

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 19, 2024
6:30 P.M.

I. ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Jamestown Town Council was held on August 19, 2024. Town Council Members present were as follows: Nancy A. Beye, Mary Meagher, Michael G. White, and Erik Brine. Randy White was absent.

Also, in attendance: Town Administrator Edward A. Mello, Solicitor Peter Ruggiero, Finance Director Christina Collins, Chief Jamie Campbell, Public Works Director Michael Gray, Town Planner Lisa Bryer, Senior Services Director Molly Rose, Water and Sewer Clerk Denise Jennings and Town Clerk Roberta Fagan.

II. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Town Council President Beye called the meeting of the Jamestown Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Jamestown Town Hall Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers at 93 Narragansett Avenue and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Jamestown Police Department Promotions presentation:
 - a) Ptlm. Chad Specht promoted from the rank of Patrol Officer to the rank of Sergeant.

Chief Campbell introduced and delivered a brief speech on Ptlm. Chad Specht's background and achievements.

Ptlm. Chad Specht read the oath of office and was sworn into the rank of Sergeant by President Beye.

- 2) Jamestown Police Life Saving Medal Awards presentation:

Excerpts from Jamestown Police Chief Jamie Campbell's Life Saving Medal Awards presentation:

"Tonight, it is an honor to share a proud moment with all of you. We are here to recognize the heroic actions of Harbor Master Bart Totten, Harbor Intern Shannon Brecher, members of the Jamestown Police Department, Millie Asherov, and Annabelle Doyle for their roles in a water rescue near the Jamestown Bridge on June 18, 2024.

I commend all the officers, command staff members, Detective, Harbor Master, intern, administrative assistant, and members of the Jamestown Fire Department for their efforts in rescuing the victim and ensuring her safe transport to the hospital. The collaboration between multiple agencies was instrumental in the success of this rescue.

Officer Robert Winsor, who handled the initial call, received support from our Administrative Assistant/Harbor Clerk Joan Rich, allowing him to focus on coordinating the response. Harbor Master Bart Totten and intern Shannon Brecher, who had recently completed life-saving training, played a vital role in the on-water rescue. The officers near the bridge, Lt. Karen Catlow, Det. Jeffrey Petrarca, and Officer Chad Spetch, effectively guided the Harbor Master to the victim's

location. Bart's decisive action in entering the water to rescue the victim and Shannon's quick response in maneuvering the vessel were crucial in saving the victim's life.

I appreciate Lt. Catlow's leadership at the scene and Captain Deneault's management of onshore logistics and transport. Officer Spetch's effort in acknowledging and commending the original caller, Anabelle Doyle, played a significant role. Additionally, citizen Millie Asherov's actions in comforting a young child nearby were commendable.

I commend everyone involved for their professionalism and dedication during a challenging situation. Your actions reflect the highest standards of service, and I am proud to lead such a dedicated team. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to keeping our community safe.”

- a) Harbormaster Bart Totten
- b) Harbor Division Intern Shannon Brecher

The recipients of the lifesaving medal were Harbormaster Bart Totten, accompanied by his wife Laura and their twins, Julia and Matthew. Also, being honored was Harbor division intern Shannon Brecher, who intends to join the United States Coast Guard after college. Shannon was joined by her mother, Anne Marie, her father Keith, and her sister Zoe.

- 3) Letter of Commendation(s):
 - a) Jamestown Police Captain Angela Deneault
 - b) Jamestown Police Lt. Karen Catlow
 - c) Jamestown Police Sgt. Chad Specht
 - d) Jamestown Police Detective Jeffrey Petrarca
 - c) Jamestown Police Officer Robert Winsor
 - d) Jamestown Police Administrative Assistant Joan Rich

Letters of Commendation were presented to Jamestown Police and Harbor Division members.

- 4) Citizens Appreciation Award(s):
 - a) Millie Asherov
 - b) Annabelle Doyle

Chief Campbell presented two Citizen Appreciation Awards for bravery and assistance during the life-saving event on June 18th. The awardees were Annabelle Doyle, accompanied by her boyfriend Charlie; and Millie Asherov, who was away attending George Washington University. Proud grandparents Terry and Donald accepted the award on behalf of Millie.

- 5) Retirement Plaque Presentation
 - a) Jamestown Police Sgt. Mark Esposito

Chief Campbell recognized Sergeant Mark Esposito, who retired on August 15, 2024, after 20 years of dedicated service at the rank of sergeant. It is often forgotten that when a police officer retires, the agency loses a valuable asset and 20 years of knowledge and experience in the community. Sgt. Esposito was a department pistol and rifle instructor, armorer, and civic group liaison, who worked to strengthen the community policing-based bond. The Jamestown Police Union proudly recognized and honored Sgt. Mark Esposito with a retirement plaque. He was joined by his wife Susie, daughters Ryleigh, Adisyn, and Delaney; and his parents Anthony and Maureen. A standing ovation was given to retiring Jamestown Police Sgt. Mark Esposito.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to convene as the Town Council Sitting as the Board of Water and Sewer. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

See the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

IV. TOWN COUNCIL SITTING AS THE BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS

- A) Open Forum – Water & Sewer Matters
 - 1) Scheduled request to address – None.
 - 2) Non-scheduled request to address.

- B) Report of Town Officials: Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote:
 - 1) Pumping Report
 - 2) Town Project Reports
 - a) Town Wells
 - b) Water Treatment Plant
 - c) Transfer Pumping/Reservoir
 - d) Distribution System
 - e) Wastewater Treatment Facility

- C) Letters and Communication:
 - 1) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Letter dated August 5, 2024, from Robert Rocchio, P.E. Chief Engineer, RI Department of Transportation, re: Water main extension project on East Short Road in the vicinity of 38 East Shore Road to 68 East Shore Road; and the installation of curb stops and service lines at all properties along the extended line.

 - 2) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Copy of the North Kingstown/Jamestown Emergency Water Supply Agreement dated July 16, 2024.

- D) New Business:
 - 1) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Proposed Water Budget and Rates FY 2024/2025 in the amount of \$1,669,595.00.
 - 2) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote Proposed Sewer Budget and Rates FY 2024/2025 in the amount of \$965,666.00.

- E) Consent Agenda
 - 1) Adoption of Minutes:
 - a) June 17, 2024 (regular meeting)
 - b) July 15, 2024 (regular meeting)

 - 2) Finance Director's Report: Water and Sewer Comparison Budget to Actuals as of June 30, 2024.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to adjourn from sitting as the Board of Water And Sewer Commissioners. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

V. OPEN FORUM

- A) Scheduled request to address: None at this time.
- B) Non-scheduled request to address.

Carol Sherman, Walnut Street, addressed the Town Council and stated they have a duty to all residents, inside and outside the urban water district.

Christian Infantolino, representing clients Steve and Jamie Munger of 240 Conanicus Avenue, requested that the Town Council schedule a date for an appeal hearing regarding the Town's expansion of an existing Special Use Permit. Attorney Infantolino stated that the Town has not fulfilled the requirements of the Jamestown Zoning Board's decision on March 27, 2019, specifically regarding the necessary landscaping and screening to define the parking area, preserve the view shed, and provide protection to neighboring residential properties. The Mungers filed a complaint with the Building/Zoning Official and the Town Council, but have not received a response.

Maryse Poirer, 35 Knowles Ct., requested the Town Council reevaluate the Farmer's Market management. As a former vendor, she has been aggrieved by the Farmer's Market management. Ms. Poirer would like to return to the Market, but not under the current management.

Greg Yates of 35 Knowles Ct. spoke up for his wife, Maryse Poirer, arguing that the Farmer's Market's poor management and behavior are unfair to Jamestown residents.

VI. PRESENTATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, AND PROCLAMATIONS

- A) Presentations: Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Jamestown Bike Path Committee presentation, recommendations, and/or adoption of the proposed Jamestown Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP).

Discussion ensued.

Beta Group presented the Jamestown Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, ("Plan"). The Plan has both attainable and aspiration goals for the Town Council to consider, presenter and Jamestown resident Arek Galle commented.

The Town Council expressed their gratitude to the Jamestown Bike Path Committee and Beta Group consultants for their comprehensive research and development of the proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The Council mentioned that they will review the information carefully and will schedule a vote on the proposal for a later date.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, LICENSES, AND PERMITS

- A) **Public Hearings:** Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Jamestown will conduct a public hearing on September 3, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. at Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, to obtain citizens' views of the proposed Community Development Block Grant application for improved housing opportunities for low and moderate-income families and individuals. Duly advertised in the *August 15th edition of the Jamestown Press*. Written comments will also be accepted by mail to P.O. Box 377, Jamestown, RI 02835 prior to the hearing.

The Town Council acknowledged the Public Hearing scheduled for September 3, 2024, for the proposed Community Development Block Grant application for improved housing opportunities for low and moderate-income families and individuals

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to convene as the Town Council sitting as the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Board. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

B) Town Council Sitting as the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Board

Notice is hereby given by the Town Council of Jamestown, being the Licensing Board in said Town as provided under Title 3, Chapters 1-12 of the General Laws of Rhode Island 1956, and as amended, the following has been received:

- 1) Pursuant to RIGL §3-7-14, the following license application has been received under said Act for a one-day license on Sept 19, 2024 (F-24-8)

CLASS F (NON-PROFIT)

Out of the Box Studio & Gallery (OBSG)
11 Clinton Avenue
Jamestown, RI 02835

- a) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote for Approval of the OBSG CLASS F (NON-PROFIT) LIQUOR LICENSE (Number 4 of 12 licenses per calendar year issued RIGL§3-7-14).

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve the Out of the Box Studio & Gallery One-Day Class F Liquor License (F-24-8) scheduled for September 19, 2024 taking place at 11 Clinton Avenue. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to adjourn from sitting as the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Board. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

President Beye recused herself from agenda item C) 1) Bingo License Application from Friends of Jamestown Seniors, Inc. and left the dais.

C) Licenses and Permits

- 1) Bingo License Application: All bingo license application approvals are subject to any COVID-19 protocols in effect at the time of the event; Review, Discussion and/or Action, and/or Vote on the following:

a) Applicant: Friends of the Jamestown Seniors, Inc.
Event: Weekly Bingo Games
Date: September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025
Location: 6 West Street, Jamestown (Senior Center)

A motion was made by Councilor Brine with a second by Councilor M. White to approve the Friends of the Jamestown Seniors, Inc. Bingo License for the period September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025. Vote: Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

President Beye rejoined the meeting and returned to the dais.

VIII. COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATOR, SOLICITOR, COMMISSION/COMMITTEE COMMENTS & REPORTS

Please Note the Following Items are Status Reports and Matters of Interest to the Council and are for Informational Purposes unless Indicated Otherwise:

A) Town Administrator's Report: Edward A. Mello

1) North Kingstown Water Agreement updated. (Communications).

Town Administrator Mello reported that the emergency water use agreement with the Town of North Kingstown had been fully executed.

2) Harbor Commission Executive Director recommendation (Consent Agenda).

At the recommendation of Town Administrator Mello request that the Town Council consider the appointment of James Heagney to serve as the Executive Director of the Harbor Commission.

3) Building and Zoning Official recommendation (Consent Agenda).

At the recommendation of Town Administrator Mello request that the Town Council consider the appointment of Dennis Begin to serve as the Building and Zoning Official.

4) Senior Service Program Assistant appointment.

Eileen Donnelly filled the new part-time position of Senior Services Program Assistant and will transition into this position in the coming weeks. The new Meal Site coordinator is expected to begin shortly.

5) Senior Center update.

Collaboration continues with Union Studios on two scenarios for 6 West Street: renovation of the existing structure as well as a complete replacement on the same site. A professional cost estimator will provide the best cost estimates for both scenarios. Further information will be provided to the Town Council in September.

6) Short-Term Rentals compliance and non-compliance update.

Town staff have identified approximately eighteen (18) properties that are currently operating non-compliant short-term rentals. A notice of violation was issued by the building official to each. Other STRs registered properties have been found operating beyond the conditions of the license. In most cases, the STRs are exceeding the number of permitted bedrooms.

A report will be presented at a future Town Council meeting and will include a summary of the licensed properties including bedroom counts, complaints, and complaint process.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Approval of the request(s) to the Town Council to grant an extension for a Temporary Trailer Permit as provided by the Town of Jamestown Code of Ordinances Section 34-42:
 - 1) Request from Bennett and Debra Cinquegrana, for temporary trailer permit extension from August 19, 2024, to November 15, 2024, and copy of correspondence received.

Discussion ensued.

Town Administrator Mello gave a summary of the Cinquegrana's request for a temporary trailer permit extension from August 19, 2024, to November 15, 2024.

The Town Council requested clarification on the location of the property and inquired whether the permit could be issued for new construction as opposed to a renovation.

The matter was continued to the September 3, 2024 Town Council meeting.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: At the request of the Jamestown Elections Training and Advisory Ad hoc Committee, approval to establish the Jamestown Elections Training and Advisory Committee as a permanent standing committee of the Town of Jamestown.
 - 1) Letter and report from the members of the Jamestown Elections Training and Advisory Ad hoc Committee to the Town Council.

President Beye as the Council liaison to the Jamestown Elections Training and Advisory Ad hoc Committee, made remarks on the importance and dedication of the committee members.

Linda Jamison and Laura Goldstein, members of the committee, presented to the Town Council. The committee's goal and mission were to develop best practices for elections and voter education. The report covered issues, concerns, and recommendations such as general election safety, crisis de-escalation training, collaboration with local police for increased election coverage, and disaster recovery plans. The Deputy Clerk/Clerk to the Board of Canvassers Keith Ford has been working on developing an incident action plan.

The Committee observed the lack of voter knowledge, and the Jamestown Press has agreed to advertise the voter information brochure, directing voters to the voteri.com website, and increase awareness in advance to the electorate.

The term for the ad hoc Committee will be ending in September. They are a small committee with a broad perspective and would like to see their work come to fruition. A request to make the committee a permanent standing committee of the Town of Jamestown was made.

Solicitor Peter Ruggiero stated an enabling Resolution will need to be developed to make the Jamestown Elections Training and Advisory Committee a permanent standing committee of the Town of Jamestown.

The request was continued to the September 3, 2024 Town Council meeting.

XI. ORDINANCES, APPOINTMENTS, VACANCIES, AND EXPIRING TERMS

- A) Appointments, Vacancies, and Expiring Terms; Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote:
- 1) Jamestown 250th Commission, Five to Seven (5-7) member vacancy, for a term ending December 1, 2027, duly advertised in the February 15th and 22nd editions of the Jamestown Press:
 - a) Interested Applicant(s)
 - i) Joyce Hooley Bartlett
 - Application received June 12, 2024.
 - Interview to be scheduled at the Town Council's discretion.
 - ii) Linda Warner
 - Application received August 13, 2024.
 - Interview to be scheduled at the Town Council's discretion.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to appoint Linda Warner to the Jamestown 250th Commission, for a term ending December 1, 2027.

- 2) Tree Preservation and Protection Committee, One (1) member vacancy with an unexpired term ending December 31, 2024:
 - a) Letter of resignation:
 - i) Donna Repko

The Town Council thanked Donna Repko for serving on the Tree Preservation and Protection Committee and extended best wishes to her.

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

An item on the Consent Agenda need not be removed for simple clarification or correction of typographical errors. Approval of the Consent Agenda shall be equivalent to the approval of each item as if it had been acted upon separately for review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote. A Consent Agenda item or items may be removed by the Town Council for review, discussion, and/or potential action and or vote.

- A) Adoption of Town Council Meeting Minutes
- 1) July 15, 2024 (Regular Meeting)
 - 2) August 6, 2024 (Special Meeting)
- B) Minutes of Boards/Commissions/Committees
- 1) Affordable Housing, (June 26, 2024)
 - 2) Bike Path Committee (April 26, 2024)
 - 3) Bike Path Committee (June 14, 2024)
 - 4) Bike Path Committee (June 18, 2024)
 - 5) Bike Path Committee 2024 Attendance
 - 6) Harbor Management Commission (June 12, 2024)
 - 7) Planning Commission (June 26, 2024)
 - 8) Zoning Board of Review (June 25, 2024)

- C) Finance Director's Report: Comparison Budget to Actuals as of June 30, 2024.
- D) Public Hearing Notifications: Notice is hereby given that the Jamestown Zoning Board of Review will hold a public hearing on August 27, 2024, at the Jamestown Town Hall 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, Rhode Island at 7:00 p.m. upon the following:
 - 1) Application of Steve and Jamie Munger whose property is located at 230 Conanicus Avenue, and for the appeal of a decision made by the zoning officer pursuant to Article 4, General Administration and Enforcement, Section 82-408, Appeal of a decision of the zoning enforcement officer. The applicant is aggrieved by the arbitrary and capricious decision made by the zoning officer who has decided NOT to enforce the conditions to the Special Use Permit granted to the Town of Jamestown by the Jamestown Zoning Board on March 27, 2019, for the property located at 245 Conanicus Avenue, Jamestown, RI 02835.
 - a) Letter dated August 9, 2024, from Atty. Christian Infantolino representing Steve and Jamie Munger, to the Jamestown Town Zoning Board, c/o Peter Medeiros, Zoning Officer, notification of withdrawal of application of appeal of a decision made by the Town's zoning officer on June 28, 2024.
 - 2) Application of Sergio Vinelli whose property is located at 10 Emerson Road, Jamestown, RI 02835, and further identified as Tax Assessor's Plat 8, Lot 209 for a Variance granted under Article 3. Special Use Permits and Variances, Sections 82-305, 82-306, and 82-307, for relief from Article 6 Section 82-602. Dimensional Regulations, Table 6-2 for the Village Special Development District Zones R-8, R-20, CL, and CD for a Front Yard Setback of 20' 6" where the required setback is 30' and the existing structure is located at 20' 6". The Applicant seeks relief in order to put a second floor on the property with a total additional space of approximately 749 square feet. Said property is located in a R20 zone and contains +/-24,829 square feet
- E) At the recommendation of Town Administrator Mello approval of the appointment of Dennis Begin as the Town of Jamestown Building and Zoning Official.
- F) At the recommendation of Town Administrator Mello approval of the appointment of James Heagney as the Jamestown Harbor Commission Executive Director.
- G) Ratification of the Administratively approved Short-Term Rental application for the period of August 19, 2024, through December 31, 2024:
 - 1) STR-109, Laura Carlson, 20 Brook Street
- H) Ratification of the Administratively approved One-Day Event Entertainment License Application: Jamestown Shores Association Picnic (ENT-24-18), August 17, 2024, Heads/Sunset Beach.

- I) Ratification of the Administratively approved One-Day Vendor/Peddler License Application: Jamestown Rotary, Fools Rules Regatta (ODVP-24-7), August 17, 2024, East Ferry Beach.
- J) One-Day Event/Entertainment License Applications: All One-Day Event/Entertainment license application approvals are subject to any COVID-19 protocols in effect at the time of the event:
 - 1) Applicant: Jamestown Senior Center
Event: Annual Senior Center Picnic (ENT-24-19)
Date: August 21, 2024
Location: Fort Getty Pavilion
 - 2) Applicant: Jamestown Arts Center (JAC)
Event: Film Screening: PBS Our Town (ENT-24-20)
Date: September 3, 2024
Location: JAC, 18 Valley Street
 - 3) Applicant: Out of the Box Studio & Gallery (OBSG)
Event: Where the Pavement Ends (ENT-24-21)
Date: September 19, 2024
Location: OBSG, 11 Clinton Avenue

Vice President Meagher read aloud each Short-Term Rental host application name and address, asking those in attendance for any objections or comments to be known.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve the Short-Term Rental applications for licensing as listed on the Consent Agenda. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to accept the Consent Agenda. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor Brine, Aye.

Communications were acknowledged.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, AND PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM OTHER RHODE ISLAND CITIES AND TOWNS

The Council may acknowledge any of the listed Communications and Proclamations and Resolutions. Should any member wish to have a conversation on any of the matters, the item will be placed on a future agenda for review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote.

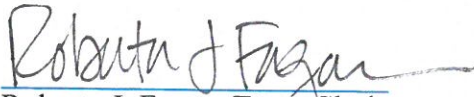
- A) Communications Received:
 - 4) Copy of article to: Town Council
From: Marian Falla
Dated: July 10, 2024
Re: Newport City Council asks City Administration to provide recommendations on short-term rentals.
 - 5) Copy of letter(s) to: Town Council
From: Jamestown Lawn School 5th grader
Nathan David Verkuijlen, re: Invasive Species.

- 6) Copy of letter to: Town Council
From: Bob & Dawn Laman
Dated: June 30, 2024
Re: Maryse Poirier/Jamestown Farmer's Market.
- 7) Copy of letter to: Town Council
From: Jennifer & Peter Knollmeyer, Becky Sterner, and Steve Clark
Dated: July 17, 2024
Re: Maryse Poirier/Jamestown Farmer's Market
- 8) Copy of email to: Town Council
From: Kathy Silvestri and Arthur Grover
Dated: July 31, 2024
Re: Maryse Poirier/Jamestown Farmer's Market
- 9) Copy of email to: Town Council
From: Jan Goodland-Met/Casey Weibust, Out of the Box
Dated: July 15, 2024
Re: Jamestown Farmers Market
- 10) Copy of letter to: Town Council
From: Jan Goodland-Metz/Chandler Neale, Windmist Farm
Dated: June 8, 2024
Re: Gould Island use.
- 11) Copy of public notice
From: Coastal Resource Management Council
Dated: July 26, 2024
Re: Proposed amendments to the NARW Vessel Strike Reduction Rule.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

Attest:


Roberta J. Fagan, Town Clerk