

West Windsor Selectboard
West Windsor Town Forest Committee
West Windsor Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes
February 2, 2015

Present: Glenn Seward, Bruce Boedtke, Arthur Steinberg, Laura Stillson, Cathy Boedtke, Mark Nowlan, Dennis Lemire, Ted Siegler, Jim Lyall, Rudy Gross, Martha Harrison

1. Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. Changes or Additions – None
3. Announcements/Public Comment – None
4. Discuss Town Forest Conservation Easement – Glenn asked those present for feedback on the public comments that were made on January 26th and asked if there are any issues that weren't raised at that meeting that the town should consider. After the February 5th meeting, Glenn said the group working on the easement will have to be much smaller because we have a limited amount of time. Cathy Boedtke had some questions about salvaging timber and wondered if she should get into that level of detail at this point. Glenn said he hopes the easement language will be as broad as possible. Jim said he has prepared a map showing the upper trail areas that he thinks could be allowed to grow back. There was discussion about the process of finding a balance between what the town wants and what the funding sources will allow. Bruce said any harvesting is going to have to comply with the forest management plan. Cathy said the plan should specify who is allowed to do what, and where, when and how they're allowed to do it. Cathy used trimming brush for back country skiing as an example and said everyone should not be allowed to trim wherever they want. Glenn said he thinks that will be addressed in the management plan for the area. Ted said we need to know what we can and cannot do before we submit an application to the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB). Ted said he thinks the town should clarify that the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) will hold a conservation easement, not a trail easement. Jim noted that the VHCB application is due March 6th. Laura said she wants to be sure that allowance is made for horses and for events like the Vermont 100 race. Laura said she'd like to have a spur off the Bicentennial Trail leading to a cabin where scouts could camp out. There was discussion about re-routing the Bicentennial Trail to allow for views. Dennis asked if the Selectboard envisions having a co-op in place by the time of the closing to oversee the management of the new land. Glenn said the Selectboard is going to review the operating agreement between Barre Town and the Millstone Trail Association, and could consider using it as a basis for an operating agreement between West Windsor and a non-profit organization. Glenn said it could be in place by the time of the closing on the property. Glenn said he's going to meet with some accountants and attorneys to get some parameters. Rudy asked who would monitor the non-profit. Glenn said the non-profit would have a Board of Directors. Ted said there would be a lease between the town and the non-profit which would specify what the non-profit could do. Glenn said he thinks the non-profit will need a fair amount of latitude to manage the recreational activities on the property. Ted said the easement will dictate the major terms of the agreement. Glenn said he envisions the Town Forest Committee managing the non-recreational aspects of the property. Glenn said he doesn't think the town is in a position to

directly manage a recreational area of this size. Jim asked about grooming some trails for winter use. Glenn said he recently purchased a groomer and would be happy to groom a trail once a route is determined. Glenn said the town can contact Orange Lake and get their permission for a trail on their property and also create loops on Mile Long Field and over by the ski area. Glenn said he can contact April Hensel and make sure there's no problem with Act 250.

5. Other Business – None
6. Adjourn – **Glenn moved to adjourn at 7:30 PM. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison