

West Windsor Selectboard  
Draft Minutes  
May 28, 2019

Present: Win Johnson, Matt Kantola, Brett Myers, Martha Harrison, Tom Kenyon, Mike Spackman, Cathy Archibald, Jacquelyn Wesley, Marty Hunt, Glenn & Shelley Seward, Gary Burke, Seth Warren, Steve Crihfield, Bruce Boedtke

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Win Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- 2) Changes or Additions – Tree Warden report, Sheddsville Cemetery, loose dogs, Library
- 3) Public Comment – None
- 4) Town Clerk/Treasurer’s report – Sign orders: **Matt moved to sign orders. Brett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Review YTD financial information: Regarding the General Fund, Win had questions about ballot clerk expenses, budgeted wastewater fees and interest on the fire truck loan. Regarding the Highway Fund, Win had questions about gravel, culverts, and salt. Win said it’s possible that the environmental study costs can be capitalized with the purchase of the Burke property.
- 5) Request for overnight parking permission – In response to a request to park overnight at the Town Forest parking lot for an indefinite period of time, Win said he would be reluctant to allow that. Matt agreed and said there are plenty of private property owners in town who would rent space, or even provide it free of charge, but if they allow public property to be used that way, other people will want to do the same thing and it’s not meant for that. The Selectboard offered to assist in finding an acceptable alternative. Matt suggested putting a notice on the Front Porch Forum. **Matt moved to deny the request. Brett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 6) Event application by Ascutney Outdoors for a Summer Solstice event from Noon on June 21<sup>st</sup> until Noon on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Ascutney Outdoors Center and on adjacent Town Forest property – Marty Hunt described the event. Marty said she emailed the Police Chief and he gave her the name of the officer to talk to about a police detail. Marty said she has also talked to Mike Spackman and Erik Boedtke about fires and has left messages for Nancy Gaynor. Win said there has been discussion in the past about when a police detail is needed and, unless it’s a really big event, he doesn’t think it’s necessary to have a detail present the whole time; he thinks it’s sufficient if the police are notified and come by and check. Win asked where the alcohol will be served. Marty said they’re planning to restrict alcohol consumption to the porch area and monitor it. Marty asked if she could share the Selectboard’s opinion with the Police Chief. Win said yes; the Selectboard would like the event to be on the police department’s radar and would like them to include it in their directed patrols for the day, but they don’t think a police detail is necessary, unless the Chief feels strongly about it. Matt said he can’t vote because he’s on the organizing committee. **Brett moved to approve the event. Win seconded the motion, which passed with Matt abstaining.**
- 7) General discussion with Ascutney Outdoors – Win said he’d like to discuss the status of the groomer and other abandoned facilities on the mountain. Groomer: Glenn said he called Mr. League about the groomer this afternoon and, verbally, he relinquished ownership and said it can be disposed of. Glenn said he just needs written confirmation of the discussion. Matt asked if it has any value. Glenn said All Metals Recycling will take it. **Matt moved to authorize Ascutney Outdoors to dispose of the groomer however they see fit. Brett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Glenn said if he doesn’t get written confirmation in a few days, he would suggest getting Matt Birmingham involved. Matt

suggested bringing it to Schnitzer Steel in Claremont. Glenn said he will give them a call.

General: Matt suggested that the Selectboard and Ascutney Outdoors (AO) meet twice a year to talk about future plans, budgets, and upcoming activities. Steve said AO's plan is to have open meetings once per quarter. Steve said they just finished their fiscal year and will be delivering their financial report soon. Steve added that they hope to complete their infrastructure plans in the next couple of months. Steve said AO's grant application for a skills park was not approved, but the events committee and those working on social media are doing a great job. Matt noted that STAB's merger with Ascutney Trails Association (ATA) is going well. Steve said AO will be considering new ideas but mostly they're focused on sustainability, making sure they can manage the facilities they already have. Steve noted some upcoming events. Glenn said he hopes the T-bar will be finished by the end of July but construction is very weather-dependent. Martha asked about parking for Ragnar. Steve and Glenn were not sure if a final decision has been made. Regarding abandoned facilities, Win asked about the East Chair. Glenn said Sky Trans hopes to have the infrastructure removed by the end of the summer. Glenn added that AO is anxious to have the lift terminal removed from the building at the bottom so it can be used for storage. Win asked what other structures need to be removed. Glenn provided a map of the mountain showing the location of abandoned structures. At a minimum, Glenn said, the structures should be demolished and left in a pile so someone doesn't climb on them and get hurt; demolition gets harder as you go higher up the mountain and would have to be done by someone who has experience with mountain excavation. Glenn suggested saving structure #5 and #9 for future use. Win asked Glenn if he knows someone who is qualified to do the work. Glenn said someone like Tatro or Royal Trail Works. Win asked Glenn if he could get a bid. Glenn said he would but he knows that neither firm has time right now, so it may not happen until next year. Matt suggested putting warning signs on the structures in the meantime and offered to put them up himself. Win agreed and said the Town can purchase some "Danger: Keep Off" signs. Tom suggested removing the material once the structures are demolished rather than leaving it on the mountain. Glenn said ski area contractors are qualified to do that but it would be a serious effort. Matt said the road is not a typical ski area access road. Steve suggested asking Sky Trans to demolish the structures associated with the East Chair. Win suggested getting estimates for demolition, including the incremental cost for removal. Win asked if some of the smaller structures could be removed this summer. Glenn said yes; AO can take care of that. There was discussion about removing the sugar house as well. Win asked Matt if ATA volunteers might be willing to work on making the old pump station building usable. Matt said yes. Glenn said there's a lot of junk piled up outside the building, but maybe a ski area contractor could remove it when they're here demolishing the structures higher up on the mountain. Gary asked how hard it would be to rough in a new road. Glenn said the old road has deteriorated so much that it would be a drill and blast operation to get a bench across mid-station. Matt said, long term, it would be good to have an access road for emergencies and maintenance. Glenn agreed that it would be a huge benefit. Win said the town would have to take it up with Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT). Gary noted the importance of access for fighting fire. Tom encouraged AO to expand their tubing operation. Win said he's sure that it's going to be daunting to run three facilities with volunteers. Steve said it would be unusual to have the T-bar and the rope tow running at the same time. Shelley said the POA newsletter is going to have information about volunteering and AO is going to meet with area high school guidance counselors and try to get on the list of non-profits approved for community service.

- 8) Review LE Environmental's Phase II report on the Burke property – Win said one area of modest concern was identified and the Phase II report has been submitted to the state. Win noted the recommendation that an appropriate institutional control document be developed and filed in the town land records. Win read an email from Alan Liptak clarifying that by “institutional control” he is referring to a Notice to Land Records, deed restriction and/or an activity/use limitation noting the presence of contaminated soil near the old floor drain pipe east of the building, and requiring notice to DEC before excavation or alternate uses. An alternative to institutional control would be to remove all contaminated soil and do confirmation testing. Win said we're waiting for Shawn Donovan from DEC to review the report and get back to us. In a brief initial response, Win noted that Shawn said he couldn't understand why the town wouldn't want to go ahead with the BRELLE program. Win said it's his understanding that the BRELLE program costs a lot more money and, according to Ted Siegler, Alan thinks the BRELLE program would be overkill. Pending a reply from DEC, Win said we should be good to go ahead with the closing. Gary said until the Fire Station goes in, the driveway area is not going to be disrupted. Mike agreed. Win said we just have to wait for the state to get back to us. Matt asked what we're waiting for them to say. Win said we're waiting to hear if they're okay with an institutional control or if they want us to remove the contaminated soil. There was discussion about how the town dealt with contaminated soil at the town garage many years ago. Mike said they mixed it with manure and put a tarp over it. Matt asked why the state is involved if we're not enrolled in their program. Brett said contamination has to be reported.
- 9) Highway Foreman's report – Roads: Mike said they're waiting to schedule paving on Hotel Road. In the meantime, they're installing culverts and ditching. Class: Mike said he'd like to host a tree cutting safety course with two days of classes in the town forest and two days on a private property on Rush Meadow Road. Win asked Martha to check with UVLT to see if we need their approval. Mike said 20 trees, between 6” and 18” in diameter, will be cut during the class, which would take place on June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and two days the following week. Mike said three of the highway employees are taking the class, which would probably take place in the vicinity of the gravel pit. Equipment: Mike said the new truck has been in the shop for a week with a number of issues including a radiator leak.
- 10) Valley News classified ad information – Win said we got a quote of \$102 from the Valley News for a recent legal ad that we ran in the Vermont Standard. Win said if the cost is the same, then the flexibility offered by the Valley News may be an advantage. Win asked Cathy if she has a preference. Cathy said she hasn't had any luck with the Valley News. Win asked Cathy to get a quote from Carleen at the Vermont Standard.
- 11) Town Hall maintenance – Matt said he has another vendor for the windows and doors, but has not gotten an estimate yet.
- 12) Water & Sewer Utilities – Consider approving sewer & water rate study proposal: Win said the reactions we got from the Utility Advisory Committee were positive so the UAC Chair was comfortable with the Selectboard proceeding with the study, at a cost of \$2,800. **Brett moved to approve the rate study proposal. Matt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 13) Other Business – Tree Warden: Tom said there are a number of dead trees that need to come down. Sheddsville Cemetery: Tom said the cemetery could use some fill on the south side if the highway department has any. Mike asked Tom to stake it out so they put it in the right spot. Loose dogs: Tom asked if there have been any more problems. Brett said there's an old dog on Cemetery Road that's often in the middle of the road and is going to get hit. Win said the Selectboard sent a letter to the owner of the wolf hybrids letting them know that any other

complaints would result in a municipal ticket, and that the Selectboard expects the dogs to be contained. Library: Tom said the Library Trustees appointed him to be the Library's representative to the Selectboard. Win said toward the end of summer, he thinks the Library Trustees and the Selectboard should have a joint meeting. Tom noted that the Trustees are looking for a new Librarian. Dog warrants: Cathy had four warrants for the Selectboard to sign. **Brett moved to sign the warrants. Matt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Liquor license: Cathy also had a liquor license for the Butcher & Pantry for the AO fundraiser on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Brett moved to approve the license. Win seconded the motion, which passed with Matt abstaining.**

14) Approve Minutes – April 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>: **Brett moved to approve the minutes of April 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>. Matt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

15) Adjourn – **Matt moved to adjourn at 7:59 PM. Brett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison