

West Windsor Selectboard
Draft Minutes
December 12, 2016

Present: Dick Beatty, Tom Kenyon, Win Johnson, Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Dick Beatty called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.
- 2) Changes or additions to the agenda – plowing/access to water system; budget; maintenance garage; letter of support for Ascutney Outdoors; Historical Society budget; Town Plan, as it relates to the VT 100 event; water project cost
- 3) Announcements/Public Comment – None
- 4) Discuss net metering agreement with Next Sun – Due to inclement weather, the discussion with Next Sun was postponed until Thursday, December 15, at 10:30 AM. The Selectboard talked about questions they have for Next Sun, including the following: What would our allocation be, and would it be broken down by meter? What is the variability in generation and how would it affect the amount of energy the town is obligated to pay for? Can we adjust the allocations among our meters? If we contract for a significant amount of energy from Next Sun, are we precluded from contracting with another company for the balance? What if the school closes; can we eliminate that meter from our contract and reduce the amount of energy we are obligated to purchase? Do we pay for the amount of energy allocated, or the amount we use? Win suggested emailing the questions to Next Sun in advance of Thursday's meeting.
- 5) Discuss fire hydrant south of ski bridge – The Selectboard considered the cost of moving the hydrant in light of the cost update provided by Jason Booth, which indicates that the water project is over budget by \$22,000. Given the addition of the Mountainside line, Win said he's not surprised that the project is over budget but he didn't think it was going to be over by that much. Win added that he thinks the water system has sufficient funds to cover the overage and move the hydrant. There was discussion about the water budget and the fiscal year for both the water and sewer funds. There was discussion about removing the hydrant and putting a temporary cap in its place until next spring. The Selectboard agreed to discuss the hydrant issue with the Utility Advisory Committee this afternoon, and Tom agreed to check with Daniels Construction to see if they are still willing to move the hydrant for \$8,800 in spite of the turn in the weather.
- 6) Planning Commission resignation – **Tom moved to accept Arthur Steinberg's resignation with regret and appreciation for his service. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 7) Other Business – Plowing/access to water system: Martha said Patricia is wondering if the Base Lodge access can be plowed if Ascutney Outdoors (AO) is going to own the property. Win said the purchase and sales agreement between Snowdance and AO has been signed but the deed language has not been finalized. Letter of support: Win said the Brownfields grant for the asbestos removal has been delayed while the regional planning commission works through the approval process, which is probably the reason behind AO's request for a letter of support from the Selectboard. **Win moved to write a letter of support for AO's demolition of the burned-out Base Lodge and endorse their application for a Brownfields grant.** Martha said Glenn Seward called and asked to be on the Selectboard's agenda for a public hearing on the Brownfields grant for AO. Martha said she asked Glenn if

the grant would cover asbestos removal in the old lodge as well and he said no; the two have to be separate. Dick said he wants to be sure that the lines are clear because the town doesn't own the burned-out Base Lodge. Tom expressed concern about contamination from the burned-out Base Lodge affecting the town's water system. Win said the environmental hazards are a concern in terms of general public safety. Win said if funding is available for asbestos removal and demolition of the old lodge, which the town does own, the town would have to be the applicant. Dick said he doesn't have a problem writing a letter of support for AO as long as it's clear that the town does not have title to the burned-out Base Lodge. Win asked Martha to draft a letter of support. Regarding the plowing for the water system, Martha said Patricia asked her to contact Orange Lake about keeping the access to the well clear. In addition, Martha said, we still need a list from AO of people who can get Dennis and Patricia up to Reservoir #1 whenever necessary. The Selectboard agreed that Martha should contact AO and ask them for a list. Budget: Win said there's a very minor discrepancy in the budget for special highway expenses. Regarding the town budget, Win was concerned about the difference between the amount budgeted for clock refurbishment and the amount approved by the voters. In addition, Win said, there was a difference between budgeted and approved non-tax revenues. Win explained his calculations for the clock project with the bottom line being that the town spent \$10,000 more than budgeted. Maintenance garage: Win said Mike is moving ahead with the work on the overhead doors. AO would like to use the center bay for their equipment, and Mike would like to use the rest of the building to store highway and fire department equipment. Dick asked if Laura Farrell has provided a list of equipment that AO would like to keep. Win said no. Historical Society budget: Tom said the Historical Society is reducing its request from the town by 5% to \$6,950. Town Plan, as it relates to the VT 100 event: Tom said it has been suggested that the current location for the VT 100 is not in keeping with the Town Plan. Tom said he thinks the event is in compliance with the Town Plan and enhances the activities we were hoping would happen in that area of town. Tom cited the "Rural Residential" section on page 12 of the 2014 Town Plan. Win said he thinks it's the scope of the event that is of concern. Tom said he thinks the VT 100 does the town a favor by keeping the trails open and noted the value of horseback riding to West Windsor. Dick suggested asking the Planning Commission for their interpretation of the Town Plan with regard to this issue. Win agreed with Tom about the value of the trail system but expressed concern about the size of the event and the amount of traffic it generates. Win said he has never been to the site during the event but plans to go up there this summer. Dick asked if the VT 100 is the only organization maintaining the trails and making them accessible. Win said Green Mountain Horse Association (GMHA) and Sport Trails of Ascutney Basin (STAB) are the ones who maintain the trails, and the VT 100 uses them. There was discussion about the process for drafting and approving town plans and zoning regulations. Water budget: Win suggested getting Jason Booth on the phone to discuss the updated cost figures for the water project, but Jason was not available. Dick noted the cost of the Mountainside line – change order #1 – was \$62,355. Win asked Martha about change order #2. Martha said change order #2 was not included with the most recent pay estimate (pay estimate #3) so it's probably going to be included with the next pay estimate. Win said he doesn't remember voting to approve change order #2. Change order #2 includes miscellaneous electrical items and culverts. Tom said the culvert must be in reference to the culvert that was discovered and re-routed during the excavation for the booster pump building. Martha said the miscellaneous electrical might include the additional telemetry

work. Dick noted that Jason still needs the actual amounts for legal and administrative expenses. Win said those numbers come from the town. Tom said Cathy has been trying to get that information from the Town Attorney. Job opening: Dick asked if there have been any applicants for the ZA position. Martha said no. Hydrant pricing: Tom reported that Daniels Construction will hold their cost estimate on moving the hydrant as long as we don't have four feet of frost.

- 8) Adjourn –**Win moved to adjourn at 11:48 AM. Dick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison