

West Windsor Selectboard
Draft Minutes
March 23, 2015

Present: Glenn Seward, Dick Beatty, Tom Kenyon, Susan Hines, Shelley Seward, Matthew Birmingham, Mike Spackman, Jim Lyall, Cathy Archibald, Martha Harrison

1. Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Dick Beatty called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.
2. Changes or additions to the agenda – Nilson property; amend contract with A&E
3. Announcements/Public Comment – Glenn read a letter (attached) resigning his position on the Selectboard as of May 1, 2015 or when a replacement is appointed, whichever comes first. Martha thanked Glenn for all his hard work over the years and said she thinks his resignation is a huge loss and a tragedy for the town. Dick, Tom and Matt agreed. Tom asked Matt if the Selectboard can appoint a replacement for Glenn or if they have to hold a special election. Matt said he is certain they can appoint someone but he will get back to them with more information tomorrow.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report - None
5. Liquor Licenses – Cathy had three liquor license applications for the Selectboard to consider, one for Brownsville General Store and two for Orange Lake. **Tom moved to approve the applications. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
6. Highway Foreman's Report – 911 signs: Mike said the remaining signs will be installed after the weather warms up. The only two roads left are Route 44 and the Brownsville-Hartland Road. Road Foreman's meeting: Mike said tomorrow is the Road Foreman's meeting at the town garage. Sand & gravel bids: Mike had two more bids for the Selectboard. Roads: Mike said the highway department will begin putting material on the roads this week.
7. Town Highway structure & paving grants – Martha said Michael Epstein and Rob Calhoun would like to meet on March 31 to review the plans for the Bible Hill culvert replacement. Tom and Mike said March 31 is fine and suggested 8:00 AM.
8. Water System update – Dick said he would like to discuss this in executive session.
9. Village Sewer update – Dick said the Selectboard is meeting tomorrow at 10:00 AM with Joe Duncan from A&E and Robert Pelosi from the state to discuss the sewer project.
10. EC Fiber update – Matt said he talked with Paul Giuliani last week and still has the same concerns about the default provision and the variable interest rate but should have a final draft of the interlocal contract later this week.
11. Consider signing Act 250 administrative amendment application for subdivision of former ski area property – Dick said there are some matters related to this item, and the next two items, that should be considered in executive session before the application is signed.
12. Consider signing wastewater system & potable water supply permit application – This item was tabled pending discussion in executive session.
13. Consider signing local subdivision application – This item was tabled pending discussion in executive session.
14. Failed septic systems: Cody property – Tom said he and Health Officer Nancy Gaynor have inspected the property and Nancy has contacted the state about this issue. Tom reported that Nancy has not gotten any assistance from the state. Tom suggested asking Fire Safety to inspect the property. Glenn said it would seem to him that the state can't

just ignore the problem. There was discussion about approaching the issue through child protective services or rental laws. Matt agreed that he would like to get the state involved and said he will talk to Nancy and come up with a plan. Tom said he didn't inspect the property as a Selectman; he went because Nancy didn't feel comfortable going alone. There was discussion about public health and the potential pollution of the adjacent brook.

15. Police report - Dick noted nothing unusual in the February police report.
16. Town Hall update - Heating system: Tom said Dead River continues to investigate the heating system. Emergency generator: Tom said he has asked Vermont Generator to investigate a generator for the whole building, not just the heating system, so the town hall can be used during emergencies. Clock: Tom said he's looking into using white plastic for the clock rather than glass, which would reduce the cost. Balcony railing: Tom said Fire Safety is coming to consider the town's proposal to raise the height of the railing.
17. Discuss public meetings on the future of recreation in West Windsor – Dick suggested postponing the meetings. Glenn agreed unless the town wants to use the meetings to see if someone wants to pick up where he and Shelley left off. Dick said, without Glenn's involvement, the Selectboard has nothing to propose. **Tom moved to postpone the meetings. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
18. Other Business – Nilson property: Tom said we need to confirm that the voters approved acquiring the property by gifts, donations, grants and reserve funds. Tom noted the price is \$5,000 and VAST would like a permanent easement across the property. Tom said he would rather grant a license than an easement. Tom suggested buying the land and said he doesn't think we need to survey it. Dick said he doesn't think it makes sense to grant a permanent easement over the only usable portion of the land. Dick asked about the value of the land to the town. Glenn said he hopes a parking lot could be constructed at the end of Bowers Road to provide parking for snowmobilers. Glenn added that the property could also provide a link from the Bible Hill area to the resort property through the old Bowers Road right-of-way and across Route 44. Glenn said if the Selectboard is planning to use Conservation Fund money to buy the Nilson property, they should consult with the Conservation Commission. Tom said he would anticipate the funds coming from reserves. Matt asked Glenn to provide him with contact information for the property owner. Glenn suggested that Matt also consult with Chris Nesbitt. Matt said the town can make the license renewable. **Glenn moved to instruct the town attorney to contact all parties involved to facilitate the Nilson transaction with special consideration given to a license rather than an easement to VAST. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** New hire for highway department: Mike said he and Martha are working on an ad to put in the paper. Dick suggested putting the ad in a trade newsletter if there is one. Amendment to A&E contract: Dick said our engineers, Aldrich & Elliott, have indicated that the state is requiring them to add two more meetings to the contract for preliminary engineering for the water system. Dick said they are proposing to add the meetings at no additional cost. **Glenn moved to accept the addition of two more meetings at no additional cost. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Thank you: Mike thanked Glenn for everything he's done for the highway department and said he would like him to reconsider because he feels that the town will be greatly impacted by his loss. Dick agreed that, without Glenn, the town will miss out on opportunities that would have been fortuitous for the town.

19. Approve Minutes - March 5 & March 9: Tom moved to approve the minutes as written. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
20. Town Clerk's orders – Tom moved to sign orders. Dick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
21. Tax appeal – Matt noted that the Gray tax appeal has been scheduled for April in Superior Court. Matt said the Listers are prepared to get an appraisal, pending confirmation that the appellant has rejected the town's latest settlement offer. Matt said he will call the appellant's attorney this morning.
22. Anticipated Executive Session per 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)&(3) - Tom moved to go into executive session. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. After discussion, Dick moved to come out of executive session, noting that no action was taken. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Glenn moved to postpone consideration of the Act 250 administrative amendment application for subdivision of former ski area property, the wastewater system & potable water supply permit application, and the local subdivision application. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
23. Adjourn - Glenn moved to adjourn at 9:25 AM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison

March 23, 2015

To The West Windsor Selectboard:

Over the last 5 years I have been fortunate to have been a part of the West Windsor Select Board. The board has shown and continues to show an amazing willingness to address serious issues head on.

There have been numerous difficult situations over the last several years that came to a head where action needed to be taken. This was the case with the ancient roads, the mountain sewer situation, ATVs on public land, the pollution in Mill Brook, the lack of high speed internet, two FEMA/storm events and a public water supply crisis. The tipping point in all these situations prompted the select board to implement solutions that would serve the town's long-range interests.

I understand any public position is not without risk. Additionally, I would neither want nor expect complete agreement with or among the Selectboard at all times. Varying opinions are healthy and part of the democratic process. However, it's the nature of how these opinions are expressed that continues to be disturbing.

As chairman, my integrity and character have been questioned several times while trying to act in the best interest of West Windsor. Unfortunately this has occurred yet again and I have been accused of wearing too many hats with questionable motives during the TPL/non-profit discussions. I certainly do not want to be an impediment to the success of this very important undertaking.

As such, I am announcing a series of solutions to remove all of my hats and resolve this issue permanently so that the town may continue to pursue this opportunity without the distraction of my involvement.

1. All efforts Shelley and I have made to rejuvenate activity at the ski area and to alleviate the tax burden of the town forest trails through investigating the formation of a non-profit have been terminated. We will not be involved at any level in this endeavor. This should eliminate any perception of self-serving motives on my part.

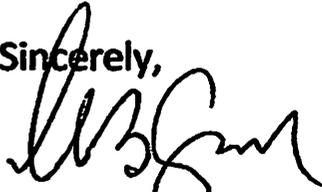
2. The stewardship fund recently created by Shelley and me that would have ultimately been administered by the VT Community Foundation will be dissolved. The fund would have provided approximately \$30,000 per year to financially sustain the town forest and the non-profit entity created to help operate the recreational trail system. This annual payout would have helped both the struggling taxpayers who felt the annual appropriation requested by the Town Forest Committee was placing an undue burden on the town tax rate as well as those who love to use the trail system by insuring its continued maintenance within one of the finest town forests in the region. This will remove any perception of me having undue influence over the process.

3. All recreational trails on our personally-owned land will be closed to the public. This will eliminate any perception we are benefiting from the recreational trail system which winds its way through our property.

4. I do appreciate the tremendous support by many in West Windsor over the last 5 years. However, there appear to be some residents who are of the mindset that the thousands of hours and dollars I have donated to the town have been done for personal benefit. I don't truly understand that but in order to allay their concerns I am resigning from the West Windsor Select board the earlier of May 1st or my position being filled.

Dick, Tom, Matt and Martha—I wish you all the best ---the town is very lucky to have you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn B. Seward". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "S".

Glenn B. Seward