



**TOWN OF HARTFORD  
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD  
MEETING Minutes**

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 6:00 pm  
Hartford Town Hall  
171 Bridge Street  
White River Junction, Vermont 05001

**Present:** Richard Grassi, Selectboard Chair; Rebecca White, Selectboard Vice-Chair; Sandra Mariotti, Selectboard Clerk; Simon Dennis, Selectboard Member; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Member; Dennis Brown, Selectboard Member; Mike Morris, Selectboard Member; Leo Pullar, Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant; Dawn Pullar; Jenny Morris; Cynthia Morris; Kaye Paschall; Brittany Weaver; Graham Robins; Noah Deter, Scott Cooney, Hartford Fire Chief; Phil Kasten, Hartford Police Chief; Mila Pinigin; Scott Farnsworth; Michelle Boleskui; Matt Mazor; Griffin Shummy; Lannie Collins; Anna Fleishman; Bethany Fleishman; Tad Nunez, Hartford Parks and Rec.; Sadik Defeun; Olivia LaPeirre; Barb Reed; Hannah Jeffrey; John Hall; Peter Schaal; Dylan Kreis; Peter Merrill; Tom Debalsi, Hartford School Superintendent; Everett Hammond, TOH PW Assist. Director; Ashley Bennett; Jo Alexander; Sara Hickey; Riley Past-Kinney; Georgia Lucke; George Lucke; Becky Chollet; Erik Krauss; William Josler; Kevin Christie via phone.

**I. Call to Order Special Selectboard Meeting and Pledge of Allegiance**

Selectboard Chair, Richard Grassi called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.  
Selectboard Clerk, Sandra Mariotti led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Order of Agenda- no changes**

**III. Selectboard**

**1. Citizen, Selectboard Comments and Announcements:**

The Citizen comments can be seen in their entirety at the following link:

<http://catv.cablecast.tv/Cablecast/public-site/index.html#/show/5916?channel=1&seekto=12581>

**Selectboard comments:**

Selectboard Vice-Chair, Rebecca White asked to have a zero-tolerance for discrimination and to have an ethical standard that the Board members would adhere to.

Selectboard Member, Simon Dennis asked for a degree of sincerity and trust going forward. The citizens need to feel they are getting this. This is a huge opportunity for the Town.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson sees the conversation continuing. There are expectations of the public for their elected officials. He sees the Selectboard as overseers of the Town.

Selectboard Member, Dennis Brown likes everyone just the way they are.

## 2. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances:

### a. Race Relations Committee:

- Name of Committee.

Selectboard Vice-Chair, Rebecca White made the motion to name the committee: Hartford Committee on Racial Inequality. Selectboard clerk, Sandra Mariotti seconded the motion. 7 members voted aye, 0 members voted nay and 0 members abstained.

- Term of Committee.

Selectboard Vice-Chair, Rebecca White made the motion that: The term of this committee shall end upon completion of the charge, anticipated to be no longer than one year from the date of constitution. Selectboard clerk, Sandra Mariotti seconded the motion. 7 members voted aye, 0 members voted nay and 0 members abstained.

- Constitution of Committee.

Selectboard Clerk, Sandra Mariotti made the motion that: This advisory committee will be constituted of seven members comprised of two Selectboard members and five Selectboard appointees. Each member will have equal weight in discussion and voting. The Committee will elect its own Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk. Selectboard member, Simon Dennis seconded the motion. 7 members voted aye, 0 members voted nay and 0 members abstained.

Selectboard Committee Members. Selectboard member, Alan Johnson made the motion that: Selectboard Vice-Chair, Rebecca White and Selectboard Member, Simon Dennis, be the Selectboard representatives. Selectboard member, Dennis Brown seconded the motion. 7 members voted aye, 0 members voted nay and 0 members abstained.

- Charge of Committee.

Selectboard member, Dennis Brown made the motion that: To decide upon recommendations to the Selectboard regarding measures that will address and challenge instances of racism, such as racial diversity, sensitivity or implicit bias training program(s) for attendance to the Selectboard and others for the purpose to support people of color and ensure the Town of Hartford is a welcoming and safe place. Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson seconded the motion. 7 members voted aye, 0 members voted nay and 0 members abstained.

Selectboard member, Simon Dennis made the motion that: To decide to recommendations to the Selectboard regarding other actions that Hartford can take to respond to incidents of racism, such as, but not limited to the implementation of policy regarding ethical standards for comportment and accountability of elected officials and how the Town will respond in the event that they are not adhered to. Selectboard member, Alan Johnson seconded the motion. 7 members voted aye, 0 members voted nay and 0 members abstained.

**Selectboard member, Alan Johnson made the motion that: To provide recommendations to the Selectboard about the need for a permanent advisory committee. Recommendations will discuss the name, charge and constitution of the committee. Selectboard clerk, Sandra Mariotti seconded the motion. 7 members voted aye, 0 members voted nay and 0 members abstained.**

**Selectboard Vice-Chair, Rebecca White made the motion that: To communicate about recommendations with the Selectboard at their regular scheduled meetings, and with the general public as appropriate at public forums. Selectboard Clerk, Sandra Mariotti seconded the motion. 7 members voted aye, 0 members voted nay and 0 members abstained.**

The membership process will be put together and then advertised for the public openings. The open positions will be advertised for 30 days. Selectboard Clerk, Sandra Mariotti will collect the applications and contact all the applicants. The applicants will be presented to the Selectboard for selection to the committee.

- Other Items? none

**IV. Closing: Selectboard Member, Mike Morris made the motion to close the meeting. Selectboard Vice-Chair, Rebecca White seconded the motion. 7 members voted aye, 0 members voted nay and 0 members abstained. The meeting was closed at 10:25 P.M.**

**All Meetings of the Hartford Selectboard are open to the public. Persons who are seeking action by the Selectboard are asked to submit their request and/or materials to the Selectboard Chair or Town Manager's office no later than noon on the Wednesday preceding the scheduled meeting date. Requests received after that date will be addressed at the discretion of the Chair. Citizens wishing to address the board should do so during the Citizen Comments period; comments from the public**