

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019, AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Robert J. Oris, Jr. Chairman; Paul A. Bowman, Vice Chairman; ; David Borowy, James Jinks, Sylvia Nichols, Timothy Slocum, Peter Talbot, David Veleber, Donald Walsh.  
Staff: Sean A. Kimball, Town Manager; Al Smith, Town Attorney; Arnett Talbot, Assistant Town Manager; Gerald Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator.  
Guests: Patti Flynn-Harris, Jeffrey Falk and Thomas Ruocco; Rep. Liz Linehan.

Chairman Oris opened the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.

Public Hearing Subject Matter

**To consider naming a portion of the Linear Trail as the “Trail of Hope.”**

1. ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

2. EXPLANATION OF HEARING PROCEDURE AND AGENDA

Chairman Oris explained the procedure of a Town Council public hearing.

3. READING OF LEGAL NOTICE

The clerk read the legal notice into the record.

4. PRESENTATION ON HEARING SUBJECT

Chairman Oris informed those present that four (4) letters were received in support of naming a portion of the Linear Trail as the “Trail of Hope”...the section from Cornwall Avenue to West Main Street. The process for naming a town property was followed for this request. The Planning Committee unanimously approved the naming. The Parks and Recreation Commission also unanimously approved the naming. The last part of the process for naming of public property is a public hearing and Town Council approval.

5. QUESTIONS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR. (None)

6. PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS STATEMENTS ALTERNATELY EXPRESSED.

Joe Whitwright, 45 Sterling Ridge, Cheshire CT, explained that his company’s building is used each year by the Lights of Hope in preparation for the lighting of the town streets. He supports the naming of part of the Linear Trail as the “Trail of Hope”, and commented on the outstanding community work and donations of the organization.

Patti Flynn-Harris, 360 Carlton Drive, Cheshire CT, stated she was the Council’s Ordinance Review Chairperson when this request came to the committee. She noted

the request received unanimous committee support, and is confident the Council will support the request.

Steve Thompson, 35 Sterling Ridge, Cheshire CT is a member of the Lights of Hope Board of Directors and a 30 year Cheshire resident. It is his hope that this will be an easy decision for the Council given all that Don and Jen Walsh and the organization do for the community. Mr. Thompson commented on the more visibility of the Lights of Hope, the more funds raised that go directly back to Cheshire people in need. There are many volunteers who will help maintain the Trail of Hope section, and this is a “win-win” with the Council’s approval.

7. REBUTTAL AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.  
None.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Oris adjourned the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk