

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes
November 15, 2013

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtke, Rudy Gross, Ken Parrot, Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
- 2) Consider applying for hazard mitigation grant funding for a buyout of the Hale property on Brook Road – **Glenn moved to proceed with a hazard mitigation grant application for the purchase of the Hale property on Brook Road and to authorize the signing of the related application forms. Tom seconded the motion.** Glenn said the net financial impact for the town would probably be in the \$5,000 to \$6,000 range. Glenn said it's typical for the property owner to cover most of the 25% match. Glenn noted the benefits of removing the home and not replacing the bridge. The Selectboard discussed the possibility of transferring the property to an abutting property owner. Tom was concerned about emergency responders crossing the brook with no safe access. Glenn and Bruce agreed. Martha noted that, by accepting grant funding, the town is agreeing to keep the property as "open space" in perpetuity and would need FEMA authorization to transfer it to another owner. Tom asked about site clean-up. Glenn said there's an oil drum that would have to be lifted out along with the trailer. **Bruce amended the motion to specify that the town will make an effort to recover its costs by selling the property to an abutter. Glenn accepted the amendment and called for a vote on the amended motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 3) Consider applying for hazard mitigation grant funding to repair slope damage on the Brownsville-Hartland Road – Glenn said the slope was compromised during Tropical Storm Irene and the state has indicated that there is merit in the town applying for a grant. Glenn said the state has a consultant who is preparing a cost-benefit analysis for us. Glenn asked Tom and Bruce if they are comfortable with the 25% match, which would amount to \$75,000 in cash and in-kind services. Glenn said the town could provide some of the trucking and material needed for the project. Tom said if we don't apply for the grant and then the slope gives out, the tax payers are going to have to pay the entire cost of the repair. Bruce noted the town's ongoing investment in monitoring slope movement because of the importance of the road and the town's interest in getting it fixed. Bruce said it's just a matter of time before it fails. **Glenn moved to proceed with a hazard mitigation grant application for the problem area on the Brownsville-Hartland Road that resulted from Tropical Storm Irene. Tom seconded the motion and noted that the location is just north of the intersection of Brownsville-Hartland Road and Coon Club Road. Glenn called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 4) Update on proposed emergency access to the resort – Glenn said the town has been told that the emergency access to the resort is not a likely candidate for hazard mitigation funding. There was discussion about submitting an application anyway. Tom and Bruce were not opposed to submitting an application.
- 5) Update on pollution abatement grant for village sewer project – Glenn said the state has questioned the town's eligibility and our engineers are drafting a response. Glenn said he thinks it would be beneficial for the town, our engineers, and the state to meet in person

to discuss the situation. Glenn said more water testing was done yesterday. Bruce asked Glenn about the archeological study. Glenn said the plans have been sent to Tom Jamison for review but our engineers agree that the area was disturbed in 1964 to the point that an archeological study should not be necessary.

- 6) Update on employee health insurance – Glenn said he has approached Blue Cross Blue Shield directly and asked Bruce and Tom if they are comfortable bypassing Vermont Health Connect as long as the insurance plan and the health reimbursement account (HRA) are the same. Bruce and Tom said they're comfortable with that.
- 7) Other Business – Grange Hall: Tom said the insurance company inspected the Grange Hall and recommended increasing the replacement value from \$380,204 to \$626,392 for an additional \$493 per year, which the Historical Society will include in its budget. CWSRF loan amendment: Glenn said awhile back the Selectboard approved the expenditure of \$5,000 for the environmental review required for our CDBG grant application. **Tom moved to sign an amendment to the town's existing CWSRF loan to include that \$5,000 cost, which puts the planning loan at \$107,750. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Elm removal: Tom noted that, as Tree Warden, he approved the expenditure of \$800 to remove the elms from Eastman's up to Burton's. Joint meeting with Town Forest Committee: Rudy said he will contact the committee members and get back to the Selectboard with some dates.
- 8) Sign Town Clerk's orders – **Glenn moved to sign orders. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 9) Executive Session – **Glenn moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** After discussion, **Glenn moved to come out of executive session at 9:58 AM, with no action taken. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 10) Public Comment – Ken Parrot expressed concern about the spread of invasive plant species such as Japanese knotweed and suggested educating residents and excavation contractors about the problem. Bruce asked if there are specific areas that the town could control with mowing. Ken said Japanese knotweed is all over the place. Ken offered to help increase awareness about the issue. Glenn suggested a mailing to local contractors and also suggested that Ken contact the Conservation Commission. Ken suggested including information on the town website as well.
- 11) Adjourn – **Glenn moved to adjourn at 10:05 AM. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison