

West Windsor Selectboard
Draft Meeting Notes
August 27, 2018

Present: Win Johnson, Mike Spackman, Tom Kenyon, Cathy Archibald, Deb Shearer, Bill Young, Mary-Anne Boyce, Gary Burke, Mike Silverman, Rob Mather, Bill Sampson, Martha Harrison, Ted Siegler, Matt Kantola

There was no quorum present until 40 minutes after the scheduled start time of the meeting, when Matt Kantola arrived, so those present engaged in an informal discussion of some of the items that were on the agenda. No action was taken on any items.

Vermont 50 request - Rob Mather said the Vermont 50 race organizers would like to divert traffic at the intersection of Ski Tow Road and Skyhawk Lane onto Hotel Road for 45 minutes at the start of the race, from 5:45 AM until 6:30 AM, and again from 8:00 AM until 8:10 AM. The organizers will put up barricades, cones and signs and will have a volunteer with a flashlight and vest directing traffic. Rob said they will post notice of the diversion the Monday before the event. Rob said there will also be uniformed officers at the intersection of Ski Tow and Hotel Roads. Police Chief Sampson was comfortable with the proposed plan. Win said the Selectboard will discuss it at their next meeting.

Dog complaint – Chief Sampson explained that the owner of the barking dog was given a municipal ordinance citation, with the amount of the fine on it, which includes directions for paying it or appealing it. Win asked if the Court goes after the person if they don't pay. The Chief said yes. Bill Young asked about owners who don't license their dogs. Martha said the fee is the same for any violation of the ordinance. Win said according to the ordinance you have to license your dog. The Chief asked Cathy to email him the names and addresses of the people who have not licensed their dogs. Cathy asked if the fine money comes to West Windsor. The Chief said yes.

Parking Ordinance – The Chief said right now if someone parks in front of a driveway or a hydrant, there's really no way to enforce against that. The Chief suggested that West Windsor update its ordinance and offered Windsor's ordinance as a model.

Alarm Ordinance – The Chief said 99% of alarms are false alarms. The police may get called out to the same property 15 times a year and they have to respond each time. Windsor's Alarm Ordinance allows one free false alarm response per year, and then there's a \$25 charge for the second one, a \$50 charge for the third one, and so on. The Chief said they now have a false alarm form that the officer hangs on the door telling the property owner when they came out and what they found; on the back of the form, the fines are listed. The Chief said the ordinance tends to cut down on the number of false alarms. Before the burned-out Base Lodge was torn down, the Chief said, there were false alarms there several times a week. Win said the Selectboard will look at Windsor's Parking and Alarm ordinances and consider updating West Windsor's ordinances.

Speed – Win said it would be a good thing if the police could get out to Rush Meadow Road and some of the other back roads from time to time. Chief Sampson said they patrol West Windsor

every day and they're also looking into a mobile speed cart. Win said he has not received approval from his colleagues yet but he had suggested to Tom Marsh that the two towns consider purchasing a speed cart and splitting the cost 50:50. Win said he thinks it should be managed by the Windsor Police Department, as long as it's in West Windsor 50% of the time. Chief Sampson said he spoke with Tom Marsh about it last week and Tom is in favor of it. Win suggested that Windsor do the purchasing after he gets approval from the other two Selectboard members. The Chief said some of them also record speeds, which would be helpful.

Library status update – Win said there was some question about the status of the Library. Mary-Anne Boyce did a lot of research in the town records which she shared with Library Chair Tom Kenyon and Town Attorney Matt Birmingham. Win said that, although Matt found that some of the actions taken could be confusing, ultimately the Library was donated to the Trustees as a public trust to be operated by the trustees in perpetuity. The Trustees are a self-perpetuating board. The only role the Selectboard has is to appoint someone to fill a vacancy on the Library Board of Trustees if the Library Board has not appointed anyone. Win said he thinks the town needs to rely on Matt's opinion. Tom Kenyon read and submitted a written statement and said the Library Trustees will meet on Friday, August 31, at 4:00 PM to consider electing a Treasurer and transferring responsibility for the Library's financial accounts from the current Treasurer, Cathy Archibald, to the new Treasurer. Tom said he is hoping that Mary-Anne Boyce will be elected Treasurer with her duties to commence on October 1, 2018. Tom said there is no action required on the part of the Selectboard. Tom also requested that both the Library and the Historical Society be given a page in the annual Town Report. Tom said the communications with the Town Attorney will become part of the town record in case there are any questions in the future.

Email address update – Martha said the update is done; it went fine and everyone now has a westwindsorvt.org address.

Radar speed sign – Mike said he has done some research and the high-end speed signs are around \$8,000. Win said he's going to suggest that West Windsor contribute up to \$5,000 toward the cost but the other Selectboard members will need to approve that.

Grants-in-Aid – Mike said the highway department did two segments on Coon Club Road and he's trying to figure out if they have enough grant money left to do more work.

Bible Hill project – Mike said S.D. Ireland, the company manufacturing the culvert, was scheduled to have it finished today. Win asked Mike to give the abutters notice when we know the project start date. Mike said the contractor and the state engineer have to have a pre-construction meeting first, and we have to give notice to the Army Corps. Win asked that a road closure notice be posted on Front Porch Forum and the town website.

Mowing – The first mowing is finished and the highway department has started a second round of mowing on the highly travelled roads.

Municipal Roads General Permit – Mike said he was at a stakeholders meeting in Montpelier today and found out that there are towns that aren't doing anything with regard to the MRGP. Mike said the regulations need to have teeth.

Burke Feasibility report – Win said according to Engineering Ventures the town could re-locate the sand pile onto Gary Burke's property and possibly, at some point in the future, build a new fire station there as well. Win said they were concerned that storage of outside materials may not be permitted under the zoning ordinance so the Selectboard asked the Planning Commission (PC) to look at the report. Win said if it's determined that it would be in the best interest of the town to make an offer on the property, we'll probably have to have a vote at Town Meeting. Deb said the PC met and discussed this issue and found that the proposed use of the property is not inconsistent with the current zoning regulations. Win said they were also going to give an opinion on whether it's in the town's best interest to provide for the re-location of the fire station. Deb said the PC does see the advantages of the eventual re-location of the fire station. Win said the Selectboard needs to decide whether to put a proposal to purchase the property before the voters. Win said, although the state is not currently pressuring the town to move the sand pile, they have done so in the past.

Tree Warden – Tom said there are a couple of trees he'd like to have taken down.

Town Hall – Tom said he'd like to have the Town Hall windows washed.

Johannensen trail – Ted Siegler noted Bob Farnsworth's survey and said he has ridden the trail and, in his opinion, it's an excellent replacement for the existing town road. Win said it's his understanding that we're no longer talking about giving up a town right-of-way and replacing it with a trail easement; we're talking about giving up a town right-of-way in one location and replacing it with a town right-of-way in another location. Ted said that's correct; he went to a Hartland Selectboard meeting and they suggested re-locating the Legal Trail from its current location to the western boundary of Renee Johannensen's property. Ted described the proposed new location for the Legal Trail. Win said we have to give 30 days' notice and have a hearing and a site visit before taking any action, and it has been suggested that we do that jointly with the Hartland Selectboard. Win said he and Martha will do an outline of the procedure and share it with Hartland. Win said both Selectboards are meeting, separately, on September 10th and he's hoping that each can announce the date for the site visit and hearing at that meeting. Ted suggested visiting both ends of the proposed new Legal Trail during the site visit. Ted said the existing Legal Trail is three rods and Bob Farnsworth is proposing a two-rod (33') width. Ted asked Mike if 33' is wide enough to allow for maintenance. Mike said it depends on the lay-out. Win asked Ted to check with Hartland to see if they have any concerns about the reduction in width. There was discussion about future accesses off the Legal Trail in its proposed location if someone wants to build a house down there. Ted said the property owner would have to subdivide it and get approval from the Selectboard to upgrade it to a Class 3 road.

VT Overland Bike Race – Mike said he received multiple complaints about the bikers pushing vehicles off the road into the ditch. Win asked Mike to mention this again at the next meeting so the Selectboard can discuss it and decide whether to contact the event sponsor with their concerns. Mike said there was no police presence and there were people blocking roads who had

no authority to block roads. Ted agreed that it was crazy at the intersection of Rush Meadow Road and Route 44.

Municipal Planning Grant – Deb said the Planning Commission would like to ask the Selectboard to approve up to \$1,000 in matching funds for a Municipal Planning Grant. Win said the funds would be used to help defray the cost of updating the Town Plan. Win asked Deb to send the request to Martha in writing. Deb agreed and noted that the Planning Commission Chair will be at the September 24th meeting with more detailed information.

Win and Matt tentatively scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, September 4th, at 5:00 PM to take care of the official business that could not be taken care of this evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison