

Ad Hoc Committee on Naming of Town Square  
August 25, 2016

1. Call to Order

Chair Bill Ryan called the special meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Naming of Town Square to order at 6:00 p.m. in Room B of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

Present: Mr. Ryan, Mr. Marcellino

Absent: Mr. Sargent

Also Present: Mayor Paul Shapiro

2. Opportunity for the Public to Speak

No comments were offered.

3. Review of Charge from the Town Council

Mr. Ryan noted that as part of the discussion of the motion to create this ad hoc committee at the August 8, 2016 Council meeting, the Mayor stated that the purpose of the committee is to recommend a name for the Town Square to the Council

4. Review and Consideration of Potential Names

Mr. Marcellino moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to recommend to the Council that the Square be named Betsy Paterson Square.

Hearing no other suggestions the Chair requested a vote on the original motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Shapiro stated that Betsy Paterson was the most critical person in the development of the Square from the beginning to the end. Ms. Paterson went to conferences to learn about other university town centers and worked on identifying possible sources of funding even during the 2007/2008 financial crisis. The Mayor said that Ms. Paterson had the vision to realize that the future of the Town depended on doing something with this piece of land and made it happen.

Chair Ryan commented that during other street naming processes he suggested and supported not naming streets in honor of those still living but in honor of historic figures in Mansfield. This is not a rule, and in this case Mr. Ryan is in support of an exception as Ms. Paterson was a driving force in the development of Storrs Center for the 18 years she served on the Council, 16 of which were as Mayor. Mr. Ryan stated that he can't think of a more worthy figure for this honor.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Marcellino moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Stanton  
Town Clerk