

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes

May 23, 2011

Present: Glenn Seward, Bruce Boedtke, Tom Kenyon

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.
- 2) Changes or Additions – None
- 3) Discuss licensing for recreational trails – Glenn provided Tom and Bruce with a draft licensing agreement which has been approved by the Town Attorney and will be considered for adoption at some point. Bruce asked about insurance. Glenn said he has asked STAB to provide a Certificate of Insurance. Glenn said he did not specify an amount of time for which the agreement would be effective but does not think it should be in effect for more than one year. Bruce agreed that it should be reviewed annually. Glenn said the agreement specifies that funding is STAB's responsibility although at some point he would consider including a separate line item to help maintain the trails. Tom suggested a line item in the Town Forest Committee's budget. Tom said he would prefer to have STAB get permission from the town and/or the Town Forest Committee (TFC). Tom said he thinks the town is going to have to allow snowmobiles and trail bikes to use some of the trails at certain times. Bruce said some of the double wide trails would be appropriate for that type of use. Bruce said some ATVs have gone up there and the trails are too wet and they're causing damage. Once you change the drainage pattern, Bruce said, you end up with a ravine and the trail washes out. Tom said somehow we have to control where and when we allow motorized vehicles. Bruce said, for safety reasons, motorized and non-motorized vehicles don't mix. Glenn said we need to get Tii McLane's input so we can figure out a place that's suitable for motorized vehicles. Tom said the snowmobile club does not seem to be enthusiastic about ATVs using their trails. Bruce agreed. Tom asked how STAB is going to address overuse. Tom asked if it is STAB's responsibility to report problems to the town. Glenn read a section of the agreement authorizing STAB to close trails due to safety concerns or trail conditions. Bruce said one of the biggest problems with mountain bike trails is that roots get exposed over time. Ideally, Bruce said, you use a wheelbarrow to bring in crushed stone and lay it over the top of the roots. Tom suggested specifying in the agreement that the Fire Warden or the Selectboard can close the forest in the event of fire danger. Bruce and Glenn agreed. Bruce asked about the status of the license agreement with the resort. Glenn said Matt Birmingham was supposed to talk to them this afternoon. Tom asked if the town would be interested in having inmates do trail work. Glenn said he's open to that idea but the decision should be made by the people who are overseeing the trail work. Glenn invited Bruce and Tom to review and comment on the draft agreement with STAB.
- 4) Property Owners Association (POA) – Glenn said he went to the POA meeting this weekend and the POA members would like to move ahead with the fire district, whether it includes Windsor or not. Glenn said the POA would like to get a petition out to the property owners within the proposed fire district boundaries. Glenn said the procedure is that a petition is submitted to the Selectboard by 22 of the registered voters within the fire district. The Selectboard considers the petition and, if they agree, can form a fire district. Upon approval, the meeting changes over to the first meeting of the fire district where

those present elect the prudential committee and that starts the ball rolling. Glenn added that the fire district has to be ratified by the legislature. Tom asked how specific the town has to be in defining the boundaries of the fire district and the property owners included. Glenn said the petition has to be very specific. Tom asked if the prudential committee elects a treasurer who is authorized to collect fees, and if there are bylaws. Glenn said yes to both questions, and added that the bylaws will be available for review. Tom asked who gets to vote on bonds issued by the fire district. Glenn said the registered voters within the fire district can vote. Glenn said he has also recommended a provision for a non-binding advisory vote due to the large number of property owners who are not registered voters. Glenn said the POA would like to get the petition to the Selectboard in the next 30-45 days and have the whole thing ready to submit to the legislature in the fall. Tom asked about notice requirements. Glenn said there are notice requirements similar to the requirements for any public meeting. Tom asked about initial operating funds for the fire district. Glenn said fire districts generally borrow money, using the utility as collateral. Glenn said if it doesn't work out, the fire district can be dissolved. Bruce asked when the sewer line evaluation will be finished. Glenn said it's due back by the second week in June. Tom asked if the fire district will have the power of eminent domain. Glenn said yes. Tom asked who would approve the expansion of the district. Glenn said the Selectboard.

- 5) Other Business - Dog Warrant: **Tom moved to sign the dog warrant. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Town Clerk's orders: The Selectboard signed the Town Clerk's orders. Estimate on window painting: **Tom moved to accept the bid for painting the 12 windows in the Town Hall from Jeff Lemire for a total of \$2,000. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 6) Adjourn – **Bruce made a motion to adjourn at 4:30 PM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison