

## WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes  
September 10, 2012

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtke, Highway Foreman Mike Spackman, Town Clerk Cathy Archibald, Art Keating (School Board member), Ray Shannis, Dennis Lemire (Moonlighters snowmobile club), Bob French, Dave Halpert (EC Fiber delegate), Bob Farnsworth (Surveyor), Courtney McKaig, Phil & Nancy Hamilton, Erik Schutz (Sports Trails of the Ascutney Basin), Merle Bushkin, Ken Parrot (EC Fiber alternate), Polly Ouelette, Jim Lyall (trail maintenance), *VT Standard* reporter George Calver, Aaron Gonthier (Windsor on Air), Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- 2) Changes or additions – Green Mountain power request for underground line; repeater contract; Coaching Lane survey info; Carihfield access application
- 3) Sign Town Clerk's Orders – **Tom moved to sign the Clerk's orders. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 4) Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report – Cathy said Don and Nancy Ross would like the town to buy back their lots in the Sheddsville Cemetery. The Selectboard agreed. Cathy also had an unpaid bill from the fireworks company. Glenn suggested talking to Fourth of July Committee Co-chair Cathy Boedtke about it.
- 5) Public Comment – Dennis Lemire: Dennis said the Gilson property has been sold and the new owners are willing to have the snowmobile trail stay on their property, eliminating the need to use Silver Hill Road, except to cross over to the Bernatchez property. The Selectboard agreed with the Highway Foreman that the new arrangement is better. Bob Farnsworth: Bob said from the end of the Class 4 portion of Coaching Lane to the Town Forest, there is a right-of-way. If that ROW is 50' wide, it will create a sliver of land on the west side of the road. In order to avoid that, Bob said, there would have to be a 60' ROW that tapers into the Class 4 section and there would have to be a deed that reflects that. Bob showed the Selectboard a sketch illustrating the problem. The Selectboard agreed to ask Steve Plaustener for a 60' ROW.
- 6) Application for Public Assembly: Lucy MacKenzie Humane Society – Bruce noted that the Humane Society's event is the same weekend as the Vermont 50. Tom said there should be answers to questions #10 and #11 on the application form. Glenn suggested tabling the application pending more information. Bruce and Tom agreed. Tom and Bruce asked about the route for the 5K and how it is being managed. The Selectboard agreed to contact the applicants and ask them to come to the next meeting.
- 7) Vermont Mountain Bike Festival: Erik Schutz – Erik said he plans to apply for a permit for the Vermont Mountain Bike Festival next July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Erik described the event, which attracts about 300 registrants. The Selectboard members agreed that, conceptually, they have no problem with the event but they would like to see the details as they get worked out.
- 8) EC Fiber update/broadband discussion: Dave Halpert – Dave said Sovernet will be providing “middle mile” connections to schools, libraries and hospitals. Since EC Fiber has an arrangement with Sovernet, they may be able to leverage Sovernet' point of presence and run fiber to the premises here in West Windsor. Dave said, in order to do that, EC Fiber would need to raise capital from local residents. Dave said investors would get a reasonable tax-free return on their investment. Ken Parrot pointed out the advantages of fiber optic service as compared to other existing and proposed DSL services. Glenn said he thinks it would be worth the effort to try to find investors. Dave said we could get a good start in West Windsor with \$200 to \$250 K but it would take a million dollars to connect the entire town. Glenn said this type of service plays a huge role in economic development. Merle Bushkin said he gets very good service with Verizon but it's expensive. Ray Shannis said he is happy with Fairpoint. Dave explained the effect of the recession on EC Fiber's ability to obtain financing and the resulting delay in their ability to expand the network into all 23 member towns. There was

discussion about the differences between fiber optics and DSL. Merle said nothing can compete with fiber optics. Glenn thanked Dave for his efforts. Dave invited those who are interested to join him and Ken in forming a local committee.

- 9) “Welcome to West Windsor” signs – Ray Shannis said those interested have formed a sign committee. Ray presented some design concepts to the Selectboard. Phil Hamilton presented the Selectboard with an estimate of \$1,000 per sign from Jerry Burns. Nancy Hamilton said the town could consider installing one sign per year. Nancy said the committee is considering fundraising ideas and is hoping the town will consider contributing or matching contributions. Bruce said the design may be affected by the location; plowing and sight distance should be taken into consideration. Nancy asked if there are restrictions on size. Glenn asked Nancy to call Zoning Administrator Martha Harrison. Mike said Dave Dugdale has made a beautiful sign, which the committee should go see. Merle said the design should include some trees. Tom said the committee should consider mounting the sign so that it can’t be stolen, and should also ensure that there is a safe place to park for people who want to have their picture taken by the sign. Glenn encouraged the committee to continue.
- 10) School consolidation: Art Keating – Art said a committee has been investigating the possibility of the four districts in the area forming one regional education district (RED). The committee looked at the financial, educational and school choice impacts of a RED and has produced an interim report of their findings. Art reported that RED Committee representatives from Hartland and West Windsor are skeptical about the concept being approved in their communities because of the high value the communities place on school choice. Art said the RED committee will produce a final report in a few months. Dave Halpert questioned the likelihood of achieving real savings by consolidating. Jim Lyall asked if the committee has considered the positive impact of school choice on home values in West Windsor. Tom suggested considering consolidation when existing school buildings become old and outdated. There was general discussion about school consolidation.
- 11) Town Constable’s Report – The constable was not present. Tom said Windsor Police Department personnel visited Albert Bridge School. Tom also noted that the new repeater is working very well.
- 12) Dog registration late fees – Glenn said Town Attorney Matt Birmingham will consider the matter and make a recommendation to the Selectboard later this week.
- 13) Consider purchase of one-ton truck for Highway Department – Mike said he got bids from Springfield GMC, CJ Stewart Ford, Gateway Ford, and Ralph Osgood. Mike recommended purchasing a Ford truck from Osgood for a total of \$58,053. Mike said the delivery date would be in early December. Glenn said the funding would come from the Equipment Fund. **Tom made a motion to purchase the truck from Osgood as recommended by the Highway Foreman. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 14) Highway Foreman’s Report – Mike said he has had a preliminary conversation with someone who could be employed to operate the new truck. Mike said two trucks are in the shop having warranty work done due to emissions problems. Mike said fall scraping will begin soon. Mike said he has not received the go ahead from Better Backroads to start the stream bank stabilization project on Sheddsville Road and the work cannot be done after October 1<sup>st</sup>. Martha said Jarrod Becker indicated that it is highly likely that West Windsor will get an extension on the deadline for the project. Mike said we should start looking at the budget. The Selectboard agreed to set up a separate meeting for budget discussions. Mike said he thinks he is still on the committee that is going to be considering how things worked with FEMA during and after Tropical Storm Irene but no meetings have been scheduled yet. Glenn said there was a FEMA meeting for Windsor County towns in Hartland in August but he was not able to attend due to a scheduling conflict.
- 15) Improvement of Route 44 & Coaching Lane Intersection – Tom said the state would be interested in working on the intersection next year if the town is willing to haul away the excess material. Tom said moving the intersection to the east has been suggested and he thinks that’s a good idea. Tom recommended depositing the excess material in the town forest. Tom noted that the state owns most of the land that would be affected. Tom said if the sight distance issues at the intersection were addressed, there could be a trail crossing from Coaching Lane, across Route 44, to Bowers Road.

- 16) Hannah Road mileage/VT Agency of Transportation – Glenn noted a letter received from the Agency of Transportation (AOT) about a mileage issue on Hannah Road. Mike said the easterly portion of the road shown on the map has not been maintained by the town for at least 30 years. Glenn suggested reclassifying the easterly portion to Class 4 and dealing with the mileage issue on the annual Certificate of Highway Mileage. Mike and the Selectboard agreed that the Class 3 portion of the road extends to Wayne Lemire’s driveway. Mike suggested sending AOT a letter informing them of the town’s plans.
- 17) Sign TA-65 reimbursement request form for Wardner Road Bridge project – **Tom moved to sign the request. Bruce seconded the motion.** Glenn asked if the amount includes the guard rail. Martha said yes. **Glenn called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.** Mike said since the town didn’t put guard rail on Dugdale Road, he extended the guardrail on Rush Meadow Road in the vicinity of John Bieling’s property and Mary Dalton’s old property.
- 18) Final highway access: Knight (parcel #5-70) Sheddsville Road – Mike said he has looked at it and it is fine. **Tom moved to grant final approval for the Knight access (parcel #5-70) on Sheddsville Road. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 19) Brownsville-Hartland Road monitoring – Glenn said there has been movement on the Brownsville-Hartland Road directly above Coon Club Road as a result of Tropical Storm Irene so the town has a geo-technical firm monitoring it. Glenn reported that there was increased movement at the last monitoring so the Selectboard authorized additional monitoring. Glenn said he received the most recent report at the end of last week and it shows that the movement has subsided and the water level has dropped considerably. Glenn said he is still dealing with AOT regarding our FEMA appeal but they have turned the appeal over to SAIC and they are pursuing it as something other than a project worksheet. There was discussion about the options which include finding an alternative source of funding and waiting for the slope to fail and then fixing it. Glenn said the town may be able to pursue a hazard mitigation grant and he will talk to the regional planning commission about that.
- 20) Damaged dry hydrants – Tom said after Tropical Storm Irene, the Fire Department fixed dry hydrants behind the fire station, at Yale Heights and at the talc plant at a cost of over \$8,000. Tom said the Fire Department does not own the hydrants and the bill is going to devastate their budget. Glenn asked who paid for the hydrants initially. Tom said they were grant funded. Tom asked if the town or the disaster relief fund could pay the bill. Glenn said the town does not have enough money in its budget. Glenn suggested discussing it at the budget meeting. Glenn said there’s no going back to FEMA at this point but Tom could discuss it with the disaster relief fund committee. Tom suggested that town emergency management funds could be used. Mike asked about insurance coverage for things like this.
- 21) Consider signing FEMA Applicant Exit Briefing – Glenn said he has been asking AOT for advice on this and hasn’t heard back. **Tom moved to table consideration. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 22) Consider approving CWSRF planning loan application – Glenn said this is for preliminary engineering for the village sewer in the amount of \$66,050. **Glenn moved to sign the CWSRF planning loan application. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Glenn said there is also a resolution indicating that the commitment of the funds was done at the Selectboard level and there was no town vote on the expenditure. **Glenn made a motion to sign the resolution authorizing the expenditure of the funds for the preliminary engineering for the village area. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Glenn said we need to list an alternate representative on the application. Bruce volunteered.
- 23) Conservation Commission appointment – Glenn said Conservation Commission Chair Ted Siegler called him to urge the Selectboard to act on this. Glenn said Chris Nesbitt is interested and extremely well qualified. **Glenn nominated Chris Nesbitt. Bruce seconded the nomination, which passed with Tom opposed.**
- 24) Town Forest trails update – Jim Lyall had sent a report in advance to the Selectboard and the Town Forest Committee. Tom asked Jim to give Emergency Management Coordinator Jim Kenyon copies

of the most recent trail map to include in the Green Book. New trail bridge: Glenn said the location of the property line is not clear in the narrow section of the lot where the trail bridge is proposed so pins will have to be located in order to determine if setbacks are adequate. Jim said the design calls for peeled logs and it's past the time when peeling logs is easy so it would be preferable to do it in the spring anyway. There was discussion about whether or not to make the bridge wide enough to accommodate a trail groomer and those present agreed to make that determination in the spring. Martha noted that the lot is only 56' wide at that point. Bicentennial Trail re-routing: Bruce said he would like information about the work being planned. Jim said Laura Stillson has more information. Glenn said he will contact Laura. Trail closure: Jim said the trails are closed for hunting season from November 1<sup>st</sup> until mid December.

- 25) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, 3<sup>rd</sup> Round – Glenn noted that Jeff Hale is interested in the possibility of a buyout. Glenn said it is an involved process with maps, alternative proposals, engineering plans, hydrology studies and a cost-benefit analysis. Glenn said if Jeff does not put his bridge back within two years, he'll be in violation of the zoning regulations. Tom suggested that Jeff notify the owners of the Crocker Wildlife Refuge that his property might be available. The Selectboard was concerned about being responsible for removing the mobile home from the property if the town purchased it. Mike said he thinks a portion of the mobile home is in Windsor. Glenn said he thinks the town should encourage Jeff to get his bridge rebuilt.
- 26) Police report – Glenn said over the last month, there have been eleven calls and a few of those have been 911 hang up calls.
- 27) Ambulance contract – The Selectboard agreed to discuss this at the budget meeting.
- 28) Sewer line update – Glenn had nothing to report at this time.
- 29) Storage in floodplain – Glenn said Martha's draft ordinance is pending review by the Town Attorney. Tom reiterated his earlier objections to having an ordinance. Glenn said the Town Attorney did say that he thinks it would be prudent to have an ordinance in place. Glenn said an ordinance would give the Selectboard some clout in a disaster situation. Tom was concerned about liability. Bruce said he feels an ordinance would be over regulation. Tom suggested tabling the issue. Bruce and Glenn agreed.
- 30) Town Hall plantings – Tom suggested planting something more attractive in front of the Town Hall. Glenn and Bruce agreed.
- 31) Correspondence – Facility rental for repeater: Glenn said the fee for renting space on the ECA tower for the new repeater is \$833 for 4 months. **Glenn moved to sign the ECA member lease in the amount of \$833 for four months. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Tom moved to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 32) Approve Minutes - August 9<sup>th</sup>: **Tom made a motion to approve the minutes of August 9, 2012, as amended. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. August 11<sup>th</sup>: **Tom made a motion to approve the minutes of August 11, 2012, as amended. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. August 13<sup>th</sup>: **Glenn made a motion to approve the minutes of August 13, 2012, as amended. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.******
- 33) Schedule meetings – Regular October meeting: **Tom made a motion to move the regular October meeting from October 8<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30 PM. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Budget review meeting**: The Selectboard scheduled a special meeting for Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM.
- 34) Other Business – Green Mountain Power: Green Mountain Power sent a letter petitioning the Selectboard to allow the installation of an underground line by the Schofield property on Barton Road. Mike had no problem with the request. Glenn noted that the petition is for single-phase primary power. **Glenn moved to sign the petition for pole and wire location from Green Mountain Power within the highway limits of Barton Road to pass the Schofield driveway (parcel #4-74), per the attached sketch. Bruce seconded the motion. Sovernet**: Glenn noted that the town has received notice from Sovernet about the stringing of fiber optic cable west on Route 44, east on Route 44,

adjacent to the talc plant, and adjacent to the fire department. Crihfield highway access application: Glenn expressed concerned about the size of the culvert. Mike expressed concern about the location. Glenn suggested asking the applicant to discuss the situation with Mike. Bruce and Tom agreed.

Trash: Tom said he cleaned up 10 bags of trash that someone had dumped on the side of the road.

35) Adjourn –**Tom made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 PM. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison