



LORI L. SPIELMAN  
First Selectman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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JAMES M. PRICHARD  
Deputy First Selectman

MELINDA M. FERRY  
SARAH D. COOK  
DAVID E. STAVENS  
RONALD F. STOMBERG  
JOHN W. TURNER

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN POLICIES COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Commission Room A  
November 5, 2018

## MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah D. Cook, Ronald F. Stomberg, John W. Turner

1. Call to Order: Mr. Turner, Chairman, called the Town Policies Committee (TPC) meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Citizens' Forum: No one came forward.
3. Approval of Minutes: July 9, 2018

MOVED (STOMBERG), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED [AYE: STOMBERG/TURNER; ABSTAIN: COOK] TO APPROVE THE TOWN POLICIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2018.

#### 4. Pets/Dogs in Town Buildings

Mr. Turner reviewed the information provided to the Committee members. He discussed the recommendation that was received from Stephen Pendl of CIRMA regarding pets in Town buildings, including the need to define "pet" and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) considerations. Discussion was held regarding the specific issues that have come forward to date regarding dogs in Town buildings.

Mr. Turner mentioned that consideration must be given to people who have allergies to pets.

Mr. Stomberg brought up the acceptability of service dogs. Therapy pets and comfort animals were discussed as well. Mr. Turner said he noticed that there is a sign at the Tolland Post Office that reads something like "No Pets Allowed Except Dogs Assisting Blind Patrons/Persons."

It was discussed that some residents bring their dogs in when they are licensing them and they will need to be made aware of any new policy put in place. Ms. Cook suggested that a notation be made on the email or mailer that goes out to remind residents that are coming to the Town Hall to renew a dog license to leave their pets at home.

Ms. Cook asked what the Board of Education has for a policy regarding pets on school property. She added that there may have been a recent update to the policy as it relates to the school playgrounds.

Mr. Turner noted that the Town Attorney is looking into this issue and will provide information later in the week.

Mr. Turner said that service dogs must be defined in the policy. Ms. Cook added that a service dog-in-training should also be considered acceptable. The Committee agreed that the policy will most likely allow the service dogs and restrict all other pets from Town buildings.


Ms. Cook noted that she works for the State and her building has a sign that reads "Service Animals Welcome".

Discussion was held regarding possible wording such as "It is the policy of the Town of Ellington that certified service dogs are welcome." Mr. Turner noted that the Senior Center policy is well-worded.

Mr. Turner asked Ms. Cannella to gather the following information; (1) Town Attorney opinion/recommendations; and (2) Board of Education Policy. Mr. Turner also asked Ms. Cannella to share these meeting minutes with the Town Attorney so she is aware of the Committee's discussion.

5. Adjournment:

MOVED (COOK), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE TOWN POLICIES COMMITTEE AT 6:36 P.M.

Submitted by   
John W. Turner, Chairman