

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes
August 5, 2013

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtger, Cathy Archibald, Mike Spackman, Jim Lyall, Courtney McKaig, Mike Silverman (Vermont 50)

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- 2) Changes/Additions – school grounds, school tax rate, historic signs, Brook Road, informational meeting scheduled for August 14th
- 3) Town Clerk’s orders – **Tom moved to sign orders. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 4) Town Clerk/Treasurer’s Report – None
- 5) Public Comment – None
- 6) Application for Public Assembly: Vermont 50 (Mike Silverman) – The Selectboard specified that there should be no fireworks at the Vermont 50. Mike said he will supply a map for the FAST Squad and the fire department. **Tom moved to approve the public assembly license for the Vermont 50 Bike and Ultra Run on September 28 & 29, 2013. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 7) Harrington Road speed limit: Shannon Harrington – Glenn noted Shannon’s letter dated July 28, 2013. Glenn also noted that the Selectboard received an email from Michael Epstein expressing concern about the speed limit on Bible Hill Road. Glenn suggested lowering the speed limit on both roads to either 25 or 30 MPH. Tom said the 35 MPH speed limit was set when both roads had fewer houses on them. Glenn suggested approaching Chief Soares about intermittent patrols in the area. Mike said he doesn’t think it’s just those two roads. Bruce said there are probably others who think the speed limit should be 30 MPH on their road. Glenn suggested dealing with requests on a case by case basis. Mike said he has no issue with the speed limit being 30 MPH. **Glenn moved to change the speed limit to 30 MPH on Harrington and Bible Hill Roads and to request that the Windsor Police Department do intermittent speed checks in those areas. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 8) Set date for meeting with Fourth of July committee – Glenn suggested setting a date in the next two weeks but said he hasn’t heard back from Cathy Boedtger and Chris Nesbitt.
- 9) Town Forest trails update – Jim Lyall said he has been doing maintenance, working on flash flood repairs, and putting in water bars. Jim said “Deer Run” washed out badly and the Town Forest Committee has talked about shutting it down rather than repairing it. Jim said it may make sense to finish the trail to town mechanically. Jim suggested increasing the height of the railing by the retaining wall. Glenn said Mike is working on getting the pedestrian crosswalk signs and scheduling the painting. Tom asked about the status of the trail from the Resort to Back Mountain Road (Route 44 A). Jim said Phase 1 is a three-mile beginner loop across from the campground, which the state would monitor before deciding whether to proceed with Phase 2 (the trail connecting the campground to the Resort). Jim noted that there’s some bridge construction involved in Phase 2. Jim said STAB (Sport Trails of Ascutney Basin) paid \$2,300 for an archeological study of the Phase 2 route and is now waiting to hear whether a dig is necessary. Jim said STAB and VMBA (VT Mountain Bike Association) are considering moving the Mountain Bike Festival to the July 4th weekend. Glenn asked Jim for festival photos, which he will share with Snowdance and Orange Lake.
- 10) Town Forest: ADA issues – Tom said he will talk to the Town Forest Committee (TFC) about allowing ATVs on certain days to allow older people and people with disabilities to use the trails. Jim said the TFC addressed Glenn’s 24 questions in their July 18th meeting minutes.
- 11) Gravel pit reclamation update – Glenn said the town has received a permit from VTrans for depositing material in the old gravel pit, contingent upon input from the District 2 Environmental

Commission regarding any impacts on our Act 250 trail permit. Glenn said he has contacted April Hensel.

- 12) Connector Trail/Crosswalk project – Glenn noted that this issue was discussed under the Town Forest trails update. Courtney asked if the town is waiting for permission from the state. Glenn said yes; the town needs permission to work in the state highway right-of-way and to cut their curbs. Glenn noted that the town has contractors lined up to do the work when the permit is received.
- 13) Highway Foreman’s report – Mike said the Highway Department is still working on flash flood repairs. Mike said he’s going to get a price for the black top on Ski Tow Road this week. Mike said mowing has been started and grading is in process. Ditch maintenance and ditch repair due to flood damage are proceeding. Mike said repaired areas have been hydro seeded. Glenn said President Obama has declared a disaster for the flash flood events in late June and early July, which makes federal funding available for 75% of the repair costs. Glenn said Rob Calhoun and Michael Epstein on Bible Hill Road have asked the town to upgrade the culvert near their property to protect against extreme rain events. Glenn suggested getting a hydraulic study from VTrans and applying for a structures grant next year. Mike said there are three culverts upstream from the Bible Hill culvert that are also questionable; two on Jewett and one on John Myers are probably undersized. Mike noted that debris is a big problem. Bruce, Tom and Mike agreed that a hydraulic study should be done for the Bible Hill culvert. Glenn said Mike Roscoe on Upper Yale Heights asked him about the town taking the road over. Tom said he is not interested in having the town take over that road. Mike agreed and noted that the road does not meet requirements and the first corner is impassable for highway equipment. Glenn agreed to draft a letter to Mr. Roscoe.
- 14) Application for final highway access approval: Richard Clay (Rush Meadow Road) – Glenn said he has reviewed his concerns with the Highway Foreman and Mike has reassured him that the problem will be addressed with the application of a little more gravel past Mr. Clay’s driveway. Mike noted that Rush Meadow Road held up well during the flash flood event. Glenn said either the capstones need to be lowered or the road needs to be raised and Mike plans to raise the road. **Glenn moved to grant final access approval to Richard Clay on Rush Meadow Road. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Tom asked about the status of the access on Churchill Road. Glenn said the applicant has to go before the DRB because the driveway is in the floodplain. Mike said there’s a sign in the new location, which is a whole lot better. Tom agreed that he has no problem with the new location.
- 15) Brook Road trail status – Tom said the people he has talked to would like a trail there rather than a road. Glenn said the idea has some merit.
- 16) Nilson property – Glenn said the town voted approval for the acquisition of that property to be funded by grants and other funding sources. Glenn said he forwarded the property information to the Conservation Commission (CC) so they can ask the Nilsons if they would like to sell the property and, if so, what the price would be. Glenn said the CC has the issue on their agenda for tonight.
- 17) Update on fiber optic line extension project – Glenn said 12 investors have committed \$60,000 to date but EC Fiber needs \$90,000 more. There is another investment offering which will close on October 1st and hopefully some of the people who pledged their support verbally will come through for the next closing. Tom asked if anyone has approached the prospective buyers of the talc plant. Glenn said no.
- 18) Talc Plant purchase update – Glenn said the DRB held a hearing recently, which went well with a professional presentation by the Querrey group. Glenn noted that the hearing was continued until August 13th.
- 19) Police report – Glenn said he has no police report. Tom said there was a Windsor Police cruiser at the intersection of Route 106 and Route 44 so he clarified with the Police Chief the exact location of the town line. Courtney noted that Hartland is trying to determine what to do about its police coverage and asked if the Selectboard is happy with the town’s arrangement with Windsor. The Selectboard agreed that they are extremely happy and that the arrangement has exceeded their expectations. Glenn said the Selectboard would be happy to talk with the Town of Hartland about the experience.

- 20) Solid Waste District update – Tom said the district has raised the fee from \$5/ton to \$7/ton due to an increase in recycling. Mike asked what will happen when the incinerator closes. Tom said he doesn't think that will have any affect since it's in the New Hampshire district. Mike said that's where our trash goes and asked where it's going to go now. Tom said that's a good question.
- 21) Dutch Elm Disease: Tree Warden – Tom said the dead elms need to be taken down and there's a road salt problem with the maple tree by the bridge.
- 22) Other Business – School grounds and tax rate: Tom said we need to clarify who owns the school grounds. Right now the school pays for maintenance of the grounds but, since we're a gold town, the school sends another dollar to Montpelier for every dollar they spend. Tom suggested meeting with the School Board to clarify who owns what and to discuss the maintenance budget. Tom said he is concerned about the cost of upgrading the ball field. Tom said he also thinks private school students should be included in the state education tax formulas. Bowers Bridge historic signs: Tom inquired about asking the Highway Foreman to get the signs. Mike said he has not seen any historic bridge signs in Vermont so he thinks we need to do some research. Bruce agreed. Informational meeting: Glenn said the Selectboard has an informational meeting about the village sewer line scheduled for Wednesday, August 14th at 6:30 PM. Although the meeting is targeted to village residents, everyone in town is welcome to attend. Glenn urged all village residents and trustees of the historical society, the library, the school, and other organizations to attend the meeting so they can decide whether or not to support the project. Glenn said the schedule is tight to make this all happen and take advantage of available grant funding. Glenn noted that A&E will be present.
- 23) Approve Minutes - July 8th: **Tom moved to approve the minutes of July 8th as written. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** July 10th (afternoon): **Tom moved to approve the minutes of the afternoon of July 10th as written. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** July 10th (evening): **Tom moved to approve the minutes of the evening of July 10th as written. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** July 19th: **Tom moved to approve the minutes of July 19th as amended. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** July 22nd: **Tom moved to approve the minutes of July 22nd as written. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 24) Adjourn – Glenn moved to adjourn at approximately 7:30 PM. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison