383 in the amount of \$19,798.00 and increasing

APPROPRIATIONS

General Fund, Human Services, Service & Consultant, Account #01-4203-52184 in the amount of \$19,798.00 for the purpose of funding expenditures, which will be reimbursed through approved State of Connecticut Department of Education Youth Services Bureau Grants.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Bernetich, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

17/18-45 Appointment: Planning & Zoning Commission – Alternate (R-12/31/2019)

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Speich, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 17/18-45 Appointment: Planning & Zoning Commission – Alternate (R – 12/31/2019) to the March 1, 2018 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Bernetich, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

17/18-46 Appointment: Committee on Aging (R-12/31/2019)

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 17/18-46 Appointment: Committee on Aging (R – 12/31/2019) to the March 1, 2018 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Bernetich, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

17/18-47 Appointment: CRCOG Regional Planning Commission – Alternate (D – 12/31/2019)

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Speich, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 17/18-47 Appointment: CRCOG Regional Planning Commission – Alternate (D – 12/31/2019) to the March 1, 2018 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Bernetich, Speich, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

17/18-48 Resignation: Recreation and Parks Committee (R – 12/31/2019)

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Speich, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept with regret the resignation of Mark Olson from the Recreation and Parks Committee.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Speich, Stokesbury, and Bernetich voted in favor.

17/18-49 Resignation: Recreation and Parks Committee (R – 12/31/2019)

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Speich, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept with regret the resignation of Todd Donovan from the Recreation and Parks Committee.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Speich, Stokesbury, Bernetich, and Pena voted in favor.

17/18-50 Appointment: Recreation and Parks Committee (R – 12/31/2019)

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Speich, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Barbara Ausiello to the Recreation and Parks Committee to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Stokesbury, Speich, Bernetich, and Pena voted in favor.

17/18-51 Appointment: Recreation and Parks Committee (R – 12/31/2019)

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Speich, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Kimberley Pereira to the Recreation and Parks Committee to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Bernetich, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

Chairperson Maguire commented that it was never political in any way shape or form; the two gentlemen that were retained by the Council are going to work great, we have a great group there, as a sitting Chair it was really important that they were still part of that committee; we are thrilled that you are there and it is going to be a busy year; thank you for stepping up and volunteering, we appreciate it.

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. A: Purchasing Update: The Town Manager reported that we continue to work through issues with the radio system and as we talk about large capital projects, the estimate is about \$3.5 million; with regards to the Oak Bluff Pond dry hydrant he has been keeping Mr. Genco and Mr. Reich in the loop on this, bid opening on February 9th. Mr. Stokesbury commented on the radio antenna relocation and the spiraling cost. The Town Manager responded that it is expensive and trying to find ways to work around that; we can do it within the budget but the tower is mission critical and cannot take care of it in-house; we have money within the budget and will be recommending funding for FY 19 capital budget for the third phase of Police Department improvements and we have also engaged our radio engineer from Federal Engineering to help manage that. Mr. Stokesbury asked if we have to move the antenna. The Town Manager responded yes.

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Town Manager reported that things are quiet now and construction activity is at a minimum.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pending Claim / Litigation

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council go into Executive Session at 10:04 p.m.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Stokesbury, Speich, and Bernetich voted in favor.

The Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Town Clerk attended the session.

XI. ADJOURN

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Bernetich, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Stokesbury, Bernetich, Pena, and Speich voted in favor.

Attest:

Ann L. Dearstyne, Town Clerk

Good evening my name is Brian McDermott, I live at 70 Reverknolls in Avon. I am here tonight to speak as the Co-Chair of the nominating committee of the Avon Democratic Party. I wanted to express my disappointment in how this Town Council treated 2 very well respected, hardworking, dedicated Avon citizens at your first organizational meeting last month.

However, before I get into the details I see from tonight's agenda that there is a potential for a partial solution latter. We were prepared tonight to have 30 to 40 people speak tonight during this only opportunity you offer for public input, but in consideration of not wasting the councils time, I would like to ask those who were planning on speaking to stand now to show your support instead.

I would like to use the remainder of my time to put into the public record our disappointment with what happened here last month. As had been the custom, the majority party has deferred to the minority party when filling minority appointments to town boards and commissions. My fear is that the majority party established an unthinkable precedent in what seemed like to many of us, an abuse of power. While you are within your absolute legal right to ignore the lone minority member of this council, Mr. Pena when making appointments, you had ignored decades if not centuries of common courtesy necessary in a functioning, representative government.

While filling vacancies with only registered Republicans and unaffiliated voters legally fulfills the minority representation laws: ignoring the Democratic Party, I believe, is a very dangerous present to set. Again it is the Majority party's legal right to do so but that reality is frightening.

Just to be clear, Unaffiliated is not a party it is a status. Each person who registers as Unaffiliated is standing as an individual person. I have full respect and admiration for EVERY voter in this country including unaffiliated voters. Our process has provided an outstanding way for people who don't want to join a political party a great way to participate in our electoral process. In Fact, The Democratic party has been incredibly proud to appoint several unaffiliated voters over the years. Furthermore, the two unaffiliated members currently serving on the Parks and Recreation commission were brought forth by Democrats.

While I understand the need to appoint unaffiliated voters when the State statutes make clear that the majority party has reached its limit, therefore requires non majority voters an opportunity. Deference has always gone to model the appointing board makeup.

If the public voted in a member of the Green Party, the Working Families Party, an Independent Party, or a write in candidate. They, the voters, of this town would be expressing an interest in having fair representation on that council. Therefore under minority representation they should have the absolute right and weight to support members of that minority group to boards and commissions.

But lets also be clear that NO appointment is a lifetime appointment and should never be thought of that way. Every two years each of you must in fact go through the process of being re-nominated by your respective parties and then convincing enough voters (Democrats, Republicans and Unaffiliated) to vote to elect or reelect you. Appointed positions, however, do not meet this same requirement of directly facing the voters but we elect a representative form of government where the voters put that trust in you.

Believe it or not the Democratic Party is not some kind of a fringe, nutty party. Our numbers in fact are almost equal to that of the Republican Party in Avon. I can promise you that the Democratic Party will not stand by and allow the current majority to marginalize us. The Democratic Party represents thousands of members in Avon. We will stand up and we will be vocal whenever we feel we are being marginalized. We in fact EXPECT MORE!!!

We are living in some remarkable and I hope unique times where the politics of Washington and it personal destruction is now seeping into our small, beautiful, tranquil community of Avon, CT. I know we are all better than that, and none of us can allow the overt politicization of normal principles of conduct to go unchecked.

It honestly, saddened me to see that my adopted town of Avon had slipped to such a low. I mean we are a small community, our kids go to the same schools, we go to the same grocery stores and restaurants, we see each other in church, at the bank, at the post office, at holiday parties, at the community pool. We are friends and neighbors. I know some people think that politics is a dirty word, but it is not. We have and we have been founded, as a nation, with the understanding that in a civil society we can work together well, but we must have checks and balances and one party rule has never been a successful strategy. Having a robust opposition keeps everyone honest and that is exactly as it should be. And that is exactly why we have minority representation laws!

Putting community first does not mean we have to put away our political differences. In fact it is quite the contrary, having strong political parties who are willing to work together in the best interest of the community. And having political parties who demonstrate civil discourse is equally in the best interest of our community.

Going forward, I would hope that if the majority party on this council has concern, or disagreement with the qualifications of an individual that the minority party brings forward to fill minority positions that the majority party would at the very least consider a motion to table to make further inquires. That should also go the other way around, that if for some reason the minority has a question about the qualification of the majority appointment that the use of the tabling motion be allowed to carry.

I have purposefully stayed away tonight from challenging the motives or the integrity of the members of the council in the actions that this body took against two

incredibly qualified people simply seeking a way to volunteer their time to make our community a more, vibrant, and joyful place to live, work and play. It is my sincere hope that we can move on from this unpleasantness and that we can go back to being the loyal opposition with respect. I would like to end by congratulating all of you who were elected this past November and I sincerely thank you for your service. And I want to congratulate you Heather for being elected to lead this council. I do wish you well in the next two years as you work for the best interests of all. But we will continue to serve as your partner in helping in every way possible to make Avon even better and sometimes that will be by fulfilling our obligation to be your loyal opposition.



Chronological List of CT Towns with Passed Fracking Waste Ordinances

To review 18 of 34 CT ordinances, visit <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/insight/local-resolutions-against-fracking>
For more information, please contact Jen Siskind, Local Coordinator jsiskind@local.org

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|------------------------|------------|--|
| 1) Washington | 3/15/2015 | Washington passed CT PA14-200 language, edited for a permanent ban. |
| 2) Coventry | 10/5/2015 | 26 other CT towns passed more comprehensive language written by Riverkeeper. |
| 3) Mansfield | 10/26/2015 | |
| 4) Portland | 6/1/2016 | |
| 5) Andover | 10/6/2016 | |
| 6) Windham/Willimantic | 10/18/2016 | |
| 7) Ashford | 11/21/2016 | |
| 8) Branford | 12/15/2016 | |
| 9) Middletown | 1/03/2017 | |
| 10) Windsor | 1/03/2017 | |
| 11) New London | 3/08/2017 | |
| 12) Bloomfield | 3/27/2017 | |
| 13) Hampton | 4/03/2017 | |
| 14) Woodstock | 4/12/2017 | |
| 15) Hebron | 4/20/2017 | |
| 16) Lebanon | 5/01/2017 | |
| 17) Chaplin | 5/08/2017 | |
| 18) Litchfield | 5/10/2017 | |
| 19) Bolton | 6/06/2017 | |
| 20) Pomfret | 6/07/2017 | |
| 21) Willington | 6/20/2017 | |
| 22) New Milford | 7/10/2017 | |
| 23) Eastford | 8/07/2017 | |
| 24) Columbia | 8/15/2017 | |
| 25) Hartford | 9/11/2017 | |
| 26) Glastonbury | 9/12/2017 | |

27) Milford	10/02/2017
28) Bristol	10/10/2017
29) Thompson	10/??/2017
30) Griswold	10/24/2017 ?
31) Meriden	10/30/2017
32) Stratford	11/13/2017 ?
33) Rocky Hill	12/04/2017
34) East Hampton	May 2017?

Towns with Votes Scheduled or Action Pending:

South Windsor	Town Council has directed Legal Counsel to arrange presentation - February 5 th . Strong support.
Redding	Board of Selectmen have had presentation and a Special Town Meeting and Vote Feb 13 th to Aldermen. Public Hearing with presentation occurred. Waiting for Corporate Counsel review.
Ridgefield	Board of Selectmen voted to send for counsel review last night, and return to agenda Feb 21 st .
North Stonington	Supported by Selectmen & Conservation Commission, Review of language occurring. Special Town Mtg date TBD
Woodbridge	Passed out of Ordinance Committee last night. 1 st Selectwoman supports. Public Hearing March
Southbury	Reviewed by Selectmen & town Attorney; On agenda for tonight's meeting. Tom Crider, Vice -Chair of Land Trust key supporter Executive Director of Pomperaug River Watershed Association supporting tonight.
Weston	Board of Selectman had presentation last month. Attorney reviewed. On agenda tonight.
West Hartford	Energy Commission supports & town staff liaison arranged community presentation. Town Council sent to Committee, date for review TBD February, ? 2 nd week?
New Haven	New Haven Environmental Advocacy Commission passed out of committee with recommendation
Greenwich	Passed out of several committees. Sent to final committee for review.
Newtown	2 time around Now under new Town leadership Conservation Commission & Clean Energy Committee support. Requesting Legislative Council place on agenda=date TBD

Additional town governments have champions & strong citizen support.

Can update specific dates soon.