

West Windsor Selectboard  
Draft Minutes  
February 27, 2020

Present: Win Johnson, Brett Myers, Martha Harrison, Al Keiller, Mike Dudley, Deb Shearer, Glenn Seward, Dennis Erickson

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Win Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.
- 2) Changes or Additions – Application for a wedding at Ascutney Outdoors
- 3) Erickson-Armstrong wedding – **Win moved to approve the application by Leigh Erickson and Ryder Armstrong for a wedding at Ascutney Outdoors on August 1<sup>st</sup> from 3:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Brett seconded the motion.** Martha asked if the bathroom facilities at the AO Center are adequate. Dennis said Glenn has suggested four port-a-potties. **Win called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 4) Town Plan discussion – Win said there didn't seem to be much support in the plan for the priority recommendations so he put all the recommendations from each chapter in a separate document and highlighted the ones he thinks are the most important. Al described the Planning Commission's process, starting with public input, which was used to draft the first chapter including the vision and goals, and continuing chapter by chapter. Al agreed that it makes sense to re-work the priority matrix so the narrative supports the priorities. Al requested the use of "track changes" for any significant changes. Win suggested more support in the document for the creation of a Sustainability Committee. Win mentioned some things he thinks are priorities including reviewing sign regulations. Martha mentioned emerald ash borer and its potential impacts on transportation and natural resources. Win asked Al and Mike to highlight the recommendations they think are highest priority. Regarding the strategic goals in the first chapter, Win said he found quite a few recommendations that support the first three goals but not many that support the remaining goals. Al agreed that the goal regarding the mountain curriculum, for example, does not have supporting recommendations. Win questioned the Town's ability to affect the educational process. Martha said the Selectboard is tentatively planning to have a public hearing on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Al said some of the similar recommendations could be combined into a single priority recommendation. Win said the Selectboard may also add some recommendations that are not in the current draft. Win added that he thinks the recommendations should be things that are within our means to do, such as insulating our buildings. Martha said some of the recommendations involve implementing other plans that are 50 or more pages long, such as Tii McLane's forest management plan. Martha said she looked at Tii's plan and only found two recommendations, one about controlling invasive plants and one about moving a section of trail. Win said he looked at the regional Solid Waste Plan and didn't find anything specific for the town to do. Win added that Weathersfield has communicated with us about the Transfer Station being in trouble and the regional group didn't know anything about it so we'll probably add some language about that. Win explained the situation to Al and Mike and said many West Windsor residents don't use the Transfer Station. Win mentioned an email he received from a resident who goes to the Springfield Transfer Station because he thinks they do a better job. Mike asked if Weathersfield is proposing a price increase in anticipation of the regulations that go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Martha said they haven't explained their thinking. Al said Weathersfield doesn't enforce the sticker requirement. Win

said Weathersfield withdrew their proposal and agreed to meet with West Windsor and Reading sometime after Town Meeting. Win said he'd like to see more support for the "Aging in Place" concept. Win said Hartland has a community nurse and a group of volunteers who help older people with home maintenance. Al said the Aging in Place Committee has produced a resource directory. Win said there's a link to the directory on West Windsor's website. Win noted an apparent disagreement between the Conservation Commission and the Planning Commission with regard to floodways. Deb said the disagreement may be about river corridors rather than floodways. Win said he'd like the two commissions to talk about it and see if they can agree on a recommendation. Win asked Al about the status of the Planning Commission. Al said one member has resigned and another is planning to resign but he has spoken with a couple of people who may be interested in serving. Al asked about the Town's position on the cannabis issue. Win said he has some questions about that to ask our legislators at Town Meeting but the Selectboard hasn't talked about it other than to pass the resolution recommended by VLCT. Al said there's concern that the current bill discriminates against small farmers. Win said there's also concern that it discriminates against small marketers; that the big national firms would come in and take over. Mike noted different models from other states and their impacts. Al said it would be helpful to have any draft revisions to the Town Plan prior to the PC's next meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Deb said our current Town Plan has expired and added that the DRB has asked if there's anything in the Plan that they should be aware of. Al noted that the zoning regulations were just adopted two years ago but there are some recommendations for changes that will affect them. Win asked the Planning Commission to think about where and how the Town can reduce lot sizes in the village. Martha said she noticed problems with some of the maps as well. For example, some conserved properties are not shown as conserved. Martha asked if there's a way to overlay the solar resources map with the maps of restricted natural resource areas so we can see which high priority solar areas don't have restrictions. Deb said she thinks there is a way to do that. Martha said if West Windsor needs to find 64 acres of land to put solar facilities on, we can't just look at brownfields, parking lots and rooftops. Mike asked about screening solar sites. Win said Mr. Purjes was supposed to put screening around his facility and never did. Deb noted that West Windsor has a really high per capita output of solar energy compared to other Vermont towns.

- 5) Other Business – School budget: Win noted a good presentation by the School Superintendent on Windsor on Air. Coronavirus: Martha asked Al, who is on the Mt. Ascutney Hospital board, what the hospital is doing about coronavirus. Al said he has asked that question and they have protocols for infectious diseases. Whether or not they have stockpiles of supplies, Al said he doesn't know.
- 6) Adjourn – **The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 5:35 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison