

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 11, 2022

Pursuant to rules of Council of the Town of Westfield, the members thereof convened in regular session Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Brindle made the following announcements:

“The adequate notice of this meeting, as required by the Open Public Meetings Act, was provided by the posting, mailing and filing of the annual notice of regularly scheduled meetings of the Town Council on December 8, 2021. The notice was, on that date, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, mailed to THE WESTFIELD LEADER, and THE STAR LEDGER, and filed with the Clerk of the Town of Westfield.”

PRESENT: Mayor Brindle, Council Members, Habgood, Parmelee, LoGrippo, Katz, Contract, Dardia, and Boyes

ABSENT: Councilwoman Mackey

Salute to the flag.

PRESENTATIONS

Town Administrator's Update

- Provided an update on leaf collection and announced that public works crews are currently conducting its third pass for pickup. Explained that there was some delay due to the recent snow, but collection is expected to be complete by early next week, followed by street sweeping, weather permitting;
- Reminded residents that taxes are due on February 1, 2022 and discussed different methods for payment that are available. While the building is open to the public, masks are required, and encouraged residents to use methods of payment that do not require coming to the building;
- Provided an update on road paving and announced that because of the mild weather, Elizabethtown Gas had an early start on 2022 gas main replacements and discussed the areas where utility work is occurring. Stated that because utility work started earlier than planned, repaving by Elizabethtown Gas might be completed earlier as well. This paving would be in addition to any carryover paving from 2021;
- Discussed the 2022 budget process and announced that the annual budget review meeting would be held on January 27, 2022 via Zoom.

Mayor's remarks

Good evening, everyone, and thanks to all who are joining us online tonight for the first regular meeting of the Town Council this year. While we certainly hoped to keep our meetings in-person, we, like many nearby municipalities, are temporarily pivoting back to Zoom as we ride out the current COVID surge driven by Omicron. I am hopeful that this is a short-term change and that we are back in the Council Chambers sooner rather than later.

Since it has been a while, I want to remind everyone that, in this format, public comment will be accepted only via Zoom, and we are live streaming for viewing only via Facebook. As always, the replay will also be available afterwards on Facebook, YouTube, and TV 36.

COVID-19

COVID cases continue to climb in New Jersey as a result of the Omicron variant, with state officials saying that current models suggest 20,000 to 30,000 daily cases for the duration of January and about 8,000 hospitalizations by early February. At last night's Board of Health meeting, Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone reported that Westfield has seen 428 cases since the beginning of January, following the 1,107 cases reported for the month of December. As always, we will have Westfield's weekly numbers to report on Friday with respect to cases and vaccination rates.

Today, Governor Murphy announced he has declared another public health emergency to keep measures in place to help curb the spread of the virus. I want to thank all of our residents for their ongoing resiliency as we weather this current surge that is expected to peak in the coming weeks.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Westfield invites the community to join in an outdoor commemoration of Dr. King on Monday, January 17 at 1:00 at the bandstand in Mindowaskin Park. Having canceled their regular annual commemorative service due to COVID concerns, MLK Westfield is going forward with a short outdoor event to commemorate the day and Dr. King's legacy of racial, social, and economic justice. The Association is also continuing its long tradition of marching to the annual service from the MLK Monument on the South Avenue Circle. Marchers will leave the monument at 12:30 and march to Mindowaskin Park – all are welcome.

The Association is also hosting, in partnership with the Human Relations Advisory Commission, a community discussion entitled Disrupt Hate – Working Toward an Inclusive Westfield, which will be held on February 3 at Westfield High School. This panel discussion will engage the community on how we can promote inclusion and disrupt the atrocious acts of hate we continue to see.

You are welcome to attend in person or via live stream, with more details to follow in the coming weeks.

COUNTY SCHOOL OPENS AT LORD & TAYLOR

As you may recall, we were thrilled to help facilitate the temporary use of the Lord & Taylor property by Lamberts Mill Academy and Hillside Academy South – both of which are schools for special needs students throughout Union County that were devastated by flooding from Tropical Storm Ida.

I'm pleased to report that the schools went into session at Lord & Taylor on January 3, and will remain there through June, thanks to the support of the property owner, Streetworks Development, working in partnership with Union County.

You can join me on Facebook Live this Friday at 3:00 as we walk through the school's use of the building, including the amazing murals completed by local artist Sam Mooney to brighten up the space for these deserving students and faculty members. I'm very proud of this public/private partnership and wish the school community a wonderful remainder of the academic year in their new space.

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

We have several important items on the agenda tonight – most notably, a resolution supporting community solar projects, which the Green Team covered in detail in our 7:00 PM conference session, as well as resolutions referring three more properties to the Planning Board for historic designation.

As I've discussed many times, voluntary historic designation is one of this administration's top priorities. I want to thank the Historic Preservation Commission for their ongoing dedication to this cause as they work with property owners to help us preserve the treasured properties of Westfield's past. With their recommendation, tonight we are voting on the next steps to designate two private properties – 23 Stoneleigh Park and 112 Ferris Place – as well as the historic coffee kiosk owned by the Town at the South Avenue Train Station.

I'd like Councilwoman Habgood, as her last act as HPC Council Liaison before transitioning it to Councilman LoGrippo, to share some of the incredible details of the HPC reports about these properties, which can also be found in full on our website at westfieldnj.gov/historicpreservation.

Councilwoman Habgood discussed the above referenced HPC reports as follows:

The HPC's report indicates that the train station kiosk, which dates back to 1893, is one of the last remaining exterior newsstands in the country, and represents a time when newspapers controlled the flow of information and the railroad controlled the country's mobility. After a

recent extensive renovation, we look forward to Boxcar beginning its coffee and concierge services there with a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for next Tuesday.

23 Stoneleigh Park is known as the Jed Smith Foster House. Built circa 1905, it's an example of the first period of Colonial Revival in Stoneleigh Park, a planned residential development with park-like features. Today, it's owned by Robert and Anastasia Harrison, who asked the HPC to examine the home's history for potential designation, and I'd like to thank them for taking this step to ensure this exquisite home is preserved for future generations to admire.

The home at 112 Ferris Place is considered a pre-revolutionary homestead. Known as the Mills-Ferris-Pearsall House, the original portion of the property was built circa 1750 and is one of the oldest houses in Westfield. It was built by one of the earliest settler families in the state, and has been included in every Town survey of important buildings. Currently owned by James Ward, the home's historic designation is a key part of the redevelopment plan for the corner of Prospect and Ferris that was recently adopted unanimously by this Council, ensuring its preservation. With the Planning Board's approval, these three properties will increase the number of historic designations to nine under this administration, the most in Town history. As always, I encourage any resident with an older property to reach out to the HPC to discuss the benefits of historic preservation to help us maintain these pieces of Westfield's history for many years to come.

With that, let's get to work. Thank you.

APPOINTMENTS

PRESENTATIONS

ADVERTISED HEARINGS

PENDING BUSINESS

BIDS

**TOWN OF WESTFIELD
INVITATION TO BID
WEDNESDAY, January 5, 2022
2022 BRUSH/LOG DOUBLE GRINDING**

Bidder

Amount of Bid

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount of Bid</u>
Britton Industries	\$81,207.00
227 Bakers Basin Road	
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648	

MINUTES

On a motion by Councilman LoGrippo and seconded by Councilman Dardia, Council approved the Minutes of the Town Council Conference Session and Regular Meeting held December 7, 2021 and the Organization Meeting of January 4, 2022.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

OPEN DISCUSSION BY CITIZENS

Mayor Brindle opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Beata Wojdak, 517 First Street, explained that she lives near McKinley School where a large HVAC system was recently installed. Stated that the sound from the system has disrupted the neighborhood and the quality of life for nearby residents. Played a recording of the sound caused by the system and asked why a system of this size was installed in close proximity to residences and how the Town plans to address the issue. She was informed that sound barriers would be

installed, but it has been several months, and other than some shrubbery, no additional sound barriers have been installed. Also questioned why the system is operating when school is not in session.

Chiara Gasbusera, 515 First Street, discussed the installation of the HVAC system at McKinley School and explained that unlike other schools in Town, McKinley School is much closer to residences. Questioned the need for such a large HVAC system and discussed the disruption the sound has caused for the neighborhood, particularly in warmer weather. Also stated that residents were informed that the system would only operate during school hours, but it has been operating after hours and during holidays. Encouraged councilmembers to visit the site to better understand how the sound has impacted the neighborhood.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Brindle closed this portion of the meeting.

Mayor Brindle addressed Ms. Wojdak and Ms. Galbusera's comments and stated that it was her understanding that the Board of Education was in contact with them concerning this issue.

The Town Administrator explained that the Town does not have jurisdiction over the school's property, but he would contact the School Administrator and request follow up with residents.

The Town Attorney noted that the Town could help facilitate meetings with the school board and administrator, but the Town has no jurisdiction over this matter.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

On motion by Councilwoman Habgood, and seconded by Councilman Contract, bills and claims were adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED that the bills and claims in the amount of \$506,269.03 per the list submitted to the members of this Council by the Chief Financial Officer, and approved for payment by the Town Administrator be, and the same are hereby, approved and that payroll warrants previously issued by the Chief Financial Officer be ratified.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance Policy Committee

Councilwoman Habgood discussed the budget process and announced that the annual budget review meeting would be held on January 27, 2022 via Zoom. Explained that the Town began holding this meeting four (4) years ago as a way to report to the community how the Town performed against its budget. In addition, the Town also provides an opportunity for residents to provide input and to request budget items they feel the Town should consider in the upcoming budget process. Encouraged residents to attend the meeting on January 27 and to contact members of the Finance Policy Committee with any input they might want to provide.

The following resolutions, introduced by Councilwoman Habgood and seconded by Councilman Dardia, were unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 28

RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a warrant in the amount of \$500.00 to the order of Treasurer, State of New Jersey, P.O. Box 660, Trenton, NJ 08646-0660 for Marriage/Civil Union License Fees issued by the Registrar of Vital Statistics for the quarter of October - December 2021.

Resolution No. 29

LET IT HEREBY BE RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be and hereby is authorized to draw a warrant for refund of dumpster security payment(s) as follows following final inspection and approval for return of deposit:

Susan Carr
253 S. Scotch Plains Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090

Amount of refund: \$975.00

Resolution No. 30

RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be and he hereby is authorized to draw warrants to WYCHWOOD GARDENS COOP ASSOC INC, this amount being overpaid due to Veteran and Senior Citizen deductions for 2021:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Deduction Type</u>	<u>Deduction Amount</u>
Canavan	Senior Citizen	\$250.00

Check payable and mailed to:

WYCHWOOD GARDENS COOP ASSOC INC
 % FALKIN ASSOC
 P.O. BOX 545
 CRANFORD, NJ 07016

Resolution No. 31

RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be, and he hereby is authorized to draw warrants to the following persons, these amounts being overpaid for 2020-2021:

<u>Block/Lot/Qualifier Name</u>	<u>Property Address</u>	<u>Quarter/Year Amount</u>
201/32 KNAPP, Amanda	112 Brightwood Avenue	2 nd /2020 \$6,429.04
906/35 MENDOZA, Zuzel	864 North Avenue West	1 st /2020 \$2,323.08
1302/23 4 th /2020 MORIN, Jeffrey	711 Crescent Parkway	\$3,975.12
2806/11 MCENERNEY, John & Mary	635 Norman Place	4 th /2021 \$5,079.13
2818/13 PATEL, Rahul \$1,799.97 934 Lowden Avenue Union, NJ 07083	707 West Broad Street	1 st /2021 3 rd /2021 \$1,790.63 \$3,590.60
3101/8 FNA DZ, LLC FBO WSFS	200 South Avenue West	Subs/2021 \$11,875.11
4104/1 TANG, Rufeng	209 Midwood Place	4 th /2021 \$858.17
4106/20 MCDEVITT, Barbara	757 Summit Avenue	3 rd /2021 \$3,777.20 4 th /2021 \$3,371.06 \$7,148.26
4206/9 SNYDER, Eric	524 Washington Street	4 th /2021 \$8,154.93
<u>Block/Lot/Qualifier Name</u>	<u>Property Address</u>	<u>Quarter/Year Amount</u>
4804/7 DE LEON, Ana Victoria	835 Grandview Avenue	3 rd /2020 \$2,001.64
5711/6 LIMA, Raul P	231 Maryland Street	4 th /2021 \$2,565.28

Resolution No. 32

WHEREAS, statutory tax appeals and other matters and applications affecting the taxation of real property within the Town of Westfield are routinely filed with the Union County Board of Taxation and the Superior Court of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council find it to be in the best interest of the citizens of the Town to authorize and direct the Tax Assessor to take any and all action that he deems advisable in such tax matters in order to protect, promote and advance the Town's interest in assuring that each property within the Town is fairly and equitably assessed in accordance with the law; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council find it to be in the best interest of the citizens of the Town to authorize and direct the Town Attorney to assist the Tax Assessor in such tax matters referred to herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Westfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Assessor of the Town of Westfield be and is hereby authorized and directed to prepare, file, pursue and litigate, if necessary, any Assessor's Tax Appeals, Answers to Tax Appeals, Counterclaims, Appeals and Cross-Appeals in statutory tax appeals, and other matters and applications affecting the taxation of real property within the Town as may be filed with the Union County Board of Taxation and/or the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey, that the Tax Assessor deems advisable in such tax matters in order to protect, promote and advance the Township's interest in assuring that each property within the Township is fairly and equitably assessed in accordance with the law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Administrator, the Tax Assessor, and the Town Tax Attorney be and are hereby authorized to take all necessary and appropriate actions to carry out the subject and intent of this Resolution.

Resolution No. 33

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Westfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Union;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Westfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Town Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Westfield Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2023 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$8,548.00
Cash Match	\$2,137.00
In-Kind	\$6,411.00
2. The Town Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Code Review & Town Property Committee

The following resolutions, introduced by Councilman Parmelee and seconded by Councilman Contract, were unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 34

WHEREAS, the ongoing opioid crisis in America has had a devastating effect on individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield is a party to a class action lawsuit filed by state, local, and tribal governments, hospitals, individuals, and insurers, seeking damages against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and retailers in *In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, Case No. 17-md-02804, MDL No. 2804, in the District Court for the Northern District of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2021, Acting Attorney General Andrew J. Bruck announced that New Jersey intends to join nationwide settlement agreements with New Jersey-based pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson and the United States' three largest pharmaceutical distributors, McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen, to resolve claims involving their roles in fomenting the country's opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, participation in the nationwide settlements will not only hold the companies financially accountable by requiring payments of as much as \$26 billion, the settlements will provide funding to support programs that address the opioid epidemic in New Jersey and across the country, and will require significant changes in the pharmaceutical industry aimed at preventing similar crises in the future; and

WHEREAS, the proposed settlements provide: "the Distributors to pay up to \$21 billion over 18 years and Janssen to pay up to \$5 billion over no more than 9 years, for a total of \$26 billion (the "Settlement Amount"). Of the Settlement Amount, approximately \$22.7 billion is earmarked for use by participating states and subdivisions to remediate and abate the impacts of the opioid crisis. The Settlements also contain injunctive relief provisions governing the opioid marketing, sale and distribution practices at the heart of the states' and subdivisions' lawsuits and further require the Distributors to implement additional safeguards to prevent diversion of prescription opioids;" and

WHEREAS, participation by a significant number of states, county, and municipal governments nationwide must agree to the proposed terms in order for the settlements to take effect; and

WHEREAS, provided enough states opt to participate in the settlements, their subdivisions will have through January 26, 2022 to join; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield's share in the settlement funds will ultimately depend on the number of counties and municipalities that opt-in, population of each participating county and municipality, and effects of the opioid epidemic on each participating community; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Town of Westfield and its residents to participate and join in the settlement agreements in order to hold these companies financially accountable for the ongoing opioid crisis and to implement the necessary changes to prevent such a crisis from happening again in the near future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Westfield that the Mayor be and hereby is authorized to sign any documents necessary in order to join the settlement agreements with Johnson & Johnson, McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen to resolve claims involving their participation in the opioid crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLOVED that upon effectuation of the settlement agreement, the Town of Westfield agrees to dismiss its claims against the settling parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Town of Westfield shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the Office of the Attorney General of New Jersey.

Resolution No. 35

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting of the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission held on October 25, 2021, the Commission considered the designation of the “coffee kiosk” located at the Westfield South Avenue Train Station, and owned by the Town of Westfield, for designation as a historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, in connection with the Commission’s consideration of that designation, the Commission prepared a report, as required by section 5 of the Town’s historic preservation ordinance, that examined whether and set forth the reasons why, in the Commission’s view, the coffee kiosk met the criteria for local historic designation; and

WHEREAS, at such meeting, the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously to nominate the coffee kiosk for local historic designation and further recommended that the Town Council designate the property as a historic landmark, pursuant to the Town’s historic preservation ordinance, for all of the reasons set forth in the report and as discussed at the public hearing on the application; and

WHEREAS, the report and recommendation of the Commission has now been received by the Mayor and Town Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESVOLVED, that as required by Section 5(B)(2)(d)(2) of the Town of Westfield historic preservation ordinance, the Mayor and Town Council hereby refer the report and recommendation to the Westfield Planning Board, for its comment on the proposed designation, and for such other actions as are contemplated by the historic preservation ordinance and as appropriate under the circumstances, consistent with the Town’s Master Plan, the Zoning Ordinance of the Town, and the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law.

Resolution No. 36

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting of the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission held on November 22, 2021, the Commission considered the designation of the property located at 23 Stoneleigh Park for designation as a historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission received a signed Letter of Consent from the property owners of 23 Stoneleigh Park supporting the designation of their property as historic pursuant to the Town’s historic preservation ordinance; and

WHEREAS, as required by section 5 of said ordinance, the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission (with the property owner’s assistance and input) prepared a nomination report examining the history of the property and the buildings thereon; and

WHEREAS, as further required by section 5 of the ordinance, the Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on November 22, 2021, at which meeting the report was presented, and members of the public and the Commission were given an opportunity to review the report and ask questions or make comments on it; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of that hearing the Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the Town Council designate the property as a historic landmark, pursuant to the Town’s historic preservation ordinance, for all of the reasons set forth in the report and as discussed at the public hearing on the application; and

WHEREAS, the report and recommendation of the Commission has now been received by the Mayor and Town Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESVOLVED, that as required by Section 5 of the Town of Westfield historic preservation ordinance, the Mayor and Town Council hereby refer the report and recommendation to the Westfield Planning Board, for its comment on the proposed

designation, and for such other actions as are contemplated by the historic preservation ordinance and as appropriate under the circumstances, consistent with the Town's Master Plan, the Zoning Ordinance of the Town, and the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law.

Resolution No. 37

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting of the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission held on November 22, 2021, the Commission considered the designation of the property located at 112 Ferris Place for designation as a historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission received a signed Letter of Consent from the property owner of 112 Ferris Place supporting the designation of the owner's property as historic pursuant to the Town's historic preservation ordinance; and

WHEREAS, as required by section 5 of said ordinance, the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission (with the property owner's assistance and input) prepared a nomination report examining the history of the property and the buildings thereon; and

WHEREAS, as further required by section 5 of the ordinance, the Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on November 22, 2021, at which meeting the report was presented, and members of the public and the Commission were given an opportunity to review the report and ask questions or make comments on it; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of that hearing the Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the Town Council designate the property as a historic landmark, pursuant to the Town's historic preservation ordinance, for all of the reasons set forth in the report and as discussed at the public hearing on the application; and

WHEREAS, the report and recommendation of the Commission has now been received by the Mayor and Town Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESVOLVED, that as required by Section 5 of the Town of Westfield historic preservation ordinance, the Mayor and Town Council hereby refer the report and recommendation to the Westfield Planning Board, for its comment on the proposed designation, and for such other actions as are contemplated by the historic preservation ordinance and as appropriate under the circumstances, consistent with the Town's Master Plan, the Zoning Ordinance of the Town, and the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law.

Public Works Committee

Councilman Contract discussed Resolution No. 38 and explained that it endorses residents' participation in solar projects through a new state program. This program provides residents who are unable to install solar panels on their residence with an opportunity to obtain savings on electrical energy costs. Discussed the average savings to residents as well as the average savings to those who qualify as low and moderate income. Feels it is a "win-win" for residents and the environment. In addition, the Town receives a small incentive for residents who register for the program which would be allocated towards other sustainable projects. Lastly, residents that register for the program are provided with a \$100 Visa gift card.

The following resolutions, introduced by Councilman Contract and seconded by Councilman LoGrippe, were unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 38

WHEREAS, for more than a decade, the State of New Jersey has promoted energy policies that have created a vibrant solar energy market; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey adopted the 2019 New Jersey Energy Master Plan, *Pathway to 2050*; and the legislature passed the Clean Energy Act of 2018

WHEREAS, Strategy 6 of the 2019 Energy Master Plan calls for the State to support community energy planning and action with an emphasis on encouraging and supporting participation by low- and moderate-income and environmental justice communities; and

WHEREAS, Goal 6.2.1 of the 2019 Energy Master Plan calls for the support of community-led development of community solar projects; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes the benefits of the Board of Public Utility's community solar program for the Town's residents including the following: local and clean power generation; support for active participation in the program by low- and moderate-income families; and reduction of energy bills for all participants; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council will support community solar projects that serve the municipality and have the following benefits to the community:

Minimum 25% discount on the electricity from the community solar project for Westfield residents that qualify as low-to-moderate income

Minimum 20% discount on the electricity from the community solar project for Westfield residents that don't qualify as low-to-moderate income

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Westfield Town Council will continue collaborating with community solar developers in furtherance of bringing financial and environmental benefits to our residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town supports green energy alternatives and will help make subscriber information available to our residents for all community solar projects that meet the criteria for our residents' participation.

Resolution No. 39

WHEREAS, a need exists for the grinding of accumulated brush material to a mulch product for internal use, contractor sales and residential distribution by the Department of Public Works, as provided for in Public Works account 137-241, and

WHEREAS, sealed bids were received on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, and

WHEREAS, the low bid, submitted by Britton Industries, Inc., in the amount of \$81,207.00 has been analyzed and found to be in conformance with the appropriate specifications, and

WHEREAS, Certificate of the Town Treasurer, certifying to the availability of adequate funds for this Contract, prepared in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30 1.10 has been furnished to the Town Clerk. Expenditure of funds pursuant to this Contract to be charged to Public Works account 137-241, under a Purchase Order to be established provided there is sufficient funding in the 2022 Operating Budget.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a Lump Sum Contract be awarded to Britton Industries, Inc., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proper Town Officials be, and they are hereby, authorized to take whatever actions are appropriate in the execution of discharge of this Contract.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn, made by Councilwoman Habgood and seconded by Councilman Dardia at 8:36 p.m. was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Rowley, RMC
Town Clerk