

# Meet N Greet Meeting Minutes

Saturday, February 25, 2023

11:00 a.m.

Library In-Person

**Approved:** Unapproved

**Selectboard Present:** Doug Bergstrom (Board Chair), Gary Wright (Vice-Chair), Carolyn Branagan, Carl Rosenquist

**Selectboard Absent:** Dawn Penney

**Staff Present:** Cheryl Letourneau, Administrator and Town Clerk

**Candidates on Ballot:** Devon Thomas, Charles Cross, Shannon Jenkins, Suzanna Brown, Jamie Comstock

**Public Present:** Fred Grimm, Ellen Hsieh, Frank Gore, Terry Cleveland, Tom Cleveland, Emily Johnson, Bridget Stone, Chelsea Fleury, Sarah Savich, Alex Hsieh, Heather Grimm, Dayle Goad, Sara Walker, Cat Schoonejongen, Joe Walker

**Public Present Zoom:**

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** lead by C. Rosenquist

### 3. **Meet the Candidates**

**Carolyn Branagan** – grew up in Georgia, lived and raised her family here. She was on the schoolboard, selectboard and the State.

**Devon Thomas** – Lives in town with his wife and runs three churches in the area. He feels this is a good opportunity for the new generation to learn how to manage the town. He wanted to honor the experience from the previous board. He has learned from his churches, if you wait too long to pass the baton you will have no one left to pass it to. He says there are four people want to be engaged now.

**Jamie Comstock** – He moved to town in 2011. He says it is a great community, but we need fresh faces. He says he personally believes when you have people sitting in a selectboard or government of any kind, when they are there for so long you are missing generations and ideas go by the wayside.

**Charles Cross** – He has been here for 55 years and has seen change. He is hoping to bring balance and something new with something traditional. He is an auditor and can bring those skills to the table. We need people to speak up, we need them to tell us where they see the future of the town going.

**Doug Bergstrom** – He is the current chair and has lived in town for over 40 years. He has previously served on the school board and many other boards in town. The reason he ran for the

board is because of the turnover and wanted to add some stability. He ran because he wanted to bring back recreation to the town, he would like to bring back what we had in the past. This is where the recreation director idea started. Let's keep the recreation program local.

**Carl Rosenquist** – lived here 39 years, managed Wyeth Nutritional plant for 17 years, served as a combat vet in Vietnam, stayed in army reserve, school board. Most recently stepped down from state house. This is his first go as a selectboard member. He will be running for a 1-year seat on the selectboard and would appreciate your support.

**Gary Wright** – He served as selectboard member for the town years ago. He has lived here since early 70s, he negotiated terms with Wyeth to bring them into Georgia, he believes we need commerce to grow and it needs to be managed growth. He is a trained accountant and has built business. He loves to work. He feels we need to build our own rec. program and stop sending money to other towns.

**Shannon Jenkins** – Up until 3 weeks ago, has been stay at home for a very long time. She has lived here 6 or 7 years. She is a concerned citizen who wants to be included in the decisions of the town. She feels the selectboard is more than balancing a budget and wants to be included in the decision-making process. We are taxpayers, we live paycheck to paycheck like so many other people and we want to feel like our community is working with us. It takes a village to raise a child and I feel like the village is not there for us. She wants the selectboard to be more of a leader in terms of community engagement before a decision is made. She appreciates what the selectboard has done and she understands the implications of having a budget that was apparently was wildly out of control. She wants to stand up and be the voice for the people who are not standing up or speaking very quietly. I want a town that has a social fabric that is in tack.

C. Rosenquist – announced there will be a NWSWD ballot being given out on the day of the elections for a bond vote. If you go to the NWSWD website, you can get more information on this.

D. Bergstrom – this was a 11-12 warned meeting.

**Suzanna Brown** – Has lived in town 33 years and has several on many boards including, library, planning, conservation, DRB. She is currently on the ballot for a reelection on the planning commission. She welcomes anyone to come to meetings, they are public meeting, it means you pay attention, you learn how the town runs, come to meetings, get involved.

D. Bergstrom – one more time next Saturday, informational meeting,

#### 4. Adjourn

12:10 C. Rosenquist made a motion to adjourn, seconded by G. Wright. All in favor, motion passed