

West Windsor Selectboard
Draft Minutes
July 27, 2020

Present at Town Hall: Win Johnson, Brett Myers, Matt Kantola, Mike Spackman, Cathy Archibald

Present via zoom/phone: Martha Harrison, Deb Shearer, Lauren Stevens, Natalie Starr

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Win Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.
- 2) Changes or additions to the agenda – BB&P plaque, parking in front of Firehouse, digitization grant, Better Roads grant agreement, Bone Builders
- 3) Announcements/Public Comment – Win said Shelley Seward asked him to announce that the shell for the outdoor curriculum is being erected on Sunday at 9:00 AM at the Ascutney Outdoors Center and they need volunteers to help set it up.
- 4) Coronavirus Updates – Mike had nothing to report. Win mentioned the inquiry from RSVP about the Town’s position on the Bone Builders restarting their exercise program in the Town Hall during the pandemic. Win said Nancy Gaynor is not in favor of it. Brett asked if the participants are anxious to start up again. Cathy said she’s only had one inquiry. **Win moved to respond to RSVP by saying that we’re reluctant to have the program start up again inside the building but they’re welcome to do it outside, weather permitting. Brett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 5) Transfer Station discussion – Win said under Weathersfield’s proposal, Reading and West Windsor would pay \$50 per parcel to use the transfer station, which would amount to \$31,050 for Reading and \$44,100 for West Windsor. Win said we couldn’t put that in our budget; we’d have to have it as a separate article, and he thinks the chances of it passing are negligible. Win said Ted Siegler thinks the transfer station is very important to the area. Natalie said people who have curbside trash pick-up should also have curbside recycling pick-up, according to the universal recycling law in VT, but bulky waste, construction waste, scrap metal, electronics and things like that don’t get picked up so people bring them to the transfer station. Win said he thinks the problem is that they don’t enforce the sticker requirement. Win said they could enforce the requirement, charge more and increase the “per punch” fee. Natalie said Hartford charges \$30 per sticker and \$4.95 per punch. Hartland has a Fast Trash program but it doesn’t accept all the extras. Natalie said typically the stickers pay for fixed operating costs (labor, overhead & capital costs) and punch cards pay for variable costs (transfer and disposal of trash and recycling). Win said there’s a meeting of the joint committee, which includes West Windsor and Reading, on Wednesday. Win is going to attend, Ted is going to call in, and others are welcome. Matt agreed with Win that they should enforce the sticker requirement. Win noted that recycling doesn’t pay anymore. Matt suggested contributing to the transfer station, but not \$44,000. Win said West Windsor residents would buy more stickers if the sticker requirement were enforced. Win said Reading pays \$18,000 now and their contribution would go up to \$31,000. Win said, according to Bob Allen, Reading has a lot of undeveloped parcels. Mike said undeveloped parcels don’t produce waste. Matt agreed that it’s not fair to include undeveloped parcels and noted that there’s a lot of competition out there. Natalie said the question is: Do West Windsor residents want to drive a lot farther to dispose of C&D, and other materials, if Weathersfield cuts West Windsor off? Mike said he has curbside pickup and they’ll take anything as long as it fits in a trash bag. Lauren suggested countering Weathersfield’s

proposal with a “fee per developed parcel” proposal. Win said that idea has been broached and Weathersfield has indicated that they don’t want to distinguish between developed and undeveloped parcels, but they may have to modify their position. Mike said stores that sell electronics have to accept them for recycling for free. Win said Martha started generating a survey and asked her to think about how we could distribute it. Matt said he is in favor of maintaining access to the transfer station but he thinks they have to get creative with funding.

- 6) Town Clerk’s orders – Win noted that the orders are in the public folder and asked if there were any questions. Matt had a question that was deferred until budget time.
- 7) Highway Foreman’s report – Harrington Road: Mike said one set of footings was poured today, the other set will be poured tomorrow, and the walls will be up this week. Mike said Crown Point was delayed in getting started by the Tropical Storm and the concrete needs 21 days to cure so the road closure will need to be extended. Win said he was asked whether we’re required to include band rail and Mike said we are. If adjacent property owners want to plant vines around them, Win said that’s okay. Better Roads grant agreement: Martha said it’s a \$20,000 grant with a 20% match. **Win moved to approve the grant agreement for the Sheddsville Road Better Roads project and authorize Martha to sign it. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** Mike said we were authorized to start the project before signing the agreement and it’s almost half done. Win noted a minor accident when someone ran into one of the trucks. Mike said the driver admitted it was her fault. Roads: Mike said the roads have been scoured with the heavy storms we’ve been having.
- 8) Approve final draft of Town Plan for public hearing – Win noted Martha’s work on the Plan and asked the Selectboard to approve the draft for public hearing, along with the matrix of high priority recommendations. **Win moved to approve the draft and schedule a public hearing for September 14th at 6:30 PM. Brett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 9) Set Town Plan public hearing date and time – See item #8 above.
- 10) Sewer and Water updates – Sewer: Win said we need to make a decision about the sag in the sewer line near the Bennington building and asked Martha to urge A+E to get back to us with more information. Martha said A+E wants to finalize the rest of the project first, but they’re having a dispute with Avery about his final pay request. Win said it would be nice to decide whether we’re going to fix it or not. Water: Martha said the new motherboard has been installed so the Mission system is finally working properly.
- 11) July Police Report – Win noted that the dog at the end of Ski Tow Road bit another dog so the owner has been served with a \$100 ticket. Win said someone else got tagged for fireworks. Speed cart: Mike said the speed cart is being charged and will be placed on Rush Meadow Road.
- 12) Other Business – Digitization grant: Win said it would be nice to start digitizing our records but, given staff workloads, we’ll probably have to pass. Brett asked if the grants will be offered again next year. Martha said there’s no way to know that. BB&P plaque: Brett said the plaque is done and ready to be presented. The group that has been working on it would like to present it on a Monday when the store is closed and invite the press and some of the investors. Win said they should suggest some dates in the late afternoon so Brett can be there. Parking in front of Firehouse: Lauren said they’ve been working with the Fire Department and the Windsor Police Chief to try to prevent people from parking in front of the Firehouse during the BB&P’s Friday night BBQs. After this Friday, Lauren said, they’re thinking about moving the BBQs to mid-week to keep them smaller and more local. Matt asked about

parking on the Leland property. Lauren said that was the plan but cost and insurance are an issue. Matt said some people were parking at the school and the Town Hall, which is fine, but there were also a lot of cars on Route 44. Mike confirmed that parking in front of the Firehouse has been a problem. Win encouraged Lauren to direct people to the school and Town Hall parking lots. Deb noted the “No Parking” signs on Route 44 that people ignore. Events: Win noted a party in the village over the weekend but said he didn’t get any complaints about it. Matt asked about the event at the AO Center. Win said there was a celebration of the life of Ann Ackley, which was well attended and everyone wore masks although people were a little close together. Primary election: Matt asked when the Selectboard needs to show up tomorrow to count ballots. Win said a little before 7:00 PM. Matt said everyone who votes in person has to wear a mask. Win noted that the state sent a bunch of supplies. Mike said he ordered a lot of supplies to give away to whoever needs them.

- 13) Meeting technology review – Win asked how the technology worked. Martha said it was pretty clear until the end. Win said he would like to find an old computer with a large monitor and leave it set up.
- 14) Approve Minutes – **Brett moved to approve the minutes of July 27th and 29th. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 15) Adjourn – **Brett moved to adjourn at 7:35 PM. Matt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison