

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes

December 17, 2010

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtke, Dennis Lemire

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.
- 2) Town Forest Committee (TFC) structure – Glenn said a member of the TFC is moving to Windsor but would still own property in West Windsor and would like to remain on the committee. Tom said certain officers and committee members are required to be residents of the town but, with an ad hoc committee appointed by the Selectboard, he doesn't think there's a problem. Bruce said he doesn't have a problem with it but thinks the Selectboard should have a policy. Bruce said he would have a problem if a majority of the committee members were not residents. The Selectboard agreed to draft a policy. Dennis Lemire pointed out that the town has an employee who doesn't own property in West Windsor.
- 3) Consider appointment to fill vacancy on Town Forest Committee – Glenn said John Cocke resigned a couple of months ago and TFC Chair Ken Burke resigned on Thursday morning so now there are two vacancies. Glenn suggested Cathy Boedtke and Rudy Gross to fill the positions. Tom objected. Tom said he thinks two of the four recent temporary appointments should take the longer term positions. Tom said he thinks Dennis Lemire should take the place of John Cocke. Tom noted that the Selectboard has not accepted Kenny Burke's resignation. Tom said he has a problem with the wife of a Selectboard member being on the TFC because she would have far more access to the Selectboard than any other committee member. Tom suggested consulting with the TFC about who they think should be appointed. Glenn said the TFC was aware of the vacancy. Tom said they don't know about Ken Burke's resignation. Glenn said Ken indicated that he would make the committee aware of his resignation. Glenn said he also made sure that everyone was aware of this morning's meeting and had an email exchange with TFC Vice Chair Mark Nowlan yesterday. Glenn said he agrees that two of the four temporary appointments should move into the longer term positions but he doesn't agree with Tom's concerns about a family member of a Selectboard member being on the committee. Glenn said Cathy Boedtke has shown a lot of interest in the Town Forest and the community and is a valuable member of two other committees. Glenn said, given Cathy's knowledge of the town forest, it makes perfect sense to have her involved. Bruce said he understands Tom's concern but he has not disclosed to Cathy anything that he shouldn't disclose – Executive Session discussions, for example - and she respects that. Bruce said everything Cathy has learned has come from meetings or from Glenn, not from him. Glenn confirmed Bruce's statement. **Tom made a motion to appoint Dennis Lemire to fill John Cocke's term through 2012, Rudy Gross to fill Ken Burke's term through 2013, and Cathy Boedtke to fill Dennis Lemire's position through 2011. Glenn seconded the motion.** Dennis said he works well with Cathy on the Fourth of July committee but he may be at loggerheads with her over motorized vehicles in the town forest. Glenn said Cathy has acknowledged that she has strong feelings about what should and should not happen in the town forest but she respects diverse opinions and the process of working out differences. **Glenn called for a vote on the motion, which passed with Bruce abstaining.**
- 4) Other Business – Staff review: Tom said the Selectboard has had staff reviews with the highway department but not with Martha. Tom suggested that the Chair schedule a time with Martha. Glenn agreed. Budget: Tom said he is concerned about the lack of input from the various committees. Glenn said the Conservation Commission discussed their budget on Monday night. Tom said they should get their request to Martha in writing. Glenn said he was not aware that the Development Review Board had a budget. Glenn said he will check with Cathy regarding feedback from the committees. Tom said he noticed that Martha sent an email suggesting that the Selectboard have two regular meetings per month. Tom said the Selectboard has to be very careful about conducting business by email. Tom said suggestions like that should be emailed to the Chair and put on the agenda. Bruce said he understands where Tom is coming from but he doesn't think talking about whether or not to add another meeting

is “conducting business,” it’s an administrative issue. Tom said if we’re going to add another meeting, it should be in the minutes. Bruce said, after thinking about it, he’s not sure it would work that well to add another regular meeting. Tom suggested putting it on the agenda for the next meeting. Glenn agreed and said he appreciates Tom’s point. Zoning bylaw update: Tom said we need to find out the status of the Planning Commission’s work on the bylaws. Glenn said he asked Martha about that recently and it is happening but they have a long way to go. Bruce said we can ask for an update any time. Certificates of Compliance: Tom said there may be some changes that would affect the budget. Tom said for example he thinks the Certificate of Compliance should be done by someone other than the Zoning Administrator both during the project and after it’s finished to provide checks and balances. Tom said the person checking on the compliance would report to the DRB, not the Zoning Administrator. Tom said it would not cost the town any money and would relieve the ZA of a lot of work. Glenn asked who would do the Certificates of Compliance. Tom said it could be Shannon Harrington, but that would be up to the DRB. Bruce said he thinks this is something that really needs to be on an agenda. Bruce said he thinks the person who wrote the permit is the one who should look at it. Tom said there are still a lot of permits hanging out there. Glenn said he was under the impression that they are basically in order; you’re never going to have an empty folder of outstanding COs. Tom asked how long, after a permit is issued, an applicant has to complete the project. Glenn said the applicant has to start the project within a year but can renew the permit indefinitely. The Selectboard agreed to put the issue on the agenda. Tom asked if the Selectboard has an estimate on legal fees. Glenn said no but they can’t be as bad next year as they were this year. Bruce said he thinks the legal fees could have been a lot worse this year. Glenn agreed that Matt Birmingham has been more than fair with the town. Resort Status: Dennis asked what’s happening at the Resort. Glenn said discussions are ongoing with four prospective buyers. Pakenham and Bernatchez trails: Dennis asked what is happening with the trail on Ashley Pakenham’s property. Glenn said the Selectboard is going to discuss the Pakenham and Bernatchez easements on Monday night. Tom asked if the proposed easements are public documents yet. Bruce asked how the public can weigh in if they don’t have access to the documents. Tom asked if the meeting is to approve the easements or just for discussion. Glenn said he is going to ask Matt Birmingham if the easement proposals can be made public. Bruce said we’re going to have to have the documents available for people to read, otherwise the meeting is pointless. Glenn said it is his intent to get public input prior to taking any action. Dennis said Josie Bernatchez initiated the easement on her property because she wanted it open for biking, horseback riding, and snowmobiles. Dennis said the Green Mountain Horse Association (GMHA) wrote their own agreement, just for themselves, and got Josie to sign it. Dennis said a lot of people, including Josie, were upset about it and GMHA terminated the agreement. Dennis said it’s possible that Josie may not sign the new agreement.

- 5) Adjourn – **Tom moved to adjourn at approximately 8:10 AM. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison