

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes

September 6, 2011

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtke, Arthur Steinberg, Jim Kenyon, John Cocks, Penny Bliss, Mark Isenberg, Bill Ley, Ted Siegler, Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and reported that the town has been on conference calls all morning with regional planning, FEMA, and Vermont Emergency Management trying to get a sense of where we go from here. Glenn also reported the following: All roads are passable except Harrington Road, which will be closed for at least six weeks due to slope failure. The highway department and a number of local contractors have started on permanent repairs. The Bowers covered bridge appears to be in remarkably good shape. The town hopes that the road and bridge repair projects will be reimbursed by the state and/or federal government, but the town has not had any direct contact with FEMA yet. Materials - including rock, road aggregate and traffic cones - are running short. Inmates from the correctional facility have helped clean out the fire station, volunteers have helped clean out the Smith residence, and the regional planning commission arranged for dumpsters for debris removal. There will be another cleanup effort along Mill Brook on Harrington Road this Saturday, as well as a hazardous waste collection with details to be announced. The Agency of Natural Resources has informed us that mining of gravel or stone out of stream beds is prohibited unless it is necessary to stabilize property. The town is allowed to work in the brook with a minimum amount of permitting but projects in excess of \$100,000 have to go out to bid, be advertised in the paper, and have a minimum of 3 bidders. Jim Kenyon said Vermont Emergency Management is recommending that people involved in clean up efforts wear masks and rubber gloves. Jim added that he has a phone number that people can call if they want their water tested. Tom Kenyon said it is his understanding that trash and debris along the side of the brook are the responsibility of the land owner unless public property downstream is endangered. Jim suggested that people with questions should call “211.” Glenn said anyone with property damage should register with FEMA by going on line or calling. Glenn noted that the town has to register for assistance but there is no indication on the form where to send it. Bill Ley asked if the town is going to be able to get three bids given the amount of work out there and the number of contractors available. Glenn said the town had 72 hours to complete emergency repairs based on a time and materials basis; after that, it had to go to bid, but all the emergency repairs were completed within that time frame. The two big projects we have are on Harrington Road and Brook Road. We don’t know what’s going to happen with the Brownsville-Hartland Road because it hasn’t failed yet. The town spent about \$80,000 on repair work last week and is estimating that, including the covered bridge, Harrington Road, Brook Road and permanent repairs to other damaged roads, the overall cost for repairs will approach \$800,000. Glenn said indications are that the town will receive a minimum of 75% reimbursement. Tom noted that the town does have insurance on the covered bridge but we don’t know how much they will give us yet. John Cocks asked if anyone knows when Route 44 will be open. Glenn said he has been informed that it will be open in two or three days. John asked if the entire length of Brook Road will be repaired. Glenn said it’s his sense that it will not get replaced. The major

damage started at the town line and West Windsor took contractors off West Windsor projects to go to Windsor, on the Brook Road, so the Esteys, who were stranded, could get out. We spent time and money which hopefully will be reimbursed by the federal or state government, or by Windsor, but we couldn't argue about who was going to pay for it when there were people stranded. Arthur Steinberg asked if the town has flood insurance. Glenn said it is up to the individual property owner to carry flood insurance, and the fire department has its own insurance. Given the fact that we are within 10 weeks of inclement weather, **Glenn moved to authorize the highway foreman to initiate repairs to all West Windsor roads to restore them to their pre-disaster condition, with funding for such repairs to be obtained from budgeted surplus and possibly borrowed money with the expectation of reimbursement from the state and federal government. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Penny asked if there are any restrictions on fund raising for the covered bridge or the fire department. Glenn said last week the Selectboard formed the West Windsor Disaster Relief Fund so people can make tax-deductible donations to the town earmarked for the fund and placed in a separate account with a board of trustees that will make recommendations to the Selectboard as to how the money gets dispersed. Penny asked if the Vermont Association for Covered Bridges has any resources. Glenn said he thinks money may be available from Vermont Historic Preservation. Tom said someone from Barns and Bridges came to see the bridge and informed the Selectboard that, although the tied arch is historic, the top part of the bridge and the roof are not historic. Glenn said the abutments need to be repaired or replaced so we're getting bids from Miller Construction and Daniels Construction for the concrete work.

- 2) Other Business – West Windsor Disaster Relief Fund Trustees: **Glenn made a motion to appoint Arthur Steinberg, Elvin Kaplan and Win Johnson as trustees of the fund. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Glenn said the trustees are responsible for establishing criteria for how the funds will be dispersed. Bill asked how we'll know when Route 44 is open. Glenn suggested calling Martha or Cathy at the town office. Ted said Windsor has a List Serve and they are sending out an update every day.
- 3) Adjourn – **Glenn moved to adjourn at 6:56 PM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison