

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes

June 1, 2011

Present: Glenn Seward, Bruce Boedtger, Tom Kenyon

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
- 2) Changes or Additions – Status of license for recreational trails, Bowers Road trail update
- 3) Discuss town forest recreational trail organization – Glenn noted that Mark Nowlan resigned from the Town Forest Committee. **Tom made a motion to accept Mark Nowlan's resignation. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Glenn noted the Town Forest Committee's concerns about the Selectboard making decisions without the TFC's input. Glenn said the TFC is concerned by the suggestion that they meet more than once a month and is also concerned that the recreational trail project is developing too quickly without input from Forest Ecologist Tii McLane. Glenn presented Bruce and Tom with a number of options. Glenn noted that National Trail Day is coming up and he got temporary permission from the owners of the Ski Area for STAB to do trail work on Resort property. Glenn said the license agreement with Sports Trails of the Ascutney Basin (STAB) is being edited. Glenn said Orange Lake requires \$5 million in liability insurance and the town has \$10 million, so we're covered. Glenn said he has not heard back from the Town Attorney on the Orange Lake agreement. Glenn would like to schedule a meeting about marketing, trail maintenance, insurance, and other issues with the STAB board, STAB's ad hoc committee and the TFC. Bruce said he thinks it's important to move ahead with the trail plan. Bruce noted that the Selectboard is not proposing to make any changes to the existing trail system in the town forest until the new management plan is in place. Bruce agreed that the Selectboard should meet with STAB and the TFC. Tom said he attended the Open House held by the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation in Ascutney last week and it appears that there are plans to create a mountain bike/cross country ski trail from the State Park to the Ascutney Mountain Resort. Tom noted the TFC's reluctance to meet more frequently and their apparent dissatisfaction with the task before them. Tom said he feels that the viability of the Resort is at stake. Tom said the number of members on the TFC may be interfering with its effectiveness. Tom noted that TFC members Jim Lyall and Laura Stillson attended the Open House but the other members did not attend. Tom said Tii McLane has indicated that the value of the timber in the town forest is insignificant and therefore the town forest should "pay its way" in some other manner, e.g. through expanded use of the trail system. Glenn said he feels that the recreational trail project will help the town and if we don't get it going in a timely manner we're going to be left in the dust because there are other communities that are undertaking similar projects throughout the state. Glenn said he doesn't see a lot of downside to the recreational trail project but if it doesn't work out, all the town has to do is shut it down. Bruce said he would like the TFC to continue to update the town forest management plan at their own pace, with the understanding that it will be done by the end of the year and that no significant changes will be made to the trail system until the plan is in place but that the Selectboard will proceed on a parallel track with the bike initiative. Bruce said the Selectboard should continue to keep the TFC informed about what is happening with the trail system. Tom said the mountain bike trails should fall directly under the auspices of the Selectboard. Bruce said if there is a proposal to build a bridge or expand the trail system in the town forest, he thinks it would be appropriate to consult with the Town Forest Committee. Tom agreed but said the final decision should rest with the Selectboard. Bruce agreed that the Town Forest Committee is an advisory board. Glenn said it is his understanding that Tii McLane, the regional planning commission and the Department of Forests & Parks plan to have a draft plan for the Selectboard to review by January 1st. Tom noted that the Weathersfield Trail may go through the Glebe lot. Tom said he believes that the TFC was

- charged with reclaiming the area where the old pit was located. Bruce asked Glenn to draft a letter to the TFC summarizing the Selectboard's discussion at this meeting. Glenn agreed.
- 4) Discuss Orange Lake trail agreement – Glenn said he has not heard from Town Attorney Matt Birmingham about the agreement but he asked Bruce and Tom to review it. Glenn said he asked the attorney for Orange Lakes for permission to forward the agreement to the owners of the Resort so the town can have a similar agreement with them.
 - 5) Town Clerk's Orders – The Selectboard signed the Town Clerk's orders.
 - 6) Consider authorizing the Highway Foreman to represent the town in David Hindinger/Heritage Engineering v. Town of West Windsor – Glenn said Matt suggested that the Selectboard draft a letter authorizing Mike Spackman to represent the town in the Heritage Engineering proceedings next week. Glenn noted that Matt will be there as well. Tom asked if Mike is authorized to settle. Bruce said Glenn can let Matt know that the Selectboard authorized Mike to represent them but not to enter into a settlement agreement. **Glenn made a motion to authorize Highway Foreman Mike Spackman to represent the Town of West Windsor in the matter of Heritage Engineering. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
 - 7) Withdraw application #2432 – **Glenn made a motion to withdraw application #2432 by the Town of West Windsor for subdivision and boundary line adjustments associated with the acquisition of Mile Long Field. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
 - 8) Discuss highway call procedures – Glenn noted that there were alarm issues at the Town Garage and trees down on Brownsville-Hartland and Rush Meadow Roads this weekend and no highway employees around. Glenn said in past years the highway employees had pagers and someone was always on call. Tom said in the past, the Emergency Management Coordinator was authorized to take whatever action was necessary to remedy the situation. Glenn said he doesn't have a problem with compensating someone to be on call. Tom suggested discussing it with the highway department. Glenn agreed to ask the highway department to propose a solution to the problem.
 - 9) Consider approving additional discussions with area towns re: a regional police force – Glenn said regional planning commission director Tom Kennedy asked the Selectboard to formalize approval of an ongoing dialogue among the towns in the area. Tom noted that Reading is interested in participating in the discussion. Glenn said he suggested to Bob Allen, Reading's Selectboard Chair, that he get in touch with Tom Kennedy. **Glenn moved to continue the discussions with area towns regarding a regional police force. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
 - 10) Other Business – Bowers Road trail: Tom said the state has approved the trail from Coaching Lane across Route 44 but he is waiting to receive the form that will allow the town to do the work in the right-of-way. Tom said the trail would run between the Matthews and Hall properties, down to Walter Rich's property, across Route 44 to Gary Burke's and then to Bowers Road. Bruce asked if there is a right-of-way there. Tom said no; the town would get a recreational trail license from the property owners. Tom asked Glenn and Bruce if they would like to use surplus funds from last year to build the trail. Bruce asked what type of trail this would be. Tom said it would be for snowmobiles, horses, hikers and bikers. Tom said he thinks it will cost \$6,000. Bruce said he would like more details. Status of license for recreational trails: Tom asked if Matt Birmingham is going to provide the Selectboard with a generic license agreement. Glenn said yes. Next meeting: Glenn suggested dedicating the first part of the next regular Selectboard meeting to public input on the pros and cons of the recreational trail network. Office Equipment: Tom said Cathy Archibald's printer stopped working today. The Selectboard agreed to pay the cost of overnight shipping.
 - 11) Adjourn – **Glenn made a motion to adjourn at 6:10 PM. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Harrison