

MINUTES
WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
October 20, 2025
WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
61 ECHO LAKE ROAD
WATERTOWN, CT 06795

A Special Town Meeting was held at Watertown Town Hall, Council Chambers, on Monday, October 25, 2025. Mary Ann Rosa called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and solicited for the election of a Moderator for the meeting.

Mary Ann Rosa asked for nominations for moderator of the meeting.

MOTION: Ken Demirs, I move to nominate Mary Ann Rosa as Moderator of the Special Town Meeting.
Seconded by: Robert Retallick

Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none, nominations are closed.

All in favor of Mary Ann Rosa as Moderator of the meeting please say aye.

Motion passed unanimously

Mary Ann Rosa asked for nomination for clerk of the meeting.

MOTION: Ken Demirs, I move to nominate Susan King as Clerk of the Special Town Meeting.
Seconded by: Robert Retallick

Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Seeing none, nominations are closed.

All in favor of Susan King as Clerk of the meeting please say aye.

Motion passed unanimously

Mary Ann Rosa, Moderator: read the legal notice.



**WARNING AND NOTICE
TOWN OF WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
October 20, 2025**

The legal voters of the Town of Watertown and those entitled to vote in Town Meeting are hereby **WARNED AND NOTIFIED** of a Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, October 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Council Chambers to consider authorizing an appropriation of \$3,019,560 from the General Fund to secure funding of a reimbursement grant under the State of Connecticut Transportation Alternatives Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program State Project 153-125. Reimbursement will be in the amount of \$2,382,240 with the Town's municipal share of \$637,320. This grant is for the construction of Steele Brook Greenway project to build a segment of 10-12 foot wide multi-use trail along Steele Brook beginning at French Street and ending at the Unico field.

A link to view the special town meeting will be posted on the Town of Watertown website www.watertownct.org by 4:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting.

Anyone wishing to vote at the Special Town Meeting must attend in person. Anyone wishing to provide comments for the meeting may do so by emailing towncouncil@watertownct.org or by mail to Watertown Town Council, 61 Echo Lake Rd., Watertown, CT 06795 and must be received by 2:00 p.m. Monday, October 20, 2025.

If you require a translator, or accommodations for a hearing impairment or other accommodation, contact the Town of Watertown at 860-945-5255.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 9th day of October, 2025.

Mark A. Raimo, Town Manager

RETURN OF
WARNING AND NOTICE
TOWN OF WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

I hereby certify that on October 9, 2025 I left a duplicate copy of the attached WARNING AND NOTICE of a Special Town Meeting of the Town of Watertown, Connecticut, to be held on October 20, 2025 with Lisa Dalton Town Clerk.

I further certify that on October 9, 2025 I caused a copy of said Warning and Notice to be published in the *REPUBLICAN AMERICAN* Newspaper which has a substantial circulation in said Town and placed upon the Town of Watertown website under Legal Notices.

I further certify that on October 9, 2025 I caused to be set upon the signpost nearest the office of the Town Clerk and all other places with signposts designated by the Town, a written copy of said Warning and Notice signed by me as Town Manager.

I further certify that all the above acts were done at least five (5) days before the holding of the Special Town Meeting on October 20, 2025.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 9th day of October, 2025.

Mark A. Raimo
Town Manager

TOWN CLERK'S CERTIFICATION
AS TO WARNING AND RETURN OF WARNING

I hereby certify that the attached WARNING AND NOTICE of the foregoing RETURN OF WARNING are duly recorded in the records of the Town of Watertown, Connecticut and that Mark A. Raimo was Town Manager of the Town of Watertown on the date the WARNING and RETURN OF WARNING were signed.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 9th day of October, 2025.

Lisa Dalton, Town Clerk

Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works gave an overview of the construction of Steele Brook Greenway Project capital project with a 38 hundred foot linear foot paved recreational trail from Unico Bridge to French St. The big part of the project is the bridge over Steele Brook adjacent to French Street. On French Street there will be a flashing beacon to cross the road safely to get to the Siemon's property hiking trail. We have phase two of the project with a sperate grant funding in and now we will go from the Unico Bridge to the Seymour Smith Complex. Two years from now you would be able to walk from the Seymour Smith Complex all the way to the Town Hall. We are anticipating going out to bid for December, construction to start late winter, early spring.

Robert Desena commented I am very pleased it is coming to fruition, from a person who likes to run on a daily basis. I would begin my run from Unico Field and then go north and I would end up with water and mud up to my knees. But now with it being paved as in my later years I am into walking. I am looking forward to walking to Unico north to French Street. Across the street with safety to continue on to the area of the greenway behind the Siemon Company and on as you are describing. I think it is very good for recreation purposes and it should be supported unanimously, thank you.

Robert Retallick stated I know we talked about this, there was some concern from the business owners with the other side of the river about wash out, flooding and things like that. I know one company is in the process of moving out. Has anything been fixed on what they were looking for, did we clean the brook out?

Jerry Lukowski asked was there any specific location?

Robert Retallick answered by Gowans and Knight, if I recall it was Day Palmer was having some concerns.

Jerry Lukowski stated first of all the new bridge is fully designed, it's out of the flood plain and has to be one foot above it, it is on piers so there will be no issue with the bridge. This is a whole other subject; after looking at Steele Brook the real restriction is the Unico Bridge. Not only on the top but also underneath it has to be wider to move the flow of water through.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager asked if he could mention the clearing out of down below and also the FEMA grant.

Jerry Lukowski answered at the Pearl Harbor Bridge we cleaned out underneath from 73 Riverside with help from DOT. With the 18th August storm from last year, right now that water is flowing during storms up in that area. What I assumed happened when the dam collapsed three and half years ago, I believe all that sediment was coming at us. It was cleaned twice in three years so hopefully right now it is flushed out. The other thing is we are working on 15 detention basins of the 51, it should be done within the next couple of days. It is definitely going to help us reduce the amount of flooding in town by taking out and relocating the sediment load that would take up the storage flow for water. We are in a better position to reduce flooding in the basin in the work that we did.

Gary Lafferty asked as far as the bridges, are they going to be longer than the other ones were previously, they just hit the banks on each side of the river? I think they should go six more feet on each side.

Jerry Lukowski answered its design is 100 percent done by Samson with their bridge engineers. I have done a couple bridges in my career. They do dozens of bridges and within their permit requirements there will be abutments outside the hundred-year flood.

Jonathan Ramsay asked you have this project and you mentioned that we already had a grant for it. Is there any other project that we need to complete for the greenway project than this one in front of us, is there more extensions planned?

Jerry Lukowski answered for this section of the Steele Brook we have the design and the planning side; we don't have anything further on the Steele Brook corridor. I know when the railroad gave up the property 20, 30 to 40 years ago for us to require that corridor but the way it went down each of the property owners got half of that corridor. It would be a lot tougher to bring it down towards Oakville towards the Pin Shop through the railroad and trolley. We do have another project with the Naugatuck Valley Greenway that we are working on with NVCOG to connect all the towns in the valley together. Just a rough number we had \$400,000 in design, probably needing a million. The grant came through the federal government NVCOG was the proponent they are going with four towns and we were one of them. Recently about two months ago the grant was rescinded, deleted. There is another round through the DEEP trails we were told if we put in for it, they will consider us and the other 3 towns at a higher rate because they took it away. I am going to look for another \$600,000 to match with the \$400,000 the design is from the bus maintenance garage to the town line in Thomaston.

Motion: Anthony DiBona seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to authorize an appropriation of \$3,019,560 from the General Fund to secure funding of a reimbursement grant under the State of Connecticut Transportation Alternatives Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program State Project 153-125. Reimbursement will be in the amount of \$2,382,240 with the Town's municipal share of \$637,320. This grant is for the construction of Steele Brook Greenway project to build a segment of 10-12 foot wide multi-use trail along Steele Brook beginning at French Street and ending at the Unico field.

Dan DiVito, Pine Ridge Extension asked could you reiterate what it will cost if we do not go forward with the project?

Jerry Lukowski answered it is basically around \$500,000 dollars; we would have to pay 80 percent of the design and \$150,000 for the right of way funding that was provided.

Barbara Zulkeski, 17 Mallory Road asked does this grant include the labor costs and anything that may go over, where is this money coming from?

Jerry Lukowski answered there is a ten percent contingency that is part of the project, that will be covered.

BY VOICE VOTE THE MODERATOR DECLARED THE MOTION PASSED
UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Rosa, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk