

West Windsor Selectboard
Draft Minutes
October 15, 2019

Present: Win Johnson, Brett Myers, Matt Kantola, Steve Dalessio, Tom Kenyon, Kathy Hoyt (Windsor on Air), Colin Eggleton, Michael Epstein, Dick Beatty, Peter Money, Mark Nowlan, Steve Carihfield

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Win Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- 2) Changes or Additions – Tree Warden report; Delano Road disturbance
- 3) Public Comment – None
- 4) Sign Town Clerk’s orders – **Brett moved to sign orders. Matt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 5) American Precision Museum – Steve Dalessio, the new Executive Director of the museum, introduced himself, provided some information about the museum and asked for help in recruiting volunteers. Matt asked why the museum is not open in the winter. Steve said there’s no heat in the building but they are currently fundraising to address that issue. Steve said they received \$300,000 worth of new equipment donations this year, including a robot with vision capabilities. Steve also noted some of the museum’s programs.
- 6) STAB request: Letter of support for mtn. bike skills park project – Colin said the proposed location for the skills park is on Town land, to the left of the T-bar as you look uphill. Colin said some of the features would be permanent and some would be removed during ski season. Win asked if there is any conflict between winter use and summer use. Colin said no. Colin said the park is 1300 feet in length and would be built with a small excavator; STAB has a proposal from a trail builder. Colin said the total project cost is \$18,000 and STAB is requesting a grant for \$10,000. Colin said STAB needs to talk with the Conservation Commission and the Upper Valley Land Trust about the location since it has changed. Tom asked if the skills park will be open to the public free of charge. Colin said yes. **Brett moved to send a letter of support for the skills park project. Win seconded the motion, which passed with Matt abstaining.**
- 7) Bicentennial Trail re-route: Mark Nowlan (Conservation Commission) – Mark said the Conservation Commission (CC) has been talking with John Roe from the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) regarding their concerns about creating a connection between the ski area and the back country. Win suggested a connection between point E and point H as a possible future trail. Mark said he would bring that up with Ted and the CC. Win asked Mark to let the Selectboard know when the CC is meeting with UVLT in case Selectboard members want to attend. Mark said Shawn Ogle from the Upper Valley Trails Alliance scouted possible re-routes and gave the CC several options. Matt said he doesn’t understand UVLT’s concern about connecting the ski area and the back country.
- 8) Discussion with Library Trustees – Win provided a copy of the Library’s 2019 budget and year-to-date expenses. Michael said he thinks they will come in under budget. Michael said the Library is transitioning from an independent facility to a town facility and its newly appointed 7-member board has been meeting monthly since April and looking at the wants and needs of the town. Michael said, after reviewing the state library standards, the trustees determined that they were deficient in not having a trained librarian or a long-range plan. The standards also recommend that libraries in towns of this size be open 14 to 22 hours per week. Michael said the trustees conducted a survey and received 60 responses indicating an interest in increased hours of operation, a better collection, and a more robust schedule of

programs. The trustees also collected data from 77 other small Vermont libraries and found that West Windsor is open fewer hours, has a lower level of use, and receives about 50% less funding. Michael read the Library's new mission statement and said the first thing the trustees did was hire Peter Money as the new Librarian; Peter has a Master's Degree in Library Science. Michael said the trustees also hired two town residents as per diem employees to fill in when Peter is unavailable. Michael said the trustees have also drafted a budget, which includes a 50% increase from \$16,000 to \$24,000 or \$25,000. The increased funding would allow the library to increase its hours of operation from eight to fifteen hours per week, expand its collection, improve internet access, and provide professional support for Library staff. Michael said in future years, increases would be based on cost of living adjustments. Win said he thinks the library's budget should be a separate article on the Town Meeting warning in 2020 to give the trustees a chance to share their vision. Win said he doesn't think the Selectboard will be making adjustments to the library's budget. Matt suggested a spreadsheet showing the current budget and the proposed budget.

- 9) Highway Foreman's Report – Update on Burke property: Win said he went to the DRB hearing on October 8th and they approved the application but there may be conditions regarding noise and lights. Win said the Town has already planted a row of trees as screening. Win added that the additional testing the state wants to do will probably not be done until spring. Sign Better Roads grant reports (Silver Hill & Cemetery Roads): Win said the total cost for the Silver Hill project was \$37,364, and the total cost for the Cemetery Road project was \$11,862. **Brett moved to authorize the Chair to sign the reports. Matt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Tom noted that the paving on Hotel Road has been completed, and the Harrington Road culvert replacement is being postponed until spring. Win said we can't construct now that it's after October 1st so the question is: what is the status of the fabrication of the culvert, and where is it being stored?
- 10) Utility project updates – Confirm Win and Martha as the Town's authorized representatives: **Brett moved to confirm Win and Martha as authorized representatives for the two utility projects. Matt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Win said the sewer project has started and the bid opening for the water project is coming up next week. Matt noted that Jon Murphy is working on the pond up there. Win said that's a Mts. Edge project. Tom said Avery Excavation has found a lot more piping in the ground than they anticipated. Colin said he lives in the vicinity and the contractor is doing a great job accommodating the residents.
- 11) Stormwater update – Regarding the stormwater system on the mountain, Win said the interested parties had a conference call with the state and agreed to cooperate in getting the permit renewed on the condition that we not be held liable for the repair of the two outfalls on the steep bank above Mill Brook. Win said we have not heard from the state whether they will accept our proposal.
- 12) Select contractor for Town Hall window & door project – Matt said he contacted Ennis Construction, Dave Silvester and David Weld. We did not get any response from the Front Porch Forum and Dave Silvester does not have time right now. Matt suggested hiring David Weld, who charges \$45 per hour and said that time and materials would not exceed \$1,000. Matt said David has contractor's insurance and does a lot of work with steel doors. Matt said he has not ordered the door yet. Win asked if it will be done before December 1st. Matt said yes; it should be done before Thanksgiving. **Win moved to hire David Weld to install six windows and a door by the end of November at a cost of \$45 per hour. Brett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- 13) September Police Report – Win said there was a noise disturbance on Delano Road on September 14th. Brett said several people have talked to her about it and she felt it at her house; it seemed like an explosion. Brett said she heard that it took the police a couple of hours to respond but she has no idea if that's accurate or not. Win said he will ask Martha to follow up with the Police Department.
- 14) Other Business – Tree Warden report: Tom said he attended a state Tree Warden's meeting in Berlin and most of the Tree Wardens see emerald ash borer as a state problem rather than a town problem. Tom said Rutland has many ash trees in their parks and they are planning to spend a lot of money to try to save them. Tom said he doesn't know of any public shade trees in West Windsor that are ash so his recommendation would be to take ash trees down when they die. Tom recommended that the Selectboard continue to budget for tree removal at the same level they have in the past. Win said Ted Siegler has contacted Tii McLane and she has given the Conservation Commission a proposal for a timber cruise to see if there are any accessible ash stands that have commercial value and also to assess the ash population where the trails are concentrated. Matt asked if UVLT will allow logging. Win said yes. Win said we'll also talk about this with Ken Parrot at the next Selectboard meeting. Tom said Sheddsville Cemetery has a concentration of ash, which nature has been thinning. Tom said in the past, we've allowed people to cut ash for firewood, which might be better than letting them fall.
- 15) Approve Minutes – **Brett moved to approve the minutes of September 23rd. Matt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 16) Adjourn – **Brett moved to adjourn at 7:37 PM. Matt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison