



**TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020
Regular Town Council Meeting**

APPROVED MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trinks called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks, Deputy Mayor Joe McAuliffe, Councilor Nuchette Black-Burke, Councilor Lisa Rampulla Bress, Councilor James Dobler, Councilor James Govoni, Councilor Donald Jepsen, Councilor Lenworth Walker, and Councilor Kenneth Wilkos

2) PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Councilor Govoni led the group in prayer/reflection.

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Govoni led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS - None

5) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Susan Miller, 10 Ethan Drive, supports moving the John Mason statue to the Windsor Historical Society and would also like to see Columbus Day renamed as Indigenous Peoples Day. Ms. Miller also stated that winter will be coming sooner rather than later and brought up an excellent resource to the Town Council about a program at Energize CT, which is funded by a charge on the current energy bills. Using this program can help residents save money on their heating and electricity bills, especially while people are struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis. A free energy audit will be beneficial and could potentially reduce the levels of fossil fuels being used.

Donna Grossman, 781 Kennedy Road, said she appreciated the apology to Mayor Trinks during the August 24th meeting by Councilor Jepsen. She mentioned that it was inappropriate to discuss certain matters pertaining to other council members in a public meeting and stated that it would be best to handle those matters privately. Ms. Grossman disagreed with Councilor Wilkos' comment about no longer supporting members from a "semi-organized group". Ms. Grossman spoke more about the August 3rd meeting adjourning early, which she agreed was acceptable since most people had not received proper information beforehand. However, it was not

acceptable to end the entire meeting because of this. Ms. Grossman believes that this was not the right way to handle a situation based upon the different opinions being discussed.

Agnes Pier, 475 Broad Street, as the President of the Windsor Historical Society board, she addressed the Council about the John Mason statue. Ms. Pier stated that in July when there was a special Historical Society board meeting in order to get a sense of what the decision would be for the statue's placement if it were to be moved. She also stated that the board had only considered housing the statue of John Mason, but never agreed to outright accept the statue. At the next board meeting on September 21st, the question of the John Mason statue being placed with the Windsor Historical Society was heard, but it was not guaranteed to be accepted by the Board. Ms. Pier does feel strongly that if the statue is accepted, there would be a total interpretation on a complete level of the entire Native American communities that were impacted, rather than just the side of the Pequots and the English Colonialists.

John Dunn, 15 Strawberry Hill, stated that he spoke about adding the placement outcome of the John Mason statue on the voting ballot this November and inquired about if this has been discussed further. Mr. Dunn supported his idea with various other examples, such as Charter revisions being on the ballot, which would then make the vote about the John Mason statue appropriate as well. Mr. Dunn stated that if time is of the essence and it cannot be added at this time then his next idea would be to add the John Mason statue decision to the Spring 2021 referendum.

Hillary Carpenter, 45 Bradford Drive, spoke in favor of the removal of the John Mason statue, and brought up a museum in Germany that houses statues of problematic and toxic historical figures, just like John Mason. The aim of that museum is to de-heroize monuments and take away their heroic appeal. Ms. Carpenter believes that it would be best if the statue of John Mason could be moved somewhere where it can be contextualized and given its proper home, not on the Palisado Green.

Sally Grossman, 106 Niles Road, read a brief statement that was cowritten by community members on the topic of the John Mason statue. Her purpose of reading this was to keep her comment short and avoid the Town Council meeting to go past 11:00 p.m. tonight. The written statement discussed many items such as Windsor celebrating Columbus Day by observing the holiday on the Windsor Public School calendar and the John Mason statue being a controversial topic since its arrival in the Town of Windsor. Preserving the John Mason statue as is, on the Palisado Green says a lot about what the town has been holding dear. Ms. Grossman, as well as the others who put together this letter, believes that the John Mason statue does not deserve a place of prominence on the Palisado Green. Regarding the question of historical references, the resources used to find this historical evidence has been submitted to the Council. A petition of over one thousand signatures to move the statue was sent to the Council members as well. The petition is asking for more history to be told, not less, thus concluding that the removal of the statue will not be erasing history. Ms. Grossman shared a direct quote from the letter about the cruel acts committed and followed up by stating the names involved with the letter; Sally Grossman, Lauren Shea Warner, Andrew Warner, Jennifer Bodin, Andrea Walden, Ed Dombowski, Katherine Ellis, Donna Grossman, Barry Woodrow, Corinne Pearson, Sarah Easton, Belle Arnold, Shannon Grakowski, Penny Shea, Beth Caruso, Chaz Button, Benny

Gamache, Doug Shoner, Beckie Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Liz Dupont Diehl, Andrew Goldman, Hillary Carpenter, Chase Mathis, Marissa Greene, John Fournier, and Tim Curtis.

George Slate, 74 Ethan Drive, addressed Town Manager Souza, stating that he is in hopes Town Manager Souza will cover two important items that are not on the agenda, one being the voting process for the November 2020 election and the second being how Windsor is doing regarding the required census paperwork. Mr. Slate took back his statement from the August 24th meeting when he said that the letter from the Pequot tribe was the only thing that matters when making this decision for the John Mason statue. Now he is not sure if any weight should be taken from that letter. Since then he has learned the Pequots were warring against other neighboring Native American tribes before the arrival of the Europeans. Another point Mr. Slate made was that the Pequots had monopolized the fur trade and they had become so successful in their war efforts that it took an alliance of four groups to defeat the Pequots. He referred to a report that was written by Lewis Chaffee when deciding the naming of one of their dorms, regarding signing the treaty of Hartford which subjugated the Pequots to the Narragansetts and the Mohegans. Mr. Slate also stated it should be noted that there were no other massacres in New England that were comparable in scale until the Shang Phillips war in the 1670's when the Pequot tribe ironically partnered with the colonists in their conflict with the Narragansett tribe. Mr. Slate read an excerpt from a report prepared by the Mason Family Memorial Association, about the word "genocide" being misused as a counterproductive symbol of protest politics. He then went on to state that the article reads about misinterpreting history and having a negative attitude. John Mason did not want to completely wipe out the Pequots but strived to stop the aggression from them.

Jody Terranova, 52 Cobblestone Way, is in support of the removal of the John Mason statue. Ms. Terranova directed her comment to Councilor Govoni, Councilor Wilkos, and Councilor Walker, stating that she trusts they take their responsibilities within the Council seriously even though they were unable to attend the August 24th meeting. Ms. Terranova stressed the importance of hearing the overwhelming opinion from the public comments in favor of removing the John Mason statue. Ms. Terranova reiterated that relocating the John Mason statue to a place of less prominence is an easy first step as town leaders to improve inclusion in Windsor.

Samantha Gove, 61 Hartford Avenue, is a member of the Pequot Nation and is in support of the removal of the John Mason statue, which honors a man who is responsible for many major issues such as poverty, generational trauma, and other equality issues for indigenous people. To fix this issue, Ms. Gove believes that removing statues like the John Mason statue is a great first step. If colonization is properly contextualized, then there will be a real chance at fixing these problems and will improve the quality of life for Native people everywhere. Perspective is essential in order to focus on the community that was victimized and needs attention. Ms. Gove then stated that there is a Pequot museum only an hour away from Windsor that can properly contextualize what the Pequots endured during colonization. Ms. Gove urged the Council to consider the history of the statue less, and instead focus on the impact that the narrative of the statue has on the Native communities today.

Eric LaForest, History instructor at Loomis Chaffee and former Windsor resident moved away from Windsor this summer. Mr. LaForest spoke about how the school he is employed at decided

to rename a part of the building that was once called “Mason Hall”. The Board of Trustees reviewed the history of John Mason and decided to rename the dormitory shortly thereafter. Looking back on the process, Mr. LaForest is proud of the change his school made and hopes that even though there may be major cost deficits that come into play, the history behind John Mason is a good enough reason to strongly consider the removal of the John Mason statue. It is the right thing to do for our history as well as our future.

Tim Curtis, 20 Kendrick Lane, signed the letter read by Ms. Sally Grossman, and reiterated that he is in favor of the removal of the statue as well as the renaming of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

Ned Bacigalupo, 89 Farmstead Lane, spoke in favor of keeping the statue where it already exists on the Palisado Green. Mr. Bacigalupo stated that removing the statue off of its base is considered defacement of a work of art which belongs to future generations, including all tribes and inhabitants of the State of Connecticut. Originally, when the Town of Windsor was awarded the John Mason statue, it was stated that the history should be explained on three plaques. That was not done, but Mr. Bacigalupo believes that by placing the three plaques with the statue it could resolve most of the problems being discussed. He does not believe it would be effective to move the statue one hundred feet from its original base and it should not be separated. Mr. Bacigalupo stated that if the statue is moved, it should be given to the Town of Wethersfield, Connecticut, who also claims to be the first town in the state. He believes that this will give Wethersfield additional prestige. Mr. Bacigalupo then stated that what happened to the Pequots was collateral damage and is likely to happen in any war. This was not an intentional genocide. He believes that John Mason is not responsible for the slave trade that came to Connecticut. There has been an overwhelming number of signatures coming in in support of keeping the statue on the Palisado Green. Mr. Bacigalupo does not agree with what the “Lawless Liberals” group stands for. They negatively impact many residents in the Windsor community.

Kerry Turek, 248 Poquonock Avenue, stated that the word “Pequot” translated means destroyer. Ms. Turek believes that since no one was around during the time of the Pequots and John Mason, no one should be allowed to pass judgment on the challenges they faced. Ms. Turek read an excerpt from a man, William Hayden, who fought alongside John Mason. This excerpt stated the brutality that the Pequots committed, worrying the new European settlers. Both parties, the Pequots and settlers, determined that the only way to solve this was to wipe out each other’s communities. The ultimate goal of the Pequots was to create harm and starvation to force the European settlers to flee New England and return to their previous owned land in Europe. In order to lessen the power of the Pequots, the European settlers planned a larger attack, weakening the Pequot tribe. As a compromise, the statue no longer sits on Pequot land. Ms. Turek stated that the statue represents the heritage of the Town of Windsor, it does not represent the history of the Pequots. She believes that the statue should remain on the Palisado Green. There have been 1,073 signatures collected from members of the community who would also like the statue to stay on the Palisado Green.

Marissa Greene, 1233 Matianuck Avenue, addressed Councilor Jepsen’s comment from the last meeting saying the removal of the John Mason statue was “driving the edge deeper into the division of the community”. Ms. Greene stated that the town seems comfortable with keeping the

statue and pushing aside everything that we have learned about John Mason's cruel acts. Ms. Greene believes that the statue should not be left on the Palisado Green just to ease the tensions in the town. Ms. Greene also believes that by supporting the non-removal of the statue people have come to accept genocide, and by doing so, they also think the people who were/are killed are lesser. Ms. Greene urged everyone to think about who is hurt by the statue's existence. Leaving the statue where it is would also support the white supremacists of the town, which would be wrong since Windsor declared racism as a public health crisis. Ms. Greene stated she wanted to look at a comment made by Mayor Trinks in the past saying everyone needs to come back to civility. Ms. Greene would like to know what that means exactly. Ms. Greene stated that she is part of a group in town that participates in many ways to help the community, but still receives negative feedback from certain individuals.

Marcus Mason Maronn stated that he wanted to rebut the Pequot statement, because there were many inaccuracies. He believes that there are many important factors that are left out due to special opinions given. According to Mr. Maronn, the Pequot tribe omits the fact that when they first came to south eastern Connecticut, they were responsible for transforming the balance of power. Mr. Maronn claims that the Pequots would brag about killing men, women, and children like they were mosquitos, yet they claim that the colonists point of genocide as unacceptable. Mr. Maronn stated that there should not be any more false and biased claims toward Captain John Mason. Mr. Maronn then went on to state that there would not have been survival of the Mohegans or Pequots without John Mason and Uncas. Mr. Maronn stated that the John Mason statue was not created to honor the deaths he is responsible for, but rather to honor his contributions to the state and the town as a leader. The Town of Windsor should continue to honor the statue and fully respect the reason why it still stands.

6) COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Dobler thanked everyone who came out to speak on both sides of the John Mason topic. Councilor Dobler also welcomed all the children back on their first day of school.

Councilor Walker started by stating that there is an overwhelming participation from the public on the issue of the John Mason statue. Councilor Walker expressed his concerns for the people who have not had a chance to speak about their opinions and beliefs because the same townspeople have been granted permission to speak at the meetings. The differences in opinion are creating fear from residents in Windsor to sign petitions and speak their opinions based off the repercussions that may take place. Contacting employers and going to the Windsor Police Department is inappropriate for handling political situations. Councilor Walker then spoke about the acts of car break-ins and how those issues are being put to the wayside during Town Council meetings due to lengthy discussions on the John Mason statue topic. Councilor Walker even had his membership taken away due to people not liking his response on the John Mason statue. The group "Lawless Liberals" have been discussing certain acts that would require there to be no cameras, and how nice it would be to key a council member's car. These things are becoming very problematic. Councilor Walker stated that he supports the group of people who have had less of a chance or are afraid to speak on this issue and will continue to vote accordingly.

Councilor Walker then talked about quality of life issues such as the vehicle break-ins and is in hopes that the Town Manager will do his best to use resources to clarify that the Windsor Police Department will do something more to address these theft issues. Councilor Walker discussed the noise complaints that are being received and how the Police Department is handling the complaints. There have also been complaints about tractor trailers being parked in residential neighborhoods and blocking driveways. Quality of life issues should not be going to the wayside. The town needs to get back to dealing with these issues. Councilor Walker stated that we as residents should not be copying other cities' actions such as Hartford and Bridgeport.

Councilor Govoni wanted to second Councilor Dobler's comment on school being back in session, welcoming back students, and being mindful of the morning commute. It is important to watch for students in the streets on the way to and from school.

Councilor Black-Burke thanked everyone for their participation in tonight's meeting. Councilor Black-Burke also thanked the superintendent and teachers in Windsor and commented on how amazing the school system has been during this pandemic. The community conversation with the Police Chief and Town Manager Souza was also amazing and she urged people who have not seen it to watch the recorded dialogue on the town website. Councilor Black-Burke stated that she is offended and takes direct exception from anyone to think that what citizens have brought to the Council as a concern is irrelevant or less important. That is the wrong way to handle situations such as these, especially when citizens have specific concerns. It is the duty as an elected official to address these issues and not accuse people of "jamming phone lines". All residents have the right to call in any concerns that they may have, no matter the subject matter. Councilor Black-Burke stated that she does and will continue to give her full energy to any subject that is a concern to the residents of Windsor. She welcomes anyone to call because that is community engagement. Councilor Black-Burke came to her second point by stating that she has never tried to dishonor any contribution from John Mason, but rather wanted to hear from all parties about the concerns regarding the statue. Now the decision can be made. Councilor Black-Burke urged that all concerns brought to the Council should be treated with dignity and respect. She agreed that this situation could have been handled a lot differently, but in this position, it is important to deal with the good, the bad and the ugly, and in doing so can lead to greater things ahead.

Councilor Rampulla Bress concurred with the many points made by Councilor Black-Burke. Many people in the community are being called out unfairly, especially by members on the Council, which is disturbing to her. Councilor Rampulla Bress discussed her concerns about the comments being made online and in the meetings that are not necessary and should not be talked about specifically during Town Council meetings. Councilor Rampulla Bress referred to Roberts Rules of Orders stating that presenting personalities is not in the orders and she would like to discuss these terms privately with the other Council members in order to determine whether the Council is becoming personal rather than professional. Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that she is very happy that the residents have been participating in the public comment but is upset by some of the comments being made toward specific people and certain opinions. Government should be participatory and every member of the community should be heard by the Council. Councilor Rampulla Bress is very grateful to the Windsor Public schools, teachers,

parents, and students for creating such a smooth transition back to school during the pandemic. She also wished everyone a safe and healthy school year ahead.

Councilor Wilkos stated that his absence from the August 24th meeting was due to end of summer plans he had made with his family. In the months of July and August, there is only one meeting scheduled in order to be considerate of the councilors' personal lives as well as their professional lives, and councilors do not typically have to report why they were absent from the meeting. The special meeting on August 24th was called at the very last minute, with the desire to complete the discussion topics that were not discussed in the previous meeting. Councilor Wilkos then apologized that he was unable to attend the last meeting.

Councilor Jepsen stated that he does not mind being called out during the meetings, because it is part of the job as a council member. Not everyone is going to agree with what you say. Councilor Jepsen does not feel that anything was put over the line, but there are methods within Roberts Rules to handle situations when lines are crossed. Councilor Jepsen is willing to discuss these rules with other council members to determine what should be deemed appropriate if necessary.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce is having a golf event on Monday, September 14th. They are looking for supporters and participants. This event will be sending proceeds to small business recovery in Windsor. More information about the event is available on the Chamber of Commerce website. Deputy Mayor McAuliffe also mentioned that it was the first day of school in Windsor and it is important to watch for the children boarding buses as well as for the children who are walking to school and crossing in the crosswalks. Another item discussed was putting certain questions on the voting ballots. It has been determined that polling people for any type of questions, like the John Mason statue for example, is not allowed on the ballot per state regulations.

Mayor Trinks stated that now that school is in session, it is important to practice careful driving habits. Mayor Trinks thanked the participation from all sides of the community for their thoughts and opinions on the John Mason statue. Mayor Trinks also thanked Town Manager Souza and the Windsor Police chief for their open question session that they held. It was very well attended with a lot of good questions. Mayor Trinks referred to Roberts Rules and stated that it would be beneficial to go back to that. Council meetings should have professionalism and civility. Even though we are volunteers as council members, it is important to run the meetings professionally.

7) REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSION

Mayor Trinks stated that the Board of Education submitted a written report in lieu of a verbal presentation to the Council and each Councilor has received a copy.

- a) Board of Education – written commentary was received
- b) Insurance Commission

Edward Samolyk, Chairman of the Insurance Commission, gave a brief overview of the very favorable claims experiences during the time of the pandemic thus far. Exhibits were given to

Helene Albert to share with the Council and were prepared by the USI Insurance agency. The major portions of all insurance coverages are with the Traveler's Insurance Company.

June 18, 2020 was the date of the first renewal premiums and based on the increase of town property values by 7%-12%, it caused a slight change in the premium. The next grouping is the excess umbrella and school board liability coverages, and these premiums changed accordingly. The total increase of premium was roughly \$84,732 or 10%.

The second exhibit which is dated September 4, 2020, shows the actual agreed on renewal premiums, which are \$699 less than exhibit one and are a 9.5% increase compared to last year's premiums.

The Insurance Commission recently lost one of their long-time active members, David Ross. Mr. Ross and his family have left Windsor and Mr. Ross will be greatly missed for his wonderful contributions to the Commission. Because of this, the Insurance Commission is working with the Board of Education to approve a candidate who has expressed a desire to serve on the Commission. Mr. Samolyk apologized that he could not meet in person in order to answer any questions there may be. Mr. Samolyk also just celebrated his 30th year on the Insurance Commission.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe commended Mr. Samolyk for his service to the Insurance Commission and congratulated him on his thirty years.

Councilor Rampulla Bress also thanked Mr. Samolyk for his service to the town and the Insurance Commission. It is greatly appreciated.

c) Windsor Housing Authority – no report

8) TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Police Department Relocation

I'm pleased to let you know that the Police Department move to the new facility at 110 Addison Road is complete. The department is now in the process of settling in to the new facility.

My sincere appreciation to the Public Building Commission, the entire project team and the general contractor, LaRosa Building Group, for bringing this phase of the Public Safety building project on-line.

A dedication ceremony and building tours are planned for Saturday, September 26th. The dedication ceremony will be at 9:30 AM and small group tours will take place up to 11:30 AM.

Renovation & Expansion of Future Fire and EMS Facility

Phase II of the Public Safety Complex building project entails renovating and expanding the 340 Bloomfield Avenue facility for the fire department and emergency medical services. The general contractor has started initial site and utility relocation work.

The fire department will continue to respond to emergency calls from this location. Fire Department administrative offices have been relocated to a trailer on the west side of the building and a few larger trailers are being used to house fire department equipment and supplies.

This project is expected to take 12 to 14 months to complete.

East Barber Street Boat Launch Activity

This past Sunday there was unusually heavy use of the East Barber Street boat launch area. Apparently there was a very large regional jet ski club or group using several boat ramp locations along the CT River causing congestion at each of them. The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection closed the East Barber Street boat ramp area and requested individuals to leave the area as there was too much congestion / overcrowding and persons were not adhering to proper safety measures. Windsor Police assisted the DEEP in clearing the area. Separately, on Sunday, the volunteer fire department was dispatched to the river to assist a boater.

November 3rd Election

Polls will be open from 6 AM to 8 PM on November 3, 2020 for the Presidential Election. To register to vote you must be a U.S. citizen, a CT resident and 18 by 11/3/2020. If you can't make it to the polls, you can vote via absentee ballot.

This election, the state is sending registered voters an application for an absentee ballot. You'll need to complete and return the application to the Town Clerk (via mail or drop box which is located at the back of town hall) as soon as possible to receive an absentee ballot mailed directly to your home.

For more information on absentee ballot voting, please go to myvote.ct.gov or click on the following link to the town's public service announcement at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XFC31y5-Ow>.

9) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Town Improvements Committee – Councilor Dobler stated that the committee met on August 19th. The electric vehicle charging stations were the first item to be discussed and they will be installed after the farmer's market ends, around the end of October or beginning of November. There will be a user fee policy brought to the Council for their review at tonight's meeting. The railroad quiet zone study was also discussed and unfortunately this item was pushed back. The Town Improvements Committee discussed the Wilson/Deerfield properties where the open field and the Roger Wolcott building options were discussed including whether there should be educational classrooms, turn it into housing, demolishing and reselling it, and/or other avenues. A decision will be made later on. Members of the Wilson/Deerfield Committee were invited to join in on the meeting to give their input, but they were unable to join. There will be items brought to the Council in the end of October or beginning of November for further discussion. For the next two months, it is highly advised for anyone who has an opinion on these topics to attend

these meetings virtually. The hope is to have some decisions that can be brought to the Town Council within a few months.

Councilor Black-Burke wanted to know why the wait is from now until October/November, whether it is due to cost or if there is something that is supposed to be disposed of by then. Councilor Black-Burke also mentioned that there are some potential members that may be added to the committee by the end of this meeting and since there may be new ideas, would that be a part of the rush in the time frame given. Town Manager Souza added that since there were new members being added, it would give them the opportunity to provide further input in the October timeframe for the Committees consideration. From a timeline perspective, the Town Council has been discussing it for several years and nothing is driving the timeline other than the building deteriorating and maintenance that needs to be addressed. The first immediate issue is the replacement of the underground oil tanks. By regulations, they are reaching the end of their useful life. They will need to be replaced in the calendar year 2021 and will cost approximately \$130,000. This is one of the deciding factors, but there are not any other major immediate expenditures.

Councilor Dobler stated that it is costing the town around \$70,000 a year if absolutely nothing is done with it. There will be a large cost if demolition is decided on. If there is constructive input being received Councilor Dobler has no problem with putting off the decision.

Councilor Walker urged that there be input given from the new members of the committee as well as the residents who live in the area.

Councilor Dobler responded that residents are very much welcome to give their input.

Special Projects Committee – Councilor Dobler - None

Health & Safety Committee – Councilor Black-Burke stated that the Health & Safety committee did not meet over the summer. Moving forward Councilor Black-Burke would like to have an update for what is going to take place regarding the declaration of racism as a public health crisis. Councilor Black-Burke would like to see this specific topic discussed at every other meeting starting at the next Town Council meeting just as a standing update.

Personnel Committee – Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that the committee met on September 2nd and thanked Councilor Black-Burke and Councilor Walker for their unwavering dedication to the work of this committee, as well as Assistant Town Manager, Scott Colby for his assistance. There are many more people becoming interested in board and commissions and the committee will need to complete more interviews next month. There are still vacancies available and it should be known to the citizens that there are no specific qualifications needed for any of the boards & commissions. Councilor Rampulla Bress urged citizens to check the town website and see if there are any vacancies that are of interest.

Finance Committee – Deputy Mayor McAuliffe stated that there is a tax abatement workshop planned for September 29th, but this may not be the official date of the workshop. A definite date will be posted when determined.

10) ORDINANCES – None**11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) Approve a bond ordinance entitled, “AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$870,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASING OF A FIRE PUMPER ENGINE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$670,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND \$200,000 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGET TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION.”

RESOLVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe that the reading into the minutes of the text of the ordinance entitled, ‘AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$870,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASING OF A FIRE PUMPER ENGINE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$670,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND \$200,000 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGET TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION’ is hereby waived, the full text of the ordinance having been distributed to each member of the Council and copies being made available to those persons attending this meeting; and that the full text of the ordinance be recorded with the minutes of this meeting.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to approve an ordinance entitled, ‘AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$870,000 FOR COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASING OF A FIRE PUMPER ENGINE; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$670,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND \$200,000 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGET TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION.’

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- b) Consideration of a request to the State of Connecticut to remove the John Mason statue from the Palisado Green

RESOLVED by Councilor Black-Burke, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe that the Windsor Town Council respectfully requests the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to relocate the John Mason statue from the Palisado Green to the Windsor Historical Society and to release the remaining term of the temporary easement with the town.

Councilor Black-Burke commented that coming to this decision has been greatly affected by the response from many parties and that it was necessary to have all the dialogue in order to get to this point. Councilor Black-Burke also thanked Town Manager Souza for putting this all together and finding the figures for the likely cost of moving the statue.

Town Manager Souza then discussed the costs and details for relocating the statue. Town Manager Souza reached out to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to get some clarity of logistics and the cost. The DEEP has indicated that

they would likely cover the cost of moving the statue. The cost of preparing the location at the Historical Society, such as a concrete base, is still a question in terms of cost and there may be state grants that could possibly be accessed. There will also need to be additional interpretive panels and the cost of those, and costs regarding final landscaping where the statue will be placed in the future. The actual moving of the statue and that cost seems to be the responsibility of the DEEP and it is a task that they are willing to take on. The motion does mention the moving of the statue and base. The Council will be asking the state to take on the responsibility of removing the base and pedestal as well.

Councilor Black-Burke wanted confirmation that the state will take care of the cost of moving the statue. Town Manager Souza confirmed that the only cost that is in question is creating a new concrete base for the statue. That may have to be a more detailed conversation between the Council and the Historical Society if they elect to formally receive the statue.

Councilor Dobler stated that there has been many different opinions and historical facts received. He has tried to look at three areas in making his decision. One, is considering the direct descendants of John Mason, who do not seem to care what is done with the statue. The second party to be considered is the tribal nation, who has voiced that they would like the statue removed. The final consideration is what the cost is to the town. The cost to the town will either be zero or very negligible. Since those three factors seem to coincide with one another, Councilor Dobler is in favor of removing the statue.

Deputy Mayor McAuliffe commented that he concurs with Councilor Dobler's three main points of consideration, the Mason family, the Pequot tribal nation and the actual cost. What is also important is that the history is preserved. There is no intent to destroy the statue but in 1889 the statue was put up with a certain intent and the intent was not to honor the founder of Windsor or their family. However, by adding the statue to the Historical Society, in which it will be preserved in the Mason family in Windsor, many generations will be presented as well as the indigenous peoples story. Historians can do a great job in 2020 preserving history and uncovering history that has not been known to many people yet, especially since 1637 and 1889. The story needs to be told accurately.

Councilor Govoni questioned the new purpose of the base if the statue is moved. Town Manager Souza answered that in the motion the base includes two stones with a pedestal. If the town does not wish to keep the stone on the Palisado Green, the State of Connecticut will remove that as well.

Councilor Walker stated that he has been thinking about the relocation of the John Mason statue for some time now, and there are 1,073 signatures in favor of leaving the statue where it is currently, and prior to that there were about 500 other names that signed petitions for this as well. There are questions to be asked in order to simplify the situation. Councilor Walker questioned how John Mason contributes to systemic racism in the year 2020. Councilor Walker stated that many have claimed John Mason was responsible for the slave trade, but in doing research, it seems that is false information. He would also like to know how many people of color in 2020 or even in years past have been prevented from paying their mortgage or have been severely affected by this statue being offensive. Councilor Walker does not believe that moving

the statue is about systemic racism. Councilor Walker is worried about the other demands that will arise once the statue is removed. Removing statues is all part of a national partisan political agenda. There are three options for the statue currently. Councilor Walker supports the third option, being that working with the state and providing interpretive materials to provide a full and balanced understanding of John Mason and the statue. Councilor Walker is voting against the removal of the statue because there are other options available to support the people who are wanting the statue to stay on the Palisado Green. To appease the people who want the statue removed from the Green, new and appropriate signage can be put in place and there can even be an airing on the radio or other forms of media about the true history of John Mason, the Pequots, and why the statue stands in Windsor, Connecticut.

Councilor Wilkos stated that many claims have been made about John Mason and the war crimes he is responsible for. There are also presidents of the United States that have schools, statues, and buildings named after them. President Obama armed the Syrian government in 2011 after they started a civil war. President Obama was also responsible in 2009 for sending more troops to fight in the Afghanistan war, creating a total number of 32,000 troops fighting in this war. It is unknown how many people perished in the war, but the number is great in size. President George W. Bush is responsible for the invasion in Iraq, where thousands of people died. President Truman is responsible for hundreds of thousands of people dying from the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which is considered to be a barbaric act. President John F. Kennedy is responsible for the chemical attacks on the population in Vietnam. Aside from the emails received from supporters and non-supporters of the statue, Councilor Wilkos stated that he has learned more about John Mason from doing his own reading on this man. There were accomplishments made in his role in shaping Connecticut, as well as shaping other places worldwide which should be commended. The wars between the Pequots, other native tribes, and the English had been going on for many years before John Mason's arrival, and wars have been going on for many years before that in general. These wars are no different from wars that occur now, in terms of how they effect civilian populations, whether they are on our soil or elsewhere they are just done differently. Councilor Wilkos wishes that the statue can remain in its current place and be used as a tool to remember, to think about history, and to learn from it as an incredible part of history that he was connected to not only to Windsor. Councilor Wilkos voted in favor of keeping the statue on the Palisado Green, as is where it stands, to honor the terms with the state and to keep the statue for the remainder of the lease agreement.

Councilor Jepsen stated that he has been struggling with his decision because there will be no affect on him whether the statue remains where it is or if it is moved from the Palisado Green. There is consideration of giving more history to the statue, but that was supposed to be put in place back in the 1990's when the state arrived in Windsor. Councilor Jepsen is bothered most by how the whole situation regarding the John Mason statue has unfolded. There should have been a better plan in place to bring this subject matter to the Council's attention. As a protest to the way this whole situation has unfolded, Councilor Jepsen would like to vote 'no' on the relocation of the John Mason statue.

Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that she is pleased with the discussion from the other council members on this topic and it is interesting to hear everyone's point of view. There has been a lot said and democracy is messy. Councilor Rampulla Bress believes that the process followed

by the Council was appropriate in coming to this decision. Councilor Rampulla Bress appreciates that the topic was put on the agenda, spoken about in the public comment multiple times, and that so many people have been able to participate via email, phone, and Town Council meetings. Some things discussed were a bit disturbing to Councilor Rampulla Bress, but she does concur that everyone has a voice and is entitled to their own opinion. There has been a lot of history shared. Councilor Rampulla Bress shared a quote from Winston Churchill, stating that “history is written by the victors” and urged everyone to understand that everything that has been quoted has been written by the victors. In this case, those people are the ones who perpetuated the war and came out as the victors. So most things that are said or heard about this matter under portray the impact of those who were impacted negatively by John Mason’s actions.

Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that as an educator she cannot think of a better place for John Mason’s history to be discussed than at the Windsor Historical Society. Councilor Rampulla Bress hopes that the Historical Society will decide to house the Mason statue, because she will vote to have it moved there if approved. The Windsor Historical Society will do a fantastic job portraying the correct history of John Mason after lengthy research is done. Councilor Rampulla Bress is in favor of moving the statue and is in hopes that it will happen sooner rather than later.

Councilor Govoni stated that he has continued to review the process of the statue’s removal for some time and this is new territory. The problem is that there is not even a guarantee that the Windsor Historical Society will agree to take the statue. This should be passed to a committee who will explore every option and make careful decisions, rather than putting it in the hands of people from various political parties. Councilor Govoni then stated that if the statue is not wanted here to begin with, then why not just have the statue taken out of the town completely? By not having this process taken over by a committee, it is becoming challenging for the Town Council members to make the decision. Councilor Govoni is in hopes that there will be a process for handling items like this to a committee from here on out.

Mayor Trinks stated that when the discussion of the John Mason statue started it was known that this topic would evoke a lot of emotions from many people. The job of the Council is to listen and handle these topics with great care and consideration. There have been competitive petitions submitted, each with approximately 1,000 signatures for keeping the state where it is and for moving the statue to another location. Mayor Trinks does not see a better place for the John Mason statue than at the Windsor Historical Society. Everyone has done research and found that there is good and bad history with John Mason. Mayor Trinks has faith that the Historical Society will put together an objective and factual curriculum based on John Mason’s life. Mayor Trinks then stated that as Council members, there will always come a time when votes have to be made that may not always be the popular vote, but it is the job of the Council to make this decision now, as it has been several months since the start of the discussion. There has been input from John Mason’s family, the native tribes, the Historical Society, and the State of Connecticut. Mayor Trinks is in favor of and will vote to relocate the statue to the Historical Society thus making it available for people to learn the whole story of John Mason.

Motion Passed 5-4-0 (Councilors Jepsen, Govoni, Walker, Wilkos against)

- c) Consideration of recognizing the second Monday of each October as Indigenous Peoples Day

RESOLVED by Councilor Black-Burke, seconded by Councilor Rampulla Bress that the Town Council recognizes the second Monday of each October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

Councilor Black-Burke stated that the process in which the Council has handled this item has been completely appropriate from the start and confirmed that this is not adding a second holiday, it is merely recognizing that the holiday will be recognized as Indigenous Peoples Day.

Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that as an educator, there is not a lot of room in the curriculum to give attention to Indigenous Peoples and other populations who have been marginalized. Most history books do not even include diverse points of view or go into depth on different types of people. Councilor Rampulla Bress supports this motion as an opportunity to bring awareness to the community as well as for the school system to celebrate a culture that is often neglected. Councilor Rampulla Bress is in favor of this motion passing and looks forward to the educational opportunities that will stem from it.

Councilor Dobler stated that the town does not celebrate or recognize Columbus Day as a holiday and directed a question to Town Manager Souza asking if the holiday name change will cost the town money. Town Manager Souza stated that to his knowledge it will not add any extra costs to the Town of Windsor. Councilor Dobler then asked if the approval of the name change will create a new town holiday. Town Manager Souza confirmed that this decision will not create a new town holiday. Councilor Dobler also stated that he concurred with Councilor Rampulla Bress and he is in favor of the motion to recognize the second Monday of each October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

Councilor Wilkos apologized for his absence at the last meeting but questioned how we would be creating access and greater opportunity and to what that entails, while recognizing October second as indigenous peoples day. He also asked what this would do or mean for Columbus Day as we already know it. Councilor Wilkos also stated that when Councilor Rampulla Bress referred to recognizing the holiday as Indigenous Peoples Day as a great opportunity for schools, it should become an item for the Board of Education, not the Town Council.

Councilor Black-Burke stated that at the last meeting, there was great discussion regarding the word "Indigenous" and that term is politically correct because other terms such as "Indian" and "Native American" or other terms are considered racist today in America. Councilor Black-Burke also stated that awareness means remembrance and can be carried out within the school system. This is not just a Board of Education subject, because it is recognizing it as a whole town. By recognizing the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day, we are calling to remembrance and allowing opportunity for people to do something in honor of the Indigenous Peoples.

Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that it will create an opportunity for the schools in Windsor to recognize and remember Indigenous Peoples' past and present struggles, and it will also give other organizations in town the chance to spread awareness and capitalize on this topic. Councilor Wilkos stated that he is not comfortable voting for or against this topic because there needs to be more discussion. Councilor Wilkos would like to know why it needs to be decided

and in place by this upcoming second Monday in October, and what will happen after it is voted on, regarding what the responsibilities of the Town Manager will be and for the others who will be responsible to make this change. Councilor Wilkos stated that it should not be “stacked on top” of another day. He questioned why Indigenous Peoples Day can’t be recognized on a different day if that’s all that is to be accomplished.

Councilor Walker stated that he does not see the change being beneficial to the Town of Windsor. Councilor Walker also stated that the motion is a bit confusing because it does not mention Columbus Day, but rather just recognizing the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day, keeping in mind that there is a national debate about Christopher Columbus. Councilor Walker believes that this should be a decision more for the state than the Town of Windsor. Councilor Walker would like to know what the population of Indigenous Peoples includes, since we’ll be recognizing their population. There is a big push to address racism, and Councilor Walker is wondering if there is a tie to Columbus and acts of racism. Councilor Walker believes that the motion written is confusing with its wording and should not be decided on tonight, based on the many variables that are still not listed in the motion that should be addressed.

Councilor Black-Burke responded by stating that recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day is about focusing on inclusion in the Town of Windsor. Councilor Black-Burke also stated that no matter the number of people who are Indigenous, inclusion is still inclusion. As the town starts to move towards anti-racism, this will include a specific mindset and a posture of inclusion. Councilor Black-Burke stated that the declaration that was started was to address race and inclusion of all types of people and this is an item that fits with that agenda.

Councilor Jepsen stated that in the beginning he thought that this particular agenda item could be sought as a solution searching for a problem because this is something that is only recognized with the Board of Education and the Town Council is separate from that. Councilor Jepsen’s other concern was that this could potentially become another holiday that is not needed. Basically, this is all about commemorating a day which is done all the time anyway with different proclamations such as fire prevention week, black history month, and breast cancer awareness month. Recognizing this as a day that represents people of Native American descent is something that Councilor Jepsen supports, especially since his children are one sixteenth Cherokee. Councilor Jepsen would like to vote in favor of the commemoration of Indigenous Peoples Day, because he believes it will raise awareness.

Motion Passed 6-0-3 (Councilor Walker, Councilor Wilkos, Councilor Govoni abstained)

d) Approve Electric Vehicle Charging Station User Fee Policy

MOVED by Councilor Dobler, seconded by Councilor Black-Burke that there be no user fee implemented for the Electric Vehicle Charging station through July 1, 2021 as a trial period, of which can be rescinded at any time.

Councilor Dobler stated that there was a motion recently passed to install an electric vehicle charger in the center of town. The Town Improvements Committee was tasked to come up with

a fee schedule and whether there should or should not be a fee. Councilor Wilkos took the lead on this topic. He said he took what he felt would be an appropriate time frame to have a trial period, which will be until July of next year, and then continuing this discussion could be reconsidered. That being said, if there is noticeable abuse of this luxury, that could be reassessed before July.

Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that she enjoyed the meeting and that many other communities have a no-charge option. Councilor Rampulla Bress is in favor of this motion.

Councilor Govoni stated that he was originally set on having fees, but now it seems that after having conversations with civil engineers, it would seem to be beneficial to have no fees because those using the charger will be spending their down time in the center of town and will contribute money in other ways in town businesses.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

12) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Approve job description for Communications and Community Outreach Specialist

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe, that the job description for the position of Communications and Community Outreach Specialist be approved and the position be placed in pay grade 4 of the administrative pay plan.

Town Manager, Peter Souza, and Amelia Bliss, Human Resources Director, stated the main duties of the Communications and Community Outreach Specialist include working with the Town Manager's office and town departments to increase the public's awareness of the town's services, initiatives, accomplishments, special events and emergency communications. This position works independently and as part of a team to develop communications plans and provide consistent and timely messaging.

The Communications and Community Outreach Specialist will be involved in assisting all departments with marketing and public relations programs, strategic initiatives and outreach-related activities. These include but are not limited to the town's website, social media platforms, special events and other print publications.

Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that she read the job description and is very excited about this position. Councilor Rampulla Bress also stated that she has seen an increase in internet activity via twitter and other social media advertising and opportunities being provided in the Town of Windsor. This new position will enhance our communication with the community.

Councilor Black-Burke stated that she agrees with Councilor Rampulla Bress that this will indeed enhance the communication with the community. Councilor Black-Burke inquired about how the community will be involved, whether there will be small focus groups or conversations through social media, or will it mostly be marketing. Town Manager Souza then confirmed that this will

not be considered community organizing and it is more for trying to engage the community while using a variety of tools. As there is additional work with the Police Department and enhancing their community outreach, this position will assist the Police Department in getting the word out and helping with meetings. This position was started with intentions for getting more information out about the Wilson/Deerfield redevelopment opportunities. As we move forward, it will include in-person meetings that this individual will help with strategizing and implementing.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- b) Approve an appropriation of \$46,000 from the Unassigned General Fund Balance for a Railroad Quiet Zone Study

MOVED by Councilor Dobler, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to approve an appropriation of \$46,000 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance for the Railroad Grade Crossing Quiet Zone Study.

Town Manager Souza and Assistant Town Manager Scott Colby stated as a first step in the possible establishment of a quiet zone at the seven at-grade crossings within the Town of Windsor, staff recommends the completion of a feasibility study. This study would include a review of each crossing to provide updated data to the Federal Railway Administration and identify potential safety improvements. The final report developed through this study would provide recommended improvements to meet the requirements for designation as a Quiet Zone as well as an estimated project budget to complete the improvements.

Staff interviewed several transportation, transit and rail system consulting firms. The preferred firm is SRF Consulting Group, LLC (SRF) from Minneapolis, MN based on their range of experience completing similar projects, project approach, team qualifications and pricing. The firm has completed 58 quiet zone studies across the country since 2005. The feasibility study would be completed within 120 days from the notice to proceed date.

Councilor Wilkos stated that he would like to know if the company being hired has a success ratio based on their 58 quiet zone studies. This is a project that will need to be done right since it has been a lengthy process. Town Manager Souza explained that the process for a quiet zone designation is one that varies from community to community. The communities have the responsibility for the cost of making any safety improvements to each grade crossing. The majority of the costs are borne by the local municipality or the county. The Railroad Administration cannot deny the designation, but the cost of implementation needs to be borne by the local municipality or jurisdiction. There also needs to be concurrence with the different stakeholders. Not all of it can fall on the consulting firm. Councilor Wilkos stated that he understands that there are three main sources of noise in Windsor, one is the highway which does not have a resolution. Second would be the airport, which within the last ten years has been mostly resolved by turning off runway 24 at certain times. The third source of noise is the railroad and having commuter train traffic especially has made a big difference in people's lives. The alerting horns on the trains are heard for miles from the crossings and if this is something that we can implement, it is worth trying it and having it be a successful study.

Councilor Govoni asked Town Manager Souza about the railroad crossing that was added in, if the noise was taken into consideration while doing the study. Town Manager Souza stated that the State of Connecticut did make improvements from Central Street to Meadow Lane, and those improvements will be used to determine safety measures and whether they need to be increased. All seven crossings will be reviewed. Some may have fewer safety improvements put in place because of various constraints. Others will have higher scorings based on if they have quad gates or not. Once the study is done, there will be a potential for the state to fund an upgrade of the rails all the way to the state line and improve all of the crossings. The town of Windsor already has some advantage. The upgrades that have already been done should be acknowledged.

Councilor Govoni asked if the people involved with the study looked at how many people are disturbed by the trains as well as traffic counts. Town Manager Souza confirmed that they did look at traffic counts and this includes pedestrian, train, and vehicular. This is part of the main criteria. They then consider other safety measures that can be put in place to eliminate or reduce the potential crashes when there are not safety horns, such as gates or barriers.

Councilor Rampulla Bress thanked everyone for the work on this and the comments about the quality of life in Windsor. Councilor Rampulla Bress would like to see the Council collaborate together on a cohesive project in regard to quality of life and to start looking at the traffic noise from large vehicles as well as the traffic problems on Poquonock Avenue, Palisado Avenue, and Bloomfield Avenue. This is something that the Council can consider for the future.

Councilor Walker commented that, in the past, he had been pushing to get some help with the train noise in his neighborhood. So he is very happy to hear the positive comments that this came to fruition. The elderly and children have trouble sleeping when the train goes by with the horns going off, which affects their health in serious ways. Councilor Walker thanked everyone for following up on this problem and making efforts to fix it.

Councilor Black-Burke stated that she remembers discussions in the past about these issues and is very pleased to hear that there will be efforts to reduce noise in these areas.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

13) RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS – None

Moved by Councilor Rampulla Bress, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to:

- APPOINT Dave Pekarski as a Democratic member to the Commission on Aging & Persons with Disabilities for a three-year term to expire January 31, 2023 or until a successor is appointed.
- APPOINT Bradford Robinson as a Democratic member to the Conservation Commission for a five-year unexpired term to expire November 30, 2022 or until a successor is appointed.
- APPOINT Julian Martinez as a Democratic member to the Youth Commission for a three-year term to expire September 30, 2021 or until a successor is appointed.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

14) MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

- a) Minutes of the July 6, 2020 Special Town Council meeting

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to approve the unapproved minutes of the July 6, 2020 Special Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- b) Minutes of the July 6, 2020 Regular Town Council meeting

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to approve the unapproved minutes of the July 6, 2020 Regular Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- c) Minutes of the August 3, 2020 Public Hearing

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to approve the unapproved minutes of the August 3, 2020 Public Hearing as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- d) Minutes of the August 3, 2020 Regular Town Council meeting

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to approve the unapproved minutes of the August 3, 2020 Regular Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

- e) Minutes of the August 24, 2020 Special Town Council meeting

MOVED by Councilor Jepsen, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to approve the unapproved minutes of the August 24, 2020 Special Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

15) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Charles Windsor Jackson III, thanked the Council for all of the work they have been addressing at the meetings. Mr. Jackson thanked the Windsor Fuel and Food Bank for helping a community member who was a survivor of an incident that happened in May. They helped Mr. Jackson find an appropriate program in order to ensure the best care and support for him. Mr. Jackson then stated that won a virtual barbeque allowing him to donate his winnings back to the food bank, to

help pay them back for the help they gave to that man in need. Mr. Jackson thanked Deb Sheldon, Jasmine Hall, and Andy Price for receiving those donations and helping with the process. Mr. Jackson gave his comments on the John Mason statue. He stated that if the Historical Society will not take the statue, he would take it because on July 22nd the Wilson/Deerfield Advisory Committee held a meeting at which they let their feelings be known, which were to leave the open field alone, and only improve it by adding benches, trash receptacles, or walking trails. The Roger Wolcott property, if there is a need on this side of Windsor, will not be a good spot to put anything except for in the open field. Mr. Jackson would like to see the building repurposed rather than the field be taken away from the area. Mr. Jackson would also like the community outreach to be looked at again, because most people did not seem to acknowledge what was already sent out. Mr. Jackson expressed his concerns about the boat launch not being used for fishing, but rather being used for other extracurricular activities. He also recognized and thanked Mayor Trinks for reaching out to the victim he spoke of earlier in the comments.

Eric Weiner, 76 Palisado Avenue, stated that he has been listening to the last few meetings and would like to raise the conversation up a level regarding the John Mason statue decision. Over the last year, the Town Council's agendas have mainly been focused on transactional matters, but ultimately the statues discussion has been mostly about what path to take, what the historical values are, and consideration about people's feelings, which has started an awakening in town, not a division of people. It mirrors what is happening across the state, our country, and across the world. Mr. Weiner hopes that other demands will be placed on the Council in the future because it means they are doing the people's work and that is what a democracy and being a Council member is all about. Mr. Weiner believes that there is not always two sides, but there is always a right side. He stated that there is progress being made and it continues to be made based off the importance of inclusion. Mr. Weiner referred to a Martin Luther King Jr. quote, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

Agnes Pier, 475 Broad Street, stated as being President of the Windsor Historical Society Board, she wants to make it clear that the Historical Society cannot accept the granite base that the John Mason statue currently stands on. Only the nine-foot statue can be accepted because the statue would be above every building in the courtyard. As Ms. Pier's role as former town clerk, she commended Town Manager Souza for explaining what is going on in the voting and the absentee ballots. Ms. Pier also stated that all registered voters will be receiving an application from the Secretary of State's office and strongly encourages everyone who wants to vote absentee to fill out the application and submit it as soon as possible. It is important to understand that a ballot will not be received in return from the Town Clerk until after October 2nd by law. The Town Clerk is not allowed to send out ballots until thirty days before the election. Ms. Pier also stated that the current Town Clerk has been doing an outstanding job in explaining the absentee ballot process via Public Service Announcement. She urges everyone to look at it on Facebook and to share it with everyone in town.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor Govoni to extend the meeting for 30 more minutes to allow the public to speak.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Sally Grossman, 106 Niles Road, read a statement from a Windsor resident who was unable to stay on the call from Abigail Budrick, Farmstead Lane, who supports the removal and relocation of the John Mason statue. She went on to apologize to every white person regarding the disservice done to them from their education. Ms. Budrick believes that it is a disservice because the history of white people is believed to be so pure and untouchable that they cannot only not accept the reality of history but also the responsibility of the vital unlearning that needs to be in place in order to be a functioning member of Windsor. Ms. Budrick stated that she has heard vile mischaracterizations of the Town of Windsor's history as well as the dangerous demonization of the native individuals. The town pride should not stand in the way of a mutually beneficial movement of the statue. Pride should not be derived from the inflictions of others but rather towards success and advancements toward a brighter future. It is important to acknowledge the suffering that was created by those white individuals involved.

George Slate, 74 Ethan Drive, discussed that since the topics of the meeting have mainly been about politics and race this is becoming like quicksand. Mr. Slate would like the fourth Thursday of November to be recognized as National Day of Mourning, and also looking at what to do with the founder monument on the Palisado Green. Mr. Slate stated that when racial politics are delved into so deeply, things get heated and charged up. Sometimes it is hard to tell whether or not things are being done for political or racial reasons. In the minutes to the August 24th meeting, on page ten, Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that Councilor Jepsen brought up the *Windsor Journal* and she saw something that disturbed her from the republican chair. Mr. Slate added that Councilor Rampulla Bress stated that the topic was very objectionable since it did not have to do with money. Mr. Slate stated that Councilor Rampulla Bress explained that her job as a councilor is not about money and feels that the comment was disrespectful and diminished the items on the agenda at that meeting. Mr. Slate stated that it is necessary to find the meaning of inclusion and perspective. Mr. Slate then went on to say that he liked the comments about there possibly being more monuments on the Palisado Green. His offering would be something recognizing the Mumford Point Marines, especially since Clifford Primus, who recent passed away, was one of the recipients of the congressional gold medal.

Jody Terranova, 52 Cobblestone Way, commended the Council on doing the right thing regarding the statue and recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day. These are small steps toward making Windsor more inclusive. Ms. Terranova stated that she did not understand the comments about the issues of the process on these two items. Ms. Terranova believes that decisions and discussions were not rushed, especially because it has had more public input than everything in recent history. Ms. Terranova also believes that blaming the process is being used as an excuse when one does not like the outcome of the process. Ms. Terranova agreed with Councilor Jepsen that as an elected official, it is okay for the public to criticize you, but it is important to remember that citizens should not be disrespected when they are participating in town government, not by other citizens and certainly not by members of the Council. Ms. Terranova publicly stated that as a citizen, she was deeply offended by Councilor Walker and his comment that he did not want to hear from the public. Ms. Terranova stated that you don't have to agree with what everyone says but you do have to listen to it. The reason everyone calls in repeatedly is because action had not been taken yet. Ms. Terranova found it disingenuous that in one part of the meeting it was said that the phone lines were being jammed up, but later wanted input on the Wolcott

school. Ms. Terranova stressed that the councilors don't get to pick and choose what citizens give input on.

Ned Bacigalupo, 89 Farmstead Lane, stated that because the statue and the base of the statue cannot be moved together, everything that was voted on this evening is null and void. Mr. Bacigalupo believes that the statue and the base have to go together, and he hopes that in the future something can be decided that has a real end to it.

16) EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Rampulla Bress, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAuliffe to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 p.m.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Brisebois
Clerk of the Town Council