



## ***Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives***

Phil Berns, Chair

Sean Boeger, Vice-Chair

# **Special Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Monday, September 29, 2025

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above.

Present were Chair Berns, Vice Chair Boeger, and Committee member Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort.

Absent/excused were Rep. Pierre-Louis.

Also present were:

- Ex-officio Reps. Adams, Camporeale, de la Cruz, Goldberg, Ley, Morson, Pollack, Sandford, Strain, Summerville, and Watkins
- City staff members Dana Lee and Chris Dellaselva, City attorneys; Matt Quiñones, Director of Operations; Erin McKenna, Senior Planner, Land Use Bureau
- Melanie Hollas, Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission; Nette Compton, President & CEO, Mill River Park Collaborative
- Members of the public.

Chair Berns called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designees
1. <a href="#">LR31.104</a>	<b>ORDINANCE</b> <u>for public hearing and final adoption;</u> Amending §111-6 Dogs (C-1) <i>Control of dangerous/vicious dogs of the Code of Ordinances</i> 07/09/2025 – Submitted by Rep. Adams 07/29/25 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0 08/26/2025 – Approved for public hearing by Committee 5-0-0 09/02/2025 – Approved for publication via unanimous voice vote <b>09/29/2025 – Approved by Committee 8-0-0</b>	<b>APPROVED</b> <b>8-0-0</b>

Chair Berns opened the public hearing on Item No. 1 (LR31.104) at 7:12 p.m. After the pre-registered [speakers list](#) [Speakers include: Kieran Edmondson, Dave Adams, and Sue Halpern] was exhausted, the Chair then called on any members of the public who raised their hands in turn to speak. Once all members of the public present who wished to speak had spoken, the public hearing session was closed at 7:23 p.m.

A motion to approve Item LR31.104 was made, seconded and though Attorney Lee and Rep. Adams were available for questions, there were none as no discussion occurred prior to the vote. The item was approved via unanimous voice vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice Chair Boeger and Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort approved).

2. [LR31.106](#)

**ORDINANCE** for public hearing and final adoption;

Amending Chapter 227 of the Stamford Code of Ordinances to Establish a Comprehensive Tree Preservation and Urban Forestry Program

08/06/2025 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood, de la Cruz and Strain

08/27/2025 – Proposed amendment approved by Committee 6-0-2

08/27/2025 – Approved as amended for public hearing by Committee 8-0-0

09/02/2025 – Approved for publication via unanimous voice vote

**09/29/2025 – Amended by Committee 7-1-0**

**09/29/2025 – Approved as amended for public hearing 8-0-0**

**APPROVED FOR  
PUBLIC  
HEARING 8-0-0**

Chair Berns opened the public hearing on Item No. 2 (LR31.106) at 7:25 p.m. After the pre-registered [speakers list](#) [Speakers include: Diana Kolaj, Kieran Edmondson, Susan Buchsbaum, Sue Halpern, Lori Gressel, Chris Donnelly, Kate Dzikiewicz, Paula Waldman, Kieran M. Ryan, David Michel, Dave Adams, Jeffrey Gatz, David Winston, Fern Galpern, George Dallas, Anne Chang, Erin KcKenna, Peggy Erlenkotter, Jeanette Biliczianski. Also read into the record by Rep. Sherwood was written testimony from Pollinator Pathways and Robin Stein] was exhausted, the Chair then called on any members of the public who raised their hands in turn to speak. Once all members of the public present who wished to speak had spoken, the public hearing session was closed at 8:41 p.m.

A motion to approve Item No. 2 (LR31.106) was made, seconded and discussion ensued. A secondary motion to amend the item to the draft language updated and sent to the committee and Board office on September 29, 2025 for adding to the legislative file, was made, seconded. Rep. Sherwood discussed the changes made in this draft. The committee had several questions, including if the new draft addresses emergency tree removal (Answer: yes, it does) and a request for a summary of the changes in this new draft, which Attorney Lee then provided verbally.

The secondary motion to amend by accepting the Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> draft was approved via roll call vote of 7-1-0 (Chair Berns, Vice Chair Boeger and Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Sherwood, and Vandervoort approved; Rep. Matheny voted against).

The primary motion to approve Item LR31.106 was then changed (via a motion to change the primary motion, which was seconded) to a motion to send the item for a second public hearing due to the substantive changes to the draft ordinance.

The motion to send this item for a second public hearing was approved via unanimous voice vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice Chair Boeger and Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort approved).

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| 3. <a href="#">LR31.107</a> | <b>ORDINANCE;</b> for discussion; Requiring Net Zero Construction for all new buildings and major commercial renovations, in alignment with the Board of Representatives Climate Emergency <a href="#">Resolution #4130</a> , Mayor's Executive Order <a href="#">EO 005 230417 Climate</a> , <a href="#">Public Act 21-29</a> , and <a href="#">House Bill 5004</a> , which targets statewide net-zero emissions by 2050.<br>08/06/2025 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz and Strain<br>08/27/2025 – Recommitted to Steering by Committee 8-0-0<br><b>09/29/2025 – Recommitted to Steering by Committee 8-0-0</b> | <b>RECOMMITTED TO STEERING 7-0-1 (Rep. Sherwood abstained)</b> |
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A motion to recommit Item No. 3 (LR31.107) to Steering due to the late hour was made, and seconded. During discussion prior to the vote, there were questions regarding if the draft language for this item available for review; Rep. de la Cruz advised he prepared a draft for this item at the time of submission and it is available for review on the file summary page. Attorney Dellaselva made a request that if this item is placed on the agenda again next month that it be placed first on the agenda, as this is the second month in a row where it was recommitted. Chair Berns agreed to move LR31.107 to the first item on the October committee meeting agenda.

The motion to recommit was approved via unanimous voice vote of 7-0-1 (Chair Berns, Vice Chair Boeger and Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny and Vandervoort approved; Rep. Sherwood abstained).

Chair Berns adjourned the meeting at 11:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Berns, Chair

This meeting is available on video ([Part 1](#)) & ([Part 2](#))